



Parish Office: 6 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2LB  
Telephone: 01444 484115 Email: clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk  
Web site: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

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:  
Iain McLean

Responsible Financial  
Officer: Mrs. Sue Kollen

## Councillors and Staff of Lindfield Parish Council wish you all a very Happy New Year

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL NIGHT

Residents and visitors came out in large numbers to enjoy the lively atmosphere and festive cheer at our Christmas Festival Night on 4th December. Once again we were blessed with the weather – just cold enough for the seasonal feel, but staying dry and calm.

A number of local shops were open during the evening and a great deal of effort was put into dressing shop windows, which all looked fantastic. Congratulations to Glyn Thomas and Son for winning the prize for the Best Dressed Window; to Runner Up - Mathilda Rose and to SWALK who were Highly Commended. We're so lucky in Lindfield to have such a wide range of shops and eateries at the heart of our community.

Mid Downs Radio added to the atmosphere with festive music to suit all tastes and conducted interviews over the loudspeakers.

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, Event Medic Services and CERT, who manned the all-important road closure - we are very grateful to them and to Siamax who provided a floodlight and a set of two way radios; to Mid Sussex District Council for the loan of road closure barriers; to the people who helped get ready for Father Christmas and to those who kindly allowed us to plug in



Christmas lights and additional floodlights. Thank you also to Wivelsfield Nurseries for donating a Christmas tree and to Glyn Thomas and Son for allowing us to put it on their roof.

Lots of children, including Amelia and Ruby Shepherd pictured above, came to have a chat with Father Christmas and get a small present. Thank you to Amelia and Ruby's Mum for giving permission to publish the photo.

Our Deputy Parish Clerk, Iain McLean, did a terrific job in organizing this event, liaising with the statutory authorities and the numerous participants to make sure everything went smoothly on the night.

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.

### STREET LIGHT DAMAGE

Our street lighting engineer has recently discovered that the street light in the footpath from Brookway to Sunte Avenue appears to have been shot at with an air gun. We have arranged to replace the lantern, at a cost of £125, because it was no longer water tight due to the damage, causing the lamp to fail as well as being a safety risk. We hope this was a one-off occurrence but we would ask residents to report any further incidents to us so that we can pass the information on to the police.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

We hope you all like our new Christmas Lights in the High Street!

Since the pollarding of the trees we've found it to be more and more challenging, with the equipment we had, to comply with regulations for electrical installations over the public footways. So, encouraged by the number of people who signed last year's petition, the Parish Council engaged Blachere (a festive lighting company) to provide and install new lights. We chose these carefully, trying to get a tasteful effect worthy of our High Street but using modern low energy equipment. We are indebted to the property owners who allow us to use their power supply to make the whole thing possible.



### LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL IS ON THE MOVE!

The Parish Council took up residence in its present location in Denmans Lane in 1996. At that time it was ideal and has served us well for many years. However, for some time now it has been apparent that we have outgrown the space. The conditions for the staff have become very cramped and we have had to pay to store paperwork and other items elsewhere in the village.

The Council has looked long and hard at the alternatives and, to be honest, there are very few. The possibility of extending our current building has been considered but we have been advised that we would be very unlikely to get planning permission. So, we have been looking for other premises within the village centre and have drawn a blank.

A property that we looked at some time ago as a possibility to rent came up for sale last summer and we have now completed on the purchase. The premises are at Clock Tower House on the Lindfield Enterprise Park in Lewes Road and they are ideal for our needs. We will be able to offer much better working conditions for the staff, have storage space on site and also be able to offer better facilities for the public.

Some of you will be pleased with the location as it will be nearer to where you live but we do appreciate that others amongst you may feel that the new location will be difficult for you to get to. We are addressing this issue and will do our utmost to make sure that no-one is disadvantaged as a result of this move.

We hope to be operating from the Lewes Road premises from early spring and the new contact details and opening hours will be advertised as widely as possible.

Members of Lindfield Parish Council:

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

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

**Cllr. William Blunden** (Chairman)  
**Cllr. Valerie Upton** (Vice Chairman)

**Cllr. Mike Allen**

**Cllr. Michael Amor**

**Cllr. Jane Chatfield**

**Cllr. Alan Gomme**

**Cllr. Stephen Henton**

**Cllr. Margaret Hersey**

**Cllr. Simon Hodgson**

**Cllr. Roger Pickett**

**Cllr. Ron Plass**

**Cllr. Christopher Snowling**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

REPORT ON QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS BY AiRS

### Councillor Alan Gomme

Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) submitted their analysis and report on the 533 responses that were sent to Lindfield & Lindfield Rural Parish to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in December.

