



HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – presented to the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2009

My first year as chairman seems to have gone extremely quickly. We started off the year welcoming two new councillors Moyra Rice and Irene Wilson.

Some projects that were already in progress in 2008 have moved on. The affordable housing has recently started at the North Lodge site. The doctor's surgery is hopefully nearing the application stage after many years hard work.

However, one major disappointment was the failure to secure a multi-use games area for the school and the village. It was not just the loss of the facility but also the loss of some £60,000 funding which does not come available to our community very often. We will be pursuing some sort of development on this area to assist the school and the community by providing an all weather exercise facility. This in turn will be part of a review of the facilities on the recreation ground including refurbishment of the tennis courts and the possibility of the bowls club seeking to move. As part of the review we are reviewing the maintenance of all areas within the village.

One of the highlights of the year was also on the recreation ground with Lewes Blunden and his SK8 Massive Group raising enough money for more skate park equipment and a youth shelter giving every reason for the community to be proud of its young people. This coupled with the decline in vandalism will hopefully encourage more support for other youth projects.

These events have meant fewer meetings of the Local Action Team although this is still a very important forum to liaise with the police and neighbourhood watch.

Another major achievement has been finding land to provide the village with an allotment facility. I must thank the members of the Allotment Association for their enthusiasm, co-operation and patience. Many thanks must also go to Graham Love for providing the land for the Council to lease.

Grants were given this year to East Sussex Association for the Blind, HATS, Herstmonceux PCC, Village Information Centre. Sussex Air Ambulance, Sussex Victim Support, Visually impaired Eastbourne and Wealden Craft and the Wealden Stay Put Handyman scheme.

A review of the parish plan was also carried out as part of our input to the Wealden Development Framework consultation. This was more of a look into the future than the original plan, but will be a useful reference in future years should the village be required to grow in size.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors and especially our officers Janet McInnes and Simon Goacher for making my first year as council chairman run smoothly and look forward to the challenges of another year if elected.

Bill Gower

Annual Meeting May 2009

The Annual Meeting of Herstmonceux Parish Council was held on 18 May 2009. The following elections took place:

Chairman – Councillor W Gower

Vice Chairman – Councillor J Angear

Finance and General Purposes Committee – Councillors W Gower, J Angear, D Creasey, J Tate and K Wheatley

Planning – Councillors W Gower, J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, N Lyon, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson.

Ground Committee – Councillors W Gower, D Creasey, M Goodsell and B Naish. It is proposed to co-opt a member of one of the village sports clubs

Footpath Committee – Councillors K Game, M Goodsell, J Tate and I Willson

Emergency Planning Committee – Councillors D Creasey, K Game, K Wheatley and Mr A McInnes (co-opted member)

Street Lighting – Councillor K Game

Highways and Traffic – Councillor W Gower

Youth and Young People – Councillor M Rice

Tree Warden – Councillor M Goodsell

Allotments – Councillors D Creasey, K Game and I Willson

A number of councillor representatives were also elected to serve on external committees.

Wealden Association of Local Councils – Councillors M Rice and N Lyon

Herstmonceux Village Hall – Councillor K Game

Information Centre – Councillor D Creasey

Local Action Team – Councillors W Gower, D Creasey, M Rice and K Wheatley

Grants for 2009

Herstmonceux Parish Council considers applications for grants at the August Council Meeting. Applications must be sent to the clerk by 31 July 2009. Please contact the clerk at the address below for further information and an application form.

Herstmonceux Parish Web site

The new web site has information on all matters relating to Parish Council business, details of local groups and clubs, business information, local services, local history and much more. The address is www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

There is also a diary section about events in the village or immediate area. If you wish to advertise your event or have additional information for the web site please contact the clerk at the address below. The site is receiving hundreds of visits a week, and so is an excellent way to advertise an event or pass on information about your club or society.

Allotments

The allotment site at Greenaway Fruit Farm, Stunts Green is now well established with allotment gardeners already enjoying their fresh produce. All gardens are rented out and there is a waiting list, please contact the clerk for more information.

Affordable Housing

The affordable housing under construction on the site next to the Village Hall is due to be completed by 30 October 2009. The units comprise of 8 x two bedroom flats, 4 x two bedroom houses, 3 x three bedroom houses and 1 x one bedroom house.

