

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER **November 2019**



This quarter's newsletter aims to bring you up to date with scheduled road and other infrastructure improvements for our parish. We are in regular contact with East Sussex Highways and our Highways Steward, lots has been done already but they are aware of work still needing doing. Just remember, all disruption will be worth it in the end!! 😊

Victoria Road - A temporary road closure is diarised from 16/11/2019 to 08/03/2020 to allow Southern Water to replace existing 150mm sewer pipes with new 300mm pipes and to rebuild manholes. This work is long over-due and extremely important in improving the sewage services in the area for everyone's benefit. Road diversions will be in place that will temporarily increase traffic through central Herstmonceux, so please be mindful of this when out and about in the area.

West End - Following a visit from ESCC Highways in October, the latest update is that the much-needed resurfacing work will now be carried out early 2020. We ensure to monitor this!

Road Markings - have now been refreshed with the exception of the white lines down the centre of the road through the village. We understand this will be done when the Line Painting team are next scheduled to work in the area, it may involve some short-term traffic management.

Flooding Outside Collins Garage Survey – East Sussex Highways undertook some drainage investigations at this known problem flooding area in the early summer. They will be carrying out further drainage works in the early months of 2020.

Road Safety Meeting with Hugh Merriman MP - Many topics were discussed at the recent meeting at Hooe Village Hall and these will be taken forward by our MP to a Transport Select Committee Enquiry. Rural Parish Councillors were able to advise the MP of collective concerns such as road speeds, large vehicles using country roads as short cuts with sat-navs, condition of the roads used by unsuitable traffic, speeding traffic; safety for pedestrians, parking on pavements and overgrown hedges over roads that limit driver sight-lines. This meeting was very useful in understanding what our MP is keen to prioritise with respect to road safety which included increased police engagement; Sat Nav companies to block out unsuitable roads on routes to limit choice for unsuitable traffic; looking for more infrastructure investment and funding per capita for the SE.

Siding – Following comments from residents, we continue to request ESCC contractors to widen back to full width a number of pavements / footways that have suffered encroaching vegetation and are needing a cut right back to the edge of the tarmac. This work is ongoing, done as and when the team are in the area. If you have any concerns, please report them to the Clerk.

Recreation Ground Access Road – Improvement works to widen and resurface the driveway to the Recreation Ground are due to be carried out in November.

H-TAG (Herstmonceux Transport Access Group) - As you may recall this was set up by 3VA and volunteers from our Parish. A survey was carried out some time ago ask the Parish about their transport needs, further funding has since been sought to take this forward. A grant of £10,000 has been obtained and a researcher chosen. He will be looking at public transport and other forms of transport such as cycling and walking. He will also be contacting organisations within the Parish. He will be looking at isolation and other concerns where lack of transport is an issue. A more comprehensive survey will now be carried out mid- January 2020 with a public meeting being arranged following the results. If you would like to join the group, please contact Malcolm Bradshaw on 01323 833365.



Police Surgeries and other policing updates- Following a lapse of a couple of years, police surgeries have been reinstated by the new Chief Inspector for Wealden, John Gross. It is the opportunity for Parish and Town Councils to meet with the community policing team police to discuss any local issues they may have. A recent meeting in October proved to be very useful and informative. Highlighted challenges presented included parking on pavements, anti-social behaviour and vandalism, advice on solutions were also discussed, such as use of CCTV etc. We were very pleased to hear that every community in Sussex will have a named PCSO starting from next month. The change will take effect from November 4, when all existing PCSOs will adopt responsibility for a defined geographical area and be rolled out over the coming months as the additional PCSOs are recruited and deployed. As soon as we know more we will let you know through facebook and our Parish Council website. The PCSOs come in addition to recent announcements on the recruitment of 379 additional police officers across Sussex. Not quite Bobbies Back on The Beat, but a greater presence will hopefully be noted. Hurrah!

Public Toilets – having re-opened in August and officially opened in October by the Leader of Wealden District Council, Cllr Pam Doodes, the Parish Council are very pleased to see that the



facilities are being frequently used by local people and visitors. On a down-side, there has been some petty vandalism taking place, which although is rectified as soon as possible after, is disheartening to all, having worked so hard to save the building and to reinstate the service for the parish. If you see any vandalism taking place, please do notify the police via 101 or online.

Herstmonceux Community Land Trust - This application is now with the Planning Department at Wealden (our Local Planning Authority) and we await the outcome.

Christmas'Ceux 19 - Plans are taking shape for this year's village festivities and it is hoped that as many as possible parishioners, local organisations and parish businesses will take part. The community chosen theme will be made known via posters. Activities will begin on Sunday 1st December at 6pm with a Light Up event. All Christmas lights and decorations, including the village Christmas trees organised by Parish Council, will be up and switched on. Please look out for leaflets and posters advertising all other events which will include a visit and grotto with Mrs and Santa Claus, the Christmas pony, carol singing procession, festive hamper raffle and much more!! Information will be available on social media and the Parish Council website nearer the time.

Allotments – Annual subscriptions will be due in January 2020; a November reminder will be sent to plot holders. Tenant turnover is always expected at this time so please contact the clerk if you are a budding allotment gardener to put your name on the waiting list.



VE Day 2020 – An initial meeting was held and ideas were flowing for parish event and activities to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day next May. The May 2020 Bank Holiday dates are changing specifically for this momentous occasion. The first May **Bank Holiday** will not be on May 4, but instead will take place on Friday May 8. Activities for all ages will be planned for the weekend Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May. A further meeting is to be arranged.

Clerk's Corner: The Parish Council new website is up and running. Do let me know if there is information you would like to see on there that isn't there already. Some online consultation about Play and Recreational Facilities will be coming up, the Parish Council need as much feedback as possible in order to make the right decisions. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are being progressed where possible and used for comments in response to planning applications

Parish Council Surgeries - Contact the Parish Council anytime on 01323 833312, via facebook messenger, my email or through the website, call in the Parish Office Thursday mornings 10am-1pm or come to the Councillors' surgery on the first Saturday of the month in the Village Information Office 10am-12pm (Nov 2nd, Jan 4th, Feb 1st). Every third surgery will be held in the Merry Harriers at Cowbeech (Dec 8th). Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2020, Clare the Clerk