There was great support (98%) for a plan being developed jointly by both councils with most respondents (97%) being from households within our parishes with most (78%) working outside of them. The most popular way of commuting to work is by car within Mid Sussex (25%), while 23% use public transport. A great number (56%) supported the need for better peak time public transport to Haywards Heath and 63% consider that rail services from the station are currently adequate.

The vast majority (95%) agreed that Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and our Nature Reserves should be reserved without compromise, while 95% agreed that wildlife corridors should be preserved and enhanced. Nearly all respondents (98%) agreed that our Parishes should retain their heritage and identity to provide attractive places to live and visit, while over three-quarters (80%) agreed that small businesses in Lindfield High Street should provide a mix of local services and essential provisions and high-end boutiques. There was similar support (80%) for the protection of business units and retail shops and change of use to residential should be resisted while most (93%) agreed that new businesses that provide local jobs should be encouraged.

Of concern to many is the provision of water supply, as only 52% consider that this is adequate and also of concern is the current capacity of our medical centres as only 47% consider that it is adequate.

## STREET LIGHTS - maintenance

The Lindfield Preservation Society's newsletter in the December edition of Lindfield Life may have given the impression that the Parish Council was not aware of the condition of the paintwork on our street lighting columns until the Society's representative brought it to our attention. This is not the case and the matter is already in hand. Following the initial inspection by Direct Technical Services when we engaged them as our street lighting maintenance contractors in April 2011, we decided that the recommended upgrade of the equipment should be the first priority for reasons of safety, compliance

with regulations and because there was a significant saving to be made on energy by replacing old lanterns. The contract includes painting of columns in the fifth year, but as long ago as 2011 we discussed bringing this forward once the work on the equipment was completed. The upgrade was finished in September 2012, which was too late to begin the repainting programme this year because of weather conditions. Painting of the columns will begin in Spring when the conditions are right.

Most respondents (97%) agreed that children from within our parishes should have priority for places at schools and nurseries within the Parishes, while nearly all (97%) agreed that children and families should be encouraged to walk to school. Over two-thirds (67%) agreed that there is a need for more facilities and services for our youth within the Parishes. There were a number of questions on future housing with which most respondents agreed, including the protection of the strategic gaps between Lindfield, Scaynes Hill & Haywards Heath (94%), protection of the character and heritage of Lindfield and of views in and out of the village (97%), future housing developments should be of small scale, geographically spread around the parishes and delivered at a steady annual rate (86%), previously used industrial sites ("brownfields") should be used rather than agricultural land ("greenfields") (93%) and that any new housing within the "Lindfield Conservation Area" should be in conformity with the Lindfield Village Design Statement (89%) or within Scaynes Hill it should be in conformity with the "Scaynes Hill Village Plan" (85%).

The full analysis of the completed questionnaires and the other material that was submitted to both Parish Councils during the consultation will now be used as a basis to begin the drafting of our Neighbourhood Plan and it is our intention to be able to present this to our communities at our respective Annual Parish Meetings during April 2013.

The full analysis and report from AiRS is available on both Parish Council's web sites and a printed version is available to study at both our offices during normal opening hours. Due to the length of the report, a small charge will be made for printed copies.

## ROAD SURFACE AT BLACK HILL / BACKWOODS LANE MINI ROUNDABOUT

As many of you will be aware, there has been a large depression in the road at the Black Hill / Backwoods Lane mini roundabout. A WSCC Highways Officer has advised that problem is more than just a pothole and he has put in an order for exploratory work. A temporary repair should make the road safe in the meantime and we have been assured that this is being treated as high priority.

## MOBILE CIVIC AMENITY COLLECTIONS

The refuse freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 20th January and 10th March 2013, 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.

## 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. Forthcoming surgeries will be on Tuesday 22nd January 1-2pm, Thursday 21st February 10-11am and Thursday 21st March 10-11am.

## BUS STOP POLES AND INTEGRAL BINS

The Environment and Amenities Committee has agreed a programme of refurbishment of the wrought iron bus stop poles, which will involve removal of the semi-circular bins which are too small and difficult to maintain. The bus stop poles will be reinforced so that they can stand alone without the support of the bin. Where bins are considered to be necessary, suitable replacements will be installed, including three wrought iron, free standing, circular bins left over from last year's renovation programme.



## Parish Council meetings

### Jan – Mar 2013

Thursday	10th January	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00pm
Tuesday	15th January	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00pm
Thursday	17th January	Full Council	7.30pm
Tuesday	5th February	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00pm
Thursday	7th February	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00pm
Tuesday	26th February	Planning and Traffic Committee (full)	8.00pm
Thursday	7th March	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00pm
Thursday	14th March	Full Council	7.30pm
Tuesday	19th March	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00pm

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.