If you are interested in applying for one of these units, you must be registered on the Wealden District Council's housing register. Details of how and when to apply

for a house will be published in the Sussex Homemove magazine, which all applicants to the Housing Register receive regularly. For more information contact the Housing Department at Wealden District Council on 443322.

Skateboard Park

The formal opening of the Skateboard Park will take place at the **School Fete on Saturday 4 July 2009 from 11-3 pm.**

Members of the Sk8 Massive Team and local skateboarders together with members of the Eastbourne Skating Group will be putting on a demonstration of their skills. Representatives from the East Sussex County Council Youth Panel, which gave a grant towards the new equipment, will also attend.

The School Fete will take place on the recreation ground and there will be stalls and sideshows as well as a BBQ, a beer tent and delicious cakes.

Housing Needs Survey 2009

Wealden District Council has commissioned Fordham Research to undertake a new housing needs survey for the whole of the district.

All households in rural parishes will be sent a questionnaire, with households in urban parishes being randomly selected in order to provide a statistically representative cross-section of the views of local residents as far as possible.

The survey will be distributed in early June 2009, **if you receive a questionnaire in the post please return it by 17th July 2009 in the pre-paid envelope.**

It is important that everyone completes and returns this survey as the findings will feed into the evidence base for the 'Local Development Framework', a blueprint for planning in the District, which will help inform delivery of housing both affordable and open market in the future.

It is vital that the Council has the evidence to ensure that it enables the delivery of affordable housing where needed and the right type and size of units in private housing developments. As well as helping to provide specialist housing where needed e.g. for older people such as extra care.

In addition, all completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw and one lucky person will win a £100 cash prize!

Please be reassured that your personal information will not be disclosed to anyone.

If you need help completing the survey once you receive it or would like to discuss the survey in more detail please contact either Sharon Eusebe at Fordham Research on the free phone number 0800 163 231 or Nicola Levett at Wealden District Council on 01323 4433844 (Mon-Weds)

Wealden District Council's Online Events Calendar

Looking for things to do?

Wealden's new interactive online events calendar promotes local events to residents and visitors. Since launching the Events Calendar earlier this year over 150 events have been added, as event organisers take advantage of being able to add their events directly. There are events to suit everyone's interests, many of which are free! For more information go to **www.wealden.gov.uk/events**

Village SOS

A new rural community business development project called Village SOS is being delivered in partnership between the BBC and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG). The project hopes to challenge villages to come up with brilliant ideas for new businesses to help revive their communities, many of which are seeing rural life eroded by economic pressures and the closure of local amenities. Village SOS will invite rural communities with lots of enthusiasm and a great business idea to

apply for Lottery funding to help breathe new life into their area, create new jobs and improve the quality of life for local people.

The short listed villages will receive a development grant of up to £10,000, and will choose an enterprising 'Village Champion' to work with to advance their ideas. Then six of these projects will then be awarded Lottery funding of up to £400,000 each and their respective Village Champions will move into the villages for a year to help them turn their business idea into a reality. The journey of the six successful villages and their Village Champions will be filmed for a major prime time BBC One series in winter 2010.

The deadline for both villages and Village Champions to apply is 14 August. To find out more information and how to apply visit: www.makeyourmark.org.uk/villagesos

Parish Councillors

Mrs J Angear, Penlands, Church Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 1RJ

☎832210

Mr D Creasey, April Folly, West End, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4NX

☎833006

Mr K Game, The Keys, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4SU

☎831917

Mr M Goodsell, Little Hollingwood, Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4QQ ☎832178

Mr N Lyon 5 Old School House, Windmill Hill, East Sussex BN27 4RU ☎833449

Mr W A Gower, Rewa, Lower Road, Herstmonceux East Sussex BN27 1QG

☎832532

Mr B Naish, Cobwebs, 29 Pippin Close, Orchard View, Windmill Hill, East Sussex. BN27 4TU ☎833747

Mrs M Rice, 11 Pippin Close, Orchard View, Windmill Hill, East Sussex BN27 4TU

☎832807

Mr J Tate, Two Acres, Lime Cross, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4RS

☎833229

Mr K Wheatley, Higham Farm, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4SX ☎832177

Mrs I Willson, Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Lane, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 1QH ☎833770

Details of all Council Meetings, minutes, agenda etc are available on the web site at www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

The Clerk can be contacted at: The Village Hall, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4JX

Tel: 01323 833312 Email: clerk@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS