



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

Parish Office: 6 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2LB
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Christmas Festival Night

FOR VARIOUS REASONS the preparations for Christmas Festival Night on 2nd December were somewhat challenging this year, particularly with extra measures required to obtain the temporary road closure order. In the end though we were at the mercy of the weather which turned out to be rather wet but there was nothing we could do about that. Nevertheless, Lindfield High Street was open for business and residents turned out in force to enjoy a lively Lindfield Village Christmas Festival Night. Santa arrived just in time to start the festivities and he gave out presents to more than 200 children in his special grotto in the United Reformed Church and in the garage next door there was charming Nativity with children taking part.

Mid Downs Radio provided background music to suit all tastes from their unit on the High Street and Citadel Brass from Cophorne and singers from All Saints' Church played and sang carols to visitors inside the United Reformed Church as they enjoyed a warm drink and mince pie.

A number of traders stayed open during the evening, providing seasonal nibbles and mulled wine and some were giving demonstrations. Congratulations go to Tufnells for winning the competition for the best-dressed window, to Glyn Thomas & Sons as runner up and to Bliss Hairdressers who were awarded 'highly commended'.

There was a constant queue for the traditional Hog Roast which the staff at Glyn Thomas and Sons, the butchers,

had been tending on the spit all day. Various stalls were also selling food and drink as well as craft items, gifts and second hand goods and there were tombolas and also fairground attractions for the children. The Fire Service brought a fire engine which was very popular with the children and Streetmate came along to talk with young people.

The 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 the Rev. Charles Martin and his team of 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 and also to the small band of people who spent the day setting up the grotto and the floodlights. We would also like to thank the people who kindly allowed us to plug in floodlights to brighten up the High Street. Finally, thanks to all members of the public who supported the event and we hope that people who had stalls on behalf of local charities were successful in raising money for their causes.

Village Plan Joint Advisory Committee

It is disappointing to report that our appeal for a couple of residents to volunteer for the Village Plan Joint Advisory Committee has not been successful. Councillors believe that this committee performs an essential role in shaping the future of the village by reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the remaining outstanding items from the existing plan and to advise the council on the future role of the village plan process for our village.

Any resident who is interested in the work of this committee should contact the clerks at the Parish Office (details at the foot of this newsletter).

MSDC Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

The Planning and Traffic Committee are extremely disappointed that Haywards Heath Town Council has come to the view that, rather than accept that there is adequate land within the Town for future housing development, they consider that the surrounding Villages should bear the brunt of the government-inspired housing targets. Whilst no community is anxious to see more housing within its natural boundaries, it seems to the Committee that there is a considerable difference between development within a town and sacrificing land, such as Sites i and k in the draft Core Strategy, for housing estates, with the inevitable effect of destroying forever the traditional nature of the nearby Villages.

Christmas Lights

WHAT HAVE WE HERE? Two dodgy characters trying to break into the butchers to steal the Christmas turkeys? Actually it's your Chairman, Will Blunden, and his accomplice Richard Powell putting the finishing touches to the Christmas Tree above Glyn Thomas' shop in the dark after a busy day at work. They had been up there a couple of days earlier to put the tree up in a howling wind, driving rain and hail, to make sure that the Village looked suitably festive for the Christmas Festival Night and the rest of the Season. Thank you to Glyn Thomas and Son for allowing us to use the roof so that there can be a Christmas Tree in the main part of the High Street. We would also like to thank the proprietor of Wivelsfield Nursery who has very kindly donated the tree for the last few years.

The Christmas lights in the trees have also proved to be something of a challenge this year. At the time of writing the last newsletter, we were doubtful that we would be able to put up the traditional coloured lanterns because, following the pollarding of the trees, we thought we would not be able to meet the height regulations. However, after more research we discovered that the minimum clearance over the footway is lower than if the lights are strung over the road, so we went out to measure each tree and found that with some additional precautions we could go ahead with our existing lights. Nonetheless this was no easy task and we will have to give some serious thought as to what we can do in future years.



We would like to say a big thank you to the residents of the High Street who allow us to plug the lights in at their homes, to John Wiggins our electrician who wires it all up and to KPS who put the lights in the trees.

We had 31 reply slips and emailed replies to our request for your views on the future provision of Christmas Lights: 12 against the future provision of Christmas Lights at a cost to ratepayers and 19 in support of this action. From some of the comments offered, we received the impression that while the quotation we had received of £12,000 was considered to be too much, support might be given for a lower cost solution. We intend to start early for next Christmas and look into all the possible options for decorating Lindfield appropriately with regard to economy and the environment.

