



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

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Winter Management Plan

DURING THE EARLY “dump” of snow at the beginning of December it was great to see a number of residents and traders out clearing snow from the public footways. We know from experience during last winter that this is no easy task, so the more people who get out there to share the job the better. The response from the County and District Councils has been much better this year as well: main roads have been gritted regularly, SERCO operatives have salted some of the pavements in the village centre and other contractors have been brought in by MSDC to clear car parks.

The experience of the winter of 2009/10 highlighted the importance of co-operation between the various agencies and the value of the Parish Councils’ roles within their communities. The Parish Council does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice, but we are in a good position to inform the principal authorities about local needs and we want to do whatever else we can for our community. So what we hope to do is encourage and facilitate self help as far as possible and to liaise with other authorities and agencies to assist them in planning their response to severe weather conditions.

Since last winter the Parish Council has been represented at several meetings organised by Mid Sussex District Council to share information, experience and ideas to help with planning for winter weather and it is encouraging to see that the input from the town and parish councils is appreciated and acted upon.

We have now completed a Local Winter Management Plan which is on our website: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk. The Plan is based on guidance issued by Central Government and the County and District Councils and the emphasis is on facilitating self help.

In the Winter Management Plan we have tried to clarify what the community can expect from the principal authorities and what the Parish Council has put in place so that we can be better prepared to help ourselves. Last winter many people were afraid of litigation if someone should slip on an area they had cleared of snow and the Government has addressed this in the following statement which appears with the “Snow Code” on the official UK Government website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868

The Parish Council has bought five extra salt bins for the area around the village centre, so that there will be enough salt available to treat cleared areas. The salt is provided by West Sussex County Council for use on the public pavements and footpaths only – if there is any doubt that the supply is being managed properly the bins will not be refilled. So the village centre bins are locked to protect the supply from being misappropriated and there are labels on those bins to show who holds the keys along with some dos and don’ts about snow clearing and salt spreading.

Snow clearers have a duty to take reasonable care so as not to create a new and possibly worse risk. Snow is easier to clear when it is fresh than when it has become compacted and frozen. Shovels full of snow are quite heavy and we urge snow clearers to take care not to injure themselves. Please observe the guidance and respect the Parish Council’s responsibility to manage the supply of salt.





Do...

- Wear suitable clothing and footwear and take care not to injure or overexert yourself
- Clear snow responsibly so as not to create a new and possibly worse risk.
- Make sure a supply of salt is accessible before attempting to clear snow and ice
- Keep the padlock and key safe during use
- Be aware of other people around you as you work, to avoid injury
- Clear snow in the morning if possible before it gets packed together from being walked on and to allow the sun to melt any ice beneath it
- Pay particular attention to steps and steep slopes
- Make a path down the centre then shovel from there to the sides
- Move snow to a porous surface such as a grass verge or garden
- Treat cleared areas immediately with salt to prevent freezing
- Spread salt/grit evenly and at appropriate spread rates (20 grams or 1 tablespoonful to treat a square metre of ice)
- Use salt only on the public footways and footpaths, not private property
- Avoid applying salt to plants or grass
- Try to keep the salt in the bins dry - clear snow from the lids before opening and close them during use if rain or snow is falling, or there is a risk of thawing snow dripping into the bins
- Return unused salt to the bin, replace the padlock and return the key
- Clear any excess salt or grit remaining once the snow / ice has melted



Don't...

- Use salt from public bins on private paths and drives
- Use water to melt snow and ice, if there is a risk it will refreeze
- Move snow to a location where it will create another risk such as another part of the pavement, road or where people are likely to walk
- Block drives, pathways and drainage channels or pile snow against buildings
- Use excessive salt, grit or other materials so as to create a new or worse risk once the snow / ice has melted
- Create an obstruction or trip hazard with wheelbarrows and shovels etc where they may be a trip hazard
- Throw shovels of snow where there might be a risk to people, cars or property from hidden stones etc

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

THERE'S NO LAW stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow this advice [The Snow Code above] on clearing snow and ice safely.

Christmas Festival Night

DESPITE THE HEAVY snowfall of the previous week that lingered into the weekend, Christmas Festival Night went ahead as planned on 7th December and residents turned out in force to enjoy a lively evening. It was bitterly cold, but calm and dry and there was plenty on offer to provide festive cheer which was very welcome after the early arrival of winter.

