



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

Feb 2012

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Photo courtesy of Andrew Forsythe

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Can we claim the Christmas lights back from the Grinch as so many of you were disappointed that there were no lights in the High Street trees at Christmas? Members of the Parish Council shared that disappointment but, as we explained in the November Lindfield Life magazine, this difficult decision had to be made because of objections to our previous solution to the challenge of meeting the height requirements for electrical installations over the public highway, after the trees were pollarded three years ago. A petition has been presented to the Parish Council, started by a couple of residents and signed by over 500 people on Christmas Festival Night, to give the Parish Council a mandate to do whatever we can to put lights up next Christmas. The trees should by now have been re-pollarded, or soon will be, so the Council will be looking afresh at lighting the High Street for next Christmas, aiming for a sustainable solution that will meet safety standards and not give concern for the wellbeing of the trees.

Meanwhile, Members of the Council were delighted to discover some real talent in the village that we were able to harness to provide a stunning lighting effect on the trees on the Pond islands over the Christmas period.

Our very grateful thanks to Lindfield residents Max Eggert-Hobbs and Andrew Forsythe, who are professional lighting specialists, for creating such a beautiful feature.

The Parish Council is negotiating with Mid Sussex District Council, Mr. Eggert-Hobbs and Mr. Forsythe with a view to purchasing a permanent lighting scheme for the Pond, which can be used to mark other events such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June.

We would also like to thank Martin and Chris from Wivelsfield Nursery for the donation of a Christmas tree and for assisting Richard Powell in putting it up and taking it down; Glyn Thomas and Sons for allowing this tree to be put up on their roof and providing the power for the new lights bought by the Parish Council to decorate it.

Members of Lindfield Parish Council:

They can all be contacted, in the first instance, via the Parish

Cllr. William Blunden
(Chairman)

Cllr. Valerie Upton
(Vice Chairman)

Cllr. Mike Allen

Cllr. Michael Amor

Cllr. Jane Chatfield

Cllr. Lester Corp

Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1.00pm to 4.00pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am to 1.00pm – when members of the public are welcome to come along to look at planning applications for Lindfield, apply for bus passes and obtain railcard vouchers, or simply seek advice on issues of concern. However, if you do need to speak with someone outside our normal opening hours, then please contact the Clerk who will be happy to make alternative arrangements with you.

Parish Clerk:
Mrs. Christine Irwin

Deputy Parish Clerk:
Mr. Pieter Hemsley

Responsible Financial
Officer: Mrs. Sue Kollien

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL NIGHT

The weather was kind to us early last December and the Christmas Festival Night went ahead as planned on 6th December. The High Street was very busy with residents and visitors enjoying the lively atmosphere and festive cheer.

Local shops adopted an "Alpine" theme for their displays and the judging of the Best Dressed Window was opened to members of the public using voting slips. Congratulations to the winner – Villandry – and to the joint runners up – Field and Forrest and The Stand Up Inn.

Mid Downs Radio relayed the singing by the School Choirs and interviewed some of the traders, stallholders and other people over the loudspeakers. In between they added to the atmosphere with festive music to suit all tastes.

Lindfield Parish Council wishes to thank the many people on whom the success of this event depends. In particular, our thanks go to: the Rev. Charles Martin

and parishioners at the United Reformed Church for making this vital indoor venue available and for the warm welcome, the entertainment and the activities organized by members of the Church. The evening could not go ahead without the co-operation of the Police, the Red Cross and CERT, who effected and manned the all-important road closure - we are very grateful to them; to the Bonfire Society who provided road closure barriers and some of the lighting; to the people who helped get ready for Father Christmas (including Mac Turner who also repainted the snowman on the Pond island this year) and to those who kindly allowed us to plug in floodlights to brighten up the High Street.

Our Deputy Parish Clerk, Pieter Hemsley, did a terrific job in organizing this event, liaising with the statutory authorities and the numerous participants and then kept a close watch during the evening to make sure everything went smoothly.

Finally, thanks to all members of the public who supported the event. We hope that our local shops benefited from the evening and that people who had stalls on behalf of local charities were successful in raising money for their causes.

HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On 16th November last year the Parish Council arranged and facilitated a public meeting to discuss what the Village wants to do to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. The meeting was well attended by 48 people, representing village organisations as well as individual residents. There was plenty of enthusiasm and a lot of ideas came forth. An organising committee has been set up which, although there are Council representatives on it, is independent of the Parish Council.

The weekend will begin on Saturday 2nd June with Village Day, the first of which was held to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. This year the celebrations will continue on into the evening after Village Day and all day on Sunday. The Bonfire Society has been approached by the Pageant Master to take part in a national Beacon scheme on the Monday and it was felt that the Tuesday should be left free for street parties etc.

The first meeting of the committee will now have taken place and its members will be working on the format the celebrations will follow. The committee would like to emphasize that they want to encourage as many groups, clubs, schools and organisations etc. to be involved as possible and they would very much welcome suggestions and offers of help.

The committee will be giving their plans plenty of publicity, so watch out for posters, local newspaper articles and maybe items on the local radio in the coming weeks.