Grant funding still available for local organisations

DO YOU KNOW that the Parish Council is empowered to make small grants each year to local charities and societies whose activities benefit and enrich the well being of residents of Lindfield? This year, despite the current state of the economy and the resulting difficult financial position that we know many local charities and societies are suffering, the Finance & General Purposes Committee has not received many requests. We therefore still have some funds available and would urge officers of local charities and societies to consider approaching the clerks through the usual channels to explore the suitability of their organisation or project being considered for a grant.

For more information, our Grants and Donations Policy and Procedure is on our website under Council Documents - www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Finance & General Purposes Committee will meet on 8th February & 18th March when any requests for such grants from the 2009/2010 budget will be considered.

WSCC & Oathall floodlit all-weather pitch

THIS APPLICATION by West Sussex County Council for a floodlit all weather pitch at Oathall School is just outside our parish boundary but will affect residents in the Appledore & Pelham area. Our Planning & Traffic Committee on the 9th November was very well attended when this item was discussed and a strong letter of objection has been sent from the Parish Council to WSCC.

We understand the formal hearing by WSCC's Planning Committee for this application will be held on Tuesday 12 January at County Hall, Chichester at 10.30 a.m. at which the public are of course invited to attend.

Amenity Freighter

THE FREIGHTER(S) will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 10 January and 7 March 2010, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. 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.

A very Happy New Year to you all!

High Street/ Lewes Road mini roundabout and zebra crossing outside Somerfield

THE PARISH COUNCIL has reconsidered its support for the mini roundabout at the Post Office corner.

In 2007, after much debate and on the evidence available at that time, the Parish Council agreed with WSCC that a mini roundabout should be installed at the Post Office corner. However the subsequent planning application by Gleasons for development at Newton Road led to further information being published and the Parish Council was asked by the Lindfield Preservation Society to reconsider the mini roundabout. The report of FMW, who had been commissioned by the Preservation Society to carry out a study of the Denis Wilson Transport Assessment (one of the submission documents for the Newton Road Planning Application) highlighted convincing arguments about pedestrian safety associated with the proposed mini roundabout. Members of the Council considered all the available reports and comments on this issue at

the Planning and Traffic Committee on 20 October and then at Full Council on 12 November 2009 and agreed to withdraw support for the mini roundabout as they now feel that there is not enough conclusive evidence that the junction would be at least as safe with a mini roundabout as it is now without one. As long as there are doubts it seems prudent not to go ahead. However, Councillors were aware when making this decision that the roundabout is a condition of the planning permission for the Newton Road development and we have now been informed by WSCC that it is now too late as the mini roundabout is the subject of a legal planning agreement.

The Council went on to agree that there may be merit in the proposed zebra crossing outside the Somerfield store but we have been told by WSCC that the zebra crossing would not have been supported by officers as a stand alone feature.

BUDGET 2010/11

A MAJOR TASK for any Council at this time of year is budget-making for the following year. The Finance & General Purposes Committee will finalise a draft at its meeting on 14 January for approval by the full Council a week later.

This is always a fraught process! On one hand there are, even in times of economic recession, steadily rising costs. Each year some aspect of the Council's ongoing activity requires an injection of funds for routine maintenance and renewal. And there is always a plethora of ideas for new projects - which will cost money.

On the other hand, Councils are very conscious of the need to exercise restraint in the demands made on the taxpayer.

The current year 2009/10 has seen the completion of the renovation works on the Denmans Lane toilets. The only project of significant size in the forthcoming fiscal year is a proposal to increase the accommodation available for the Parish Office. The existing building in Denmans Lane is cramped and inadequate to deal with all the activities and paperwork required of a local Council nowadays, to the extent that some, including the valuable village archives, have to be housed offsite.

The ongoing maintenance of the Denmans Lane toilets comes at a significant cost but is necessary to protect the huge investment we have already made on this facility. We are also committed to building a designated reserve for our contribution towards the future maintenance of the High Street lime trees and we are negotiating with WSCC to make a contribution to enhance the grass cutting service in the High Street. The trees on the Denmans Lane Allotment Site are due to be surveyed in 2010/11 to fulfil our obligations as responsible land owners.

Otherwise the Council will do its best to contain the precept at about the current level. However, after the increased activity of recent times, with the consequent demands on the Council's capital, it will be essential to ensure that the Council's reserves are re-built to a level where we are able to meet any unexpected contingencies.

If you have any comments you would like the Committee to consider, do please feed them in to the Parish Clerks before the January meeting. Thank you.



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Parish Council Meetings October to December 2009

Thursday	14 January 2010	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	19 January 2010	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	21 January 2009	Full Council	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	4 February 2010	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Monday	8 February 2010	Planning and Traffic Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	2 March 2010	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8:00 p.m.
Thursday	18 March 2010	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	23 March 2010	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	25 March 2010	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 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.

Parish Clerk: Mrs. Christine Irwin

Deputy Parish Clerk: Mr. Pieter Hemsley

Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs. Sue Kolien