Children were queuing to see Father Christmas well before he was due to arrive and the United Reformed Church was packed with people enjoying the VOCAB choir, the Children's Band and refreshments. On the High Street there was plenty of food available (including Glyn Thomas' traditional hog roast, chestnuts, barbecues and mulled wine) along with amusements for children, tombolas, stalls selling craft items, gifts and second hand goods and a fire engine which was very popular with the children. In the garage next to the United Reformed Church there was a delightful nativity, with children taking part.

A number of the local shops opened for the evening, some offering nibbles and mulled wine, and many of the traders made a special effort with their seasonal and very attractive window displays. Our congratulations go to Glyn Thomas & Son Ltd, the traditional family butchers, for winning the competition for the best-dressed window - having been the runner up in 2009 - and also to Green, Elliott & Crowe, Ophthalmic Opticians, who were runners up this year.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY 2011

HAVE YOU EVER thought about standing for election as a Parish Councillor?

Being a Parish Councillor can be a very rewarding way of contributing to the community and it is always good to have some fresh faces on the Council to share new ideas and enthusiasm. Through the Decentralisation and Localism Bill, it is anticipated that the Government will to hand powers down to communities so that local people can shape the character of their own neighbourhoods, so there will be challenges and some exciting opportunities ahead for Parish Councils with vision and the enthusiasm to drive projects through that will benefit their residents.

The present Parish Council's four year term of office comes to an end in May 2011 and elections will be held along with the Mid Sussex District Council election on 5th May.

There will be more information in the coming months and if you would like to know more about the Parish Council, our existing Councillors would be happy to talk with you, or you are welcome to call into the Parish Office for a chat with the Clerk. Another good way to find out what we do is to look at our website:
www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Music to suit all tastes was provided by Mid Downs Radio who also relayed the music from the VOCAB Choir and Children's Band to the larger audience in the High Street.

Lindfield Parish Council wishes to thank the many people who ensured that, in spite of the weather, the event was a success. In particular, our thanks go to: 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 organised 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 and those who kindly allowed us to plug in floodlights to brighten up the High Street

We would also like to pay tribute to our Deputy Parish Clerk, Pieter Hemsley, who did a terrific job in organising this event, liaising with 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 event and that people who had stalls on behalf of local charities were successful in raising money for their causes.

Police Surgeries

PC GEOFF BENNETT (Community Police Constable for Lindfield and four other parishes) and / or Police Community Support officers, Stuart Clough and Anika Arnold, continue to hold a surgery once a month in the Parish Office for residents to come along and raise any issues of concern. Their next surgeries will be on Thursday 27th January, 10.00 - 11.30am, Friday 25th February 10.00 - 11.30am, Tuesday 22nd March 2.00 - 3.30pm

Race To Infinity Campaign

COUNCILLOR ALAN GOMME, Chairman of the Lindfield Communications Forum would like to thank the village for its support with the "Race to Infinity" campaign for faster broadband.

MOBILE CIVIC AMENITY COLLECTIONS

THE REFUSE FREIGHTERS will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 16th January and 13th March 2011, between the hours of 10.00am and 12.00noon, 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.

Parish Council Meetings January to March 2011

Thursday	13 January	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	18 January	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	20 January	Full Council	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	3 February	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	8 February	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	1 March	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	17 March	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	22 March	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	24 March	Full Council	7.30 p.m.

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.

MEMBERS OF LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. William Blunden (Chairman)	Cllr. Margaret Hersey
Cllr. Margaret Nicolle (Vice Chairman)	Cllr. Mike Leach
Cllr. Mike Allen	Cllr. Roger Pickett
Cllr. Michael Davies	Cllr. Christopher Snowling
Cllr. Alan Gomme	Cllr. Valerie Upton
Cllr. Stephen Henton	Cllr. Steve Willcox

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.

Parish Clerk:	Mrs. Christine Irwin
Deputy Parish Clerk:	Mr. Pieter Hemsley
Responsible Financial Officer:	Mrs. Sue Kolien

PARISH OFFICE

Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - 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.

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