

The Parish Office,
4 The Old Forge,
Gardner Street,
Herstmonceux, BN27 4LG



Email: clerk@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

Website: www.herstmonceuxparish.org

Tel: 01323 833312

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER **February 2020**

Diary Dates and Community Activity.

H-TAG (Herstmonceux Transport Action Group) – By now all houses within the parish will have received the Transport Needs Survey form which needs to be completed and returned by **7 February 2020**. If you need extra copies, they are available from the Village Information Centre. The next event will be the Public Meeting set for Monday, March 30 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall so please make a note of the date. Representatives from the County Council, Stagecoach Buses and other key people will be there to answer your questions. The results of the survey will influence our way forward to achieve improved transport links for residents. If you would like to join the group and for more information, please contact Malcolm Bradshaw on 01323 833365.

Annual Parish Meeting – This is a meeting to which all electors in the parish are entitled and invited to attend. Whilst the chairman of the parish council shall chair the parish meeting, there is no power to make any formal decision making on the night. The meeting is an opportunity for electors and council to openly communicate. The meeting starts with reports from your Parish Council, then opens up for anyone to have their say. Local organisations and charities attend and share information, leaflets and photos; refreshments are served. It is a really worthwhile evening so please do come and join in if you can.

**ANNUAL
PARISH
MEETING**

VE Day 2020 75th Anniversary – The activity planning for the May 2020 Bank Holiday Friday May 8 to Sunday 10th May are being progressed. A further meeting is arranged for early February. Please do contact the Clerk if you are interested in joining the planning group.

Herstmonceux Community Land Trust (CLT) – Congratulations to the Herstmonceux CLT for their successful Outline Planning Application. The Parish Council and CLT are in contact to discuss the Parish Council comments, to help enhance the development further prior to the finer detail, 'Reserved Matters'.

PCSO update – We have established contact with our new PCSO's Hodgins, Davies and Lewis and are waiting to hear back from them. Although they are clearly unable to attend all Town and Parish Councils meetings, they have been asked to touch base with us to get to know our local community and so that we can discuss any concerns. The number of vandalism incidents has quietened in the last couple of months, which we are all grateful for! However, we want to ensure that our PCSO team know that we value their input and also so that they know where we are 😊.

The withdrawal of the submitted Wealden Local Plan

The recent news of the planning inspectorate to not-proceed with the Wealden Local Plan has come as a disappointment to many, however, Herstmonceux Parish can draw strength from our position in having an approved Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Please be aware that as a result of the Local Plan withdrawal, we expect to now see a hike in planning applications coming through, for which Town and Parish Councils, as statutory consultees, will be requested to submit their comments and observations.

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan:

Policy 4 Resisting the loss of employment locations - The Horseshoe Inn – plans have been represented for the development of this site, which includes a replacement public house plus 10 houses. The Parish Council have recently submitted their response to the planning application for the replacement public house. All documents are found on the Wealden District Council planning portal and a hard copy of the plans is available to view in the Village Information Centre.

The Woolpack - The Parish Council expect to hear soon that plans have been submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Information will be shared on our website once we hear more. Once made available, the plans will be displayed in the Village Information Centre for anyone to view. Formal discussion date of the plans will be advised, as usual, through publication of meeting agendas.

The Parish Office,
4 The Old Forge,
Gardner Street,
Herstmonceux, BN27 4LG



Email: clerk@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

Website: www.herstmonceuxparish.org

Tel: 01323 833312

Policy 7 Redevelopment' of the 'former' public toilet site – Further plumbing work has been needed in our public conveniences but the disabled / nappy changing facility and at least one of the ladies toilets are now up and running. The toilets are being regularly used and we have received many thank yous, the reinstatement of this facility being a response to the wishes of the residents in the 2013 & 2016 Parish Surveys. Policy (7) states a 'preference for the site to be developed as a fully accessible public toilet.....and two individual office units'. The Parish Council will now be carefully considering how to progress this policy, in conjunction with the end of the short-term lease from Wealden (which has enabled us to reopen the block) due to expire in January 2021.

Policy 8 Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground

The resurfacing to the access road has been completed but there is still work to do on the edge of the road and completion of boundary fencing. Next phase is upgrading and extending the car park area.

Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan Management Group –

The Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan are at different delivery stages. Some are ongoing in determining the way the Parish Council respond to Planning Applications, some are at the initial stages, some needing detailed business planning. A variety of projects are within the overarching policies. If you have an interest in business planning / capital project delivery / consultation activities with all ages / and or an enthusiasm for making a difference and making things happen, please do contact the clerk.

East Sussex Highways

Village Centre Refurb and Kerbing – After a fairly traumatic few weeks when this work was being carried out, the centre of Herstmonceux looks greatly improved outside the school and The Woolpack. The issues that residents had with the contractors has been passed up to ESCC and hopefully lessons will be learned on how not to do this type of work in the future!

Roadworks, diversions and potholes – Victoria Road works are back and the diversions are in place. If all keeps on schedule, the works will be completed in May 2020. Please use the official diversion route as there are problems with the condition of other roads not designed to take extra traffic, especially Chilsham Lane. For some sections of this lane the road surface is higher than the edge and can be dangerous, where in places, there is a significant drop-off. Be aware that if you get caught in this you could need to be rescued. We just have to be patient and get through this difficult time as best we can. Gingers Green is reportedly also in a terrible state with running water and mud on the roads which are prone to ice over in the colder spells, potholes and drop-offs to the side. Whilst we do have a good relationship with our County Councillor, who is very supportive to our Parish and has intervened for us a number of times when issues have arisen, a Parish Council letter of complaint to East Sussex County Council about the state of the roads is to be submitted.

Flooding Outside Collins Garage – works are being carried out to finally address this historical problem. Hopefully this will not happen anymore once the drainage work has been completed.

Lime Roughs – the Wealden approval of this planning application included a legal clause for the upgrading and widening of the footway between the property and village of Herstmonceux. The Parish Council are hard at East Sussex County Council's heels in trying to establish a responsible person for this project to find out what plans or progress is being made and to remind East Sussex of the commitment of this local infrastructure improvement.

Clerk's Corner: Allotments – January is the renewal of annual tenancy for Allotment Holders. A few plots have now become available and are going fast. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming an Allotment Tenant. **Parish Council Open Door ethos** - Remember you can contact the Parish Council anytime on 01323 833312 or by emailing me, call in the Parish Office Thursday mornings 10am-1pm or come to the Councillors' surgery on the first Saturday of the month 10am-12pm (Mar 7th at the Merrie Harriers, April 4th and May 2nd at the Village Information Centre).