



## Village Hall Extension Update



The Council held a public meeting on 15 September to explain to local residents the developments in the plans for the Village Hall Extension.

Chairman Len Barnett explained the changes following input from the Charity Commission. The Commission visited in late June and informed the two Charities involved (Warren Recreation Ground and East Preston and Kingston Village Hall Foundation) that the land should be leased to the Village Hall Foundation to be built on. Subsequently part of the new building should be sub-leased to the Parish Council.

In practice, this will mean that the Village Hall will have an improved reception area, a much-needed separate storage room, a Village meeting room and associated facilities. The Parish Council space will comprise an office, a small meeting room and some storage space. During the public meeting, many points were raised particularly about the playground and the size and cost of the new build. Playground specialists have already provided design schemes and provisional costings.

Solicitors will be drawing up draft leases for the Charity Trustees, and for the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee to consider before any decisions can be taken. The finance for the project will be subject to the grants that may be available and a Public Works Loan as necessary.

Chairman Councillor Barnett said the Council would reflect carefully on all relevant points raised at the meeting. There is much work still to be done and residents will be kept informed.

### Council Resignation

We are very sorry indeed that Fiona MacLeod has resigned from the Council because of the increasing pressure of her professional work commitments.

Fiona has always been a very active Councillor, in the forefront of many Council and Village initiatives including: the Council Website; the Village Design Statement; the Village Action Plan and the Editorial Board of this newsletter. She has given an enormous amount of time and energy to this Council work and she will be very much missed.

There is now one vacancy on the Council and if anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact our Clerk Simon Cross for more details.

**Councillors** - Celeste Amoo, Len Barnett (Chairman), Gordon Fleming, Anne Harberson, John Heaver (Vice-Chairman), Mervyn Howdle, Clive Maltby, Glyn Mathias, Chris Roberts, Alastair Sharp, Philip Sherwin, Betty Wagstaff. **Contact point - Council Cabin 01903 770050**

# SID at large! (Speed Indication Display)

Constant feedback to Parish Councillors tells us that speeding in the village is among your top concerns. In response we have commissioned speed surveys at key locations and, for a fortnight in July, some Councillors operated a S.I.D. around the village. We noticed a marked reduction in the number of speeding drivers in the second week and judge that SID's appeal for careful and considerate driving was highly successful. A repeat SID operation is being considered in the autumn.

Some interesting observations:

- Not surprisingly Worthing Road was by far the fastest road in the Parish and our comments, passed to the police, resulted in early police enforcement action for which we thank them.
- Only The Street southbound and Vicarage Lane had significant numbers of speeding vehicles, though a few very dangerous drivers were observed in Sea Road.
- There was no excessive speed in North Lane at the Lashmar Road junction; though this may surprise many mothers who walk children to school. This is a bonus observation since, if we wish to canvas for a 20mph limit in this area, we are required to demonstrate that traffic is already averaging below 30mph.

**The top Road Safety concern remains the Roundstone Level Crossing. Sadly despite much lobbying and pleas for action, even the limited improvements offered by a proposed new road lining scheme are still pending. We urge all readers to make their concerns known to West Sussex County Council; the Parish office will be pleased to advise you how to address your observations. Your village needs YOU to mount a campaign.**

A small number of residents have already started a paper petition around the village which has been signed by many, residents and non-residents alike. There is also an ONLINE petition at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/roundstone/>. Please sign this now.



**Councillor Philip Sherwin**  
Chairman of the Road Safety Working Party

## Village Action Plan Update

The volunteers have formed themselves into four Working Parties to cover these areas: Community safety and transport; Community facilities; Economy and environment; and Culture and leisure.

**More volunteers are needed** and if you can offer either time or skills, please contact the Clerk, Simon Cross. At present, a comprehensive directory of events held in the village is being created for local residents.

## Village Planting

The flower planting in the village, especially the baskets, has been really splendid this summer and much admired. Our thanks again to our contractor Ferring Nurseries.





# Christmas Fun in the Village

A little early, we know, but please put this date in your diary!

