



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

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

Telephone: 01444 484115 Fax: 01444 484918

Email: clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk Web site: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village Spring Clean

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who took part in our annual Spring Clean on Saturday 17 April. We were very lucky with the weather that day – one of the first really warm days we've had this year – and there was a very good turn-out of willing volunteers who collected litter and leaves and washed down street furniture. Thanks to all of you.

Newton Road

Members of the Parish Council are most sympathetic towards the residents affected by the construction work at Newton Road. Some inconvenience and disturbance is to be expected with any building work and particularly with a development of this size, but certain conditions were applied to the planning permission relating to the hours of use and the route to be taken by lorries delivering materials and plant to the site, in order to afford some protection for the neighbouring residents. However, despite efforts by the developer to comply with these conditions, breaches have occurred – particularly when lorry drivers working for sub contractors have not followed the designated route. The Parish Council has no powers of enforcement but we have referred all reports received regarding breaches of conditions to Mid Sussex District Council and will continue to do so.

Waiting Restrictions - Denmans Lane

West Sussex County Council have submitted further plans for waiting restrictions in Lindfield, which are in line with the comments made by the Parish Council at the time of the previous consultation that culminated in the decision made last year by the WSCC Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC) not to proceed with any of the waiting restrictions proposed at the time. It remained the Parish Council's view that visitor parking in Denmans Lane should be restricted during the day as the road is particularly narrow and at times even modestly sized vehicles struggle to get by unscathed. The Parish Council has agreed to support the latest restrictions as proposed by WSCC. This will go before the CLC in July and we understand there will be a further formal consultation before final agreement is reached.

Lindfield Parish Directory and Year Book

Thank you to the handful of people who spoke at the Parish Meeting or wrote to the Parish Council in support of the Directory, following the letter to the Editor from the Secretary of the Lindfield Communications Forum, published in the April edition of Lindfield Life. There was no negative feedback and the comments received, together with the appreciation for the Directory reported back to us by the delivery team, is very encouraging. It is good practice to carry out a review periodically so, as well as inviting comments from residents, the Parish Council invited quotations from other printers and we have concluded that we are still getting very good value for money from the printer we've been using since 1993. The late delivery of the current edition was due to exceptional circumstances out of the control of the Council and we've been assured of an improved service in future. So you can look forward to the 2011 Directory dropping through your doors as usual.

Lewes Road/High Street Junction

As we reported in our January newsletter, after being presented with convincing arguments supported by the evidence of professional traffic consultants that a mini roundabout at the Post Office corner might not, after all, achieve what had been hoped and might even worsen the safety record at this junction, the Parish Council formally withdrew support for installation of the mini roundabout, although Councillors were fully aware when making this decision that the roundabout was a condition of the planning permission for the Newton Road development. We were subsequently informed by WSCC that it was now too late to stop the mini roundabout from going ahead as it was the subject of a legal planning agreement. The mini roundabout was again on the