

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 2020



Covid 19

We do hope you are all doing as well as can be expected at these difficult times. So very much has changed for us all since our last newsletter earlier this year. Whilst the challenges are apparent to us all, and our deepest condolences are extended to anybody who has lost a family member, friend or neighbour to this terrible virus, we also raise a big thank to Pippa and Graham launching the Local Community Action Volunteering scheme.

A dedicated help-line telephone number and email were quickly set up for residents who need help during this time and also to recruit volunteers to help fellow parishioners. Flyers were distributed to each household in the parish, plus a targeted delivery of the flyer by the Herstmonceux Integrative Health Surgery, to all vulnerable and extremely vulnerable patients. Details have also been available to neighbouring surgeries, in the local paper and social media.

In case you have missed it, the number to call is **07934 712707**. Please remember that you are not alone through this self-isolation period. Your friends, neighbours and community are out here, thinking of you and willing to help in whichever way they can. Do contact this number if you are struggling. Even if we can't help, we can put you in touch with someone who can.

In addition to our Thursday evening recognition of our NHS and other frontline workers, a big thanks and a round of applause goes to all others in the community who have risen to the challenge and done some amazing things, especially the local shops in supporting the community along with individuals who have given services for free. We are all very proud of our local true community spirit!

For anybody who is able to take any nature, or other inspirational or heart-warming photos, please do email these to the clerk if you are happy to share them on the Parish Council website (with an aim to lift the spirits of those who may be missing the delights of late spring / early summer).

Parish Council Services affected during lock down are:

- **Public Toilets** – temporarily closed until further notice
- **Playground/Skateboard Park** – As per Government guidance, the children's play area and multi-use games areas are not available and locked. The Parish Council respectfully request that parents and young people use their judgement to observe these rules also for the Skate Park, which cannot be locked. Please do not use this area until further notice.
- **Recreation Ground and Dog waste collections** – the Rec remains open but there are issues with dog mess having increased and this will be monitored. Should it get worse there could be a consideration for further measures to be taken. The dog bins/waste bins continue to be emptied and are still available. Please use them!
- **Allotments** – the allotments remain open but strict rules are in place for use, (as per government and national association guidelines).
- **The Sports Ground and Recreation Ground** must not be used for organised events or gatherings until Government announce that these restrictions are lifted.
- **VE Day 75** – unfortunately, the locally planned activities to commemorate this special weekend have had to have been put on the back burner. It is unsure at this stage whether any of the events can take place later in the year or not. Only time will tell...

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Parish Council Meetings – Since March 23rd, councillor's comments to planning applications have been collated, agreed and submitted to the Local Planning Authority (Wealden District Council) by email. Wealden Planning Department are made aware that the response submission has been gathered and agreed virtually. All Council meetings have been suspended since the 23rd March, however, starting in mid-May, the Parish Council will be following the example of Wealden Council and our Government. Any necessary meetings to conduct Council business will be arranged virtually, until further notice. Please see further information about this on our website – www.Herstmonceuxparish.org.uk. Agenda's for formal council meetings will be published on the website as usual where a link to the virtual meetings will also be provided.

Update H-TAG (Herstmonceux Transport Action Group) Survey – Thank you to everyone that took part. The results of the Survey are due to be published but temporarily on hold until the situation changes re Covid 19 etc. However, it is clear from the report that there is a need for improved bus services in the parish including a Sunday service. HTAG are in consultation with Stagecoach regarding this. Watch this space!

Victoria Road – works are in the final stages and traffic lights are managing the traffic in Victoria Road and the main road until such time as the work is completed.

Flooding Outside 'Collins' Garage – work has now been completed. We can all still continue to keep our eye on this area to ensure no new issues arise.

Flooding in Gardner Street – there was a problem in the main part of Gardner Street opposite the Pet Shop etc which turned out to be a very blocked drain. We have been assured by ESCC that this has now been cleared!

Planning Applications - The Woolpack – all latest documents and responses from consultees can be found on the Wealden planning portal. The Parish Council await more news.

Lime Cross– No official further update has been received by Herstmonceux Parish Council at the time of this newsletter going to press, although the Parish Council has met with a representative from the housing Clarion Housing Group, with whom they wish to continue to have a positive working relationship. Discussions about the Section 106 commitments to the parish will be revived, once Clarion have satisfied outstanding environmental queries and planning conditions for the Planning Authority.

The Horseshoe Inn – resubmitted plans have been re-presented for the development of this site and the number of houses has gone back to 9. The Parish Council has responded with other comments re visitor parking as it is concerned there are still not enough for visitors to the properties as road parking will not be an option on this site. In particular Comphurst Lane, (running across the front of the development), which is a private road and must be accessible at all times.

Clerk's Corner: contacting the Parish Council – as I'm sure you will be aware; the Parish Office Open Mornings or surgeries are not running for the time being and the Village Information Centre is also not able to open. However, I am always at the end of an email or my Clerks phone 07842 515268. Even if I cannot respond straight away, I will pick up your message. Please make use of our Facebook page and our website where information and updates are regularly posted. Council are making changes to the way they are working to ensure we remain able to make effective and transparent decisions during the Covid 19 crisis whilst remaining in accordance with the various legal allowances and requirements now in place for Town and Parish Councils. Keep safe, keep well, Best Wishes, Clare the Clerk 😊