**The Parish Council in partnership with all the traders in the Village is planning a Christmas event for the children on 4th December between 5pm and 7pm. This highlights the switching on of our Christmas illuminations.**

The focus will be the two shopping areas, north and south, and we hope to have permission to close the two service roads to ensure a safer environment for the attractions. We are in the early stages of planning as we write, but more details will be circulated widely nearer the date. We can

promise competitions and treats – and Father Christmas will be there, so please join us. Fingers firmly crossed for a dry evening.

Many of you will remember very successful past Christmas occasions, organised by the traders, but their Traders' Association disbanded so this time the Parish Council is initiating what we hope will be a fun evening for the children. If everyone enjoys it, then we would like to make this an annual event.

## **Village Hall**

**The Village Hall Committee has again organised ice-skating and a Feast of Festival Fun in the Village Hall on Sunday, 21st December from noon to 6pm.**

## Planning News

The application for the development of land between Sea Road, Nursery Close, and Manor Road for 21 units, mainly houses, was approved by Arun District Council on 3rd September.

This Council had expressed serious concern about the volume of traffic and the parking problems, in response to the Application, as had many local residents. The developer has committed to visiting the site with the Parish Council, prior to the start of any building work, to discuss possible site- traffic alternatives.

*At this time of writing, ADC has not yet made a decision on the Application for change of use from a 4- bedroom house to a day nursery in Sea Road.*

## Security on Village Green

In conjunction with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Programme, we are working towards the organisation of the installation of 3 new street lights along the eastern boundary of the Green. This would illuminate the 3 seats in the shadows there which are such an attraction for youths who leave all their debris behind each evening. We hope that the extra lighting of the dark corners will discourage this behaviour.

## Village Orderly

We have now appointed a new Village Orderly who is responsible for the sweeping and litter removal from these Council areas:-

- The Village Green
- Two Acres
- Children's Playground near The Warren Recreation Ground
- Four bus shelters
- Three car parks

We hope that this regular clean-up helps to keep the Village looking attractive. If you spot any problem areas, please let our Clerk know.

## Amenities Update

### Sea Road

We are very pleased that we are continuing with our own tree planting scheme and 4 trees will be planted this autumn in the verges along the eastern side of Sea Road. We have chosen 4 ornamental Pears (*Pyrus calleryana* Chanticleer). The Council is paying for the trees but the actual planting will be the responsibility of West Sussex County Council - a good working partnership.

Further sites for more tree planting are being considered as part of the Council's enhancement scheme for the village.

## Village Green Changes

There have been major changes to the skyline at the southern boundary of the Green.

The Council considered carefully the request from the developers of the adjacent housing site for the removal of the 3 Monterey Cypresses from the rear of the site and the edge of our car park. All the trees within the site itself have already been removed.

Although the tree felling makes an enormous difference to the skyline, the poor condition of the trees was a serious factor that we have taken into consideration. We would also like to try to build up a good working relationship between the Developer and the Council for our mutual benefit.

The Developer agreed to replace these trees with 4 large new ones. Following professional advice from an Arboriculturist, we have chosen 4 large Italian Alders (*Aldus Cordata*) for the rear screening of the site.

In addition, the developer offered to remove the dead tree in the north-western corner of the Green and replace it with a large Lime tree (*Tilia Platyphyllos Rubra*) which will have a dramatic visual impact there.

We have been assured by the Developer that our large sycamore, in the south-eastern corner of the Green will be protected and only a few branches overhanging the site itself will be removed, very carefully, to avoid any lop-sided effect. The adjacent sycamore, on the development site, has been removed.

Another change that the Council will be initiating in the longer term will be the removal of the Poplars near the recycling bins corner. Again, we have taken professional advice on this because the trees are not doing well in the wind-swept corner. In the short term, the Council is arranging for the clearance of the very messy undergrowth both there and in the north-eastern corner. We will then consider carefully the most suitable planting of trees and/or shrubs for that site.

### Tennis Court



After some unfortunate delays, our Tennis Court, located in the north-western corner of the Warren Recreation Ground, is now open for business.

We are delighted with the refurbishment for which we have already received several compliments. We hope that more residents, both young and old, will enjoy playing tennis there.

If you have any ideas for the management of the Court, or for any further improvements needed, please let our Clerk know.



### Parish Clerk

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