Please direct all correspondence to the committee through Ron Plass – 483319, ron.plass@virgin.net.

Office, or by reference to the Lindfield Village Directory and Year Book, which contains details of individual contact numbers.

Cllr. Alan
Gomme

Cllr. Stephen
Henton

Cllr. Margaret
Hersey

Cllr. Simon
Hodgson

Cllr. Christopher
Snowling

Cllr. Ron
Plass

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Government has recently turned the planning system on its head, allowing local communities to influence the future of the places where they live and work by producing Neighbourhood Plans, which when in force will have legal weight and must be taken into account by decision makers when considering development proposals in that neighbourhood. With a Neighbourhood Plan, communities will be able to set a vision for the future and it can be detailed or general, depending on what local people want. This sounds rather encouraging so far, BUT throughout the documents that are coming out of central government there is a strong emphasis on the presumption in favour of sustainable development and if local plans are out of date, non-existent or silent on a particular matter, the planning authority will have no choice but to approve proposals which meet the criteria for being sustainable. Neighbourhood Plans cannot be used to block the building of new homes and businesses if the local planning authority says that an area needs to grow, but they can influence the type, design, location and mix of new development.

Neighbourhood Plans are not compulsory but it follows that we could find ourselves in a weaker position without one, so the Parish Council has formed a Working Party with Lindfield Rural Parish Council with a view to producing a joint Neighbourhood Plan. The community will be consulted during the process and the final draft has to go to an independent examiner, who will check that it meets the right basic standards, and then a referendum has to take place to allow the local community to have the final say on whether the Plan comes into force. If more than 50 per cent of people voting in the referendum support the plan or order, then the local planning authority must bring it into force.

A simplified explanation of Neighbourhood Plans can be viewed on the following website: http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/your_place_your_plan_guide.pdf

LINDFIELD PARISH DIRECTORY AND YEAR BOOK

We hope our residents all received their copy of the Directory (the green diary) in December.

POLICE SURGERIES

Our Police Community Support officer, Stuart Clough, continues to hold a surgery once a month in the Parish Office for residents to come along and raise any issues of concern.

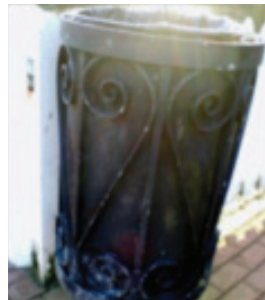
The next surgeries will be on:
Thurs 23rd Feb 11-12.30
Thurs 22nd March 11-12.30

MOBILE CIVIC AMENITY COLLECTIONS

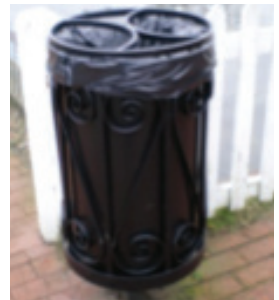
The refuse freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sunday 11th March 2012, between the hours of 10am and 12noon, for the collection of household and garden waste. Please note that due to current legislation they cannot accept items such as televisions, computer monitors and fluorescent tubes. These can still be taken to a civic amenity centre. Please do not leave rubbish in the absence of the refuse freighter.

LITTER BIN REFURBISHMENT

You may notice when you walk around our Village that some of the litter bins have been removed and replaced with a cone. This is because the Parish Council has a refurbishment programme for our ornate wrought iron litter bins made by our Village Blacksmith. Some have already been replaced and we are highly delighted with the finished results - we trust that you find that these do our Village justice.



Before



After

OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!

School Crossing Patrol

West Sussex County Council is advertising for people to fill the two vacant crossing patrols in Lindfield (part time, at the start and finish of each school day, term time only – 38 or 39 weeks per year). The salary is £6.84 per hour rising by annual increments to £7.19 per hour.

School Crossing Patrols provide a vital service to the children of West Sussex by assisting them to cross the road safely on their way to and from school. There is no upper age limit and there are several patrol people well

into their seventies in West Sussex! Uniform and training are provided.

As the role involves working with children, a Criminal Records Check will of course need to be undertaken.

For further information and an application form, please contact Julie Finn at West Sussex County Council on 01243 777319 or email to Julie.finn@westsussex.gov.uk

Parish Council meetings

Feb - Apr 2012

Thursday	2nd February	Environment and Amenities Committee	8pm
Tuesday	7th February	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Tuesday	28th February	Planning and Traffic Committee (full)	8pm
Thursday	15th March	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8pm
Tuesday	20th March	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Thursday	22nd March	Full Council	7.30pm
Tuesday	10th April	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8pm
Thursday	12th April	Environment and Amenities Committee	8pm
Tuesday	17th April	Parish Meeting	8pm

All meetings are held in the King Edward Hall, unless shown otherwise. Please check the noticeboard in Denmans Lane for any additional meetings that may be called. All meetings are open to the public and there is a period set aside at the beginning and end of each meeting for public questions/comments, except at "plans only" Planning and Traffic Committee meetings. At meetings of the Planning and Traffic Committee, up to two people for and two against each planning application are allowed to speak, for a maximum of two minutes each, at the invitation of the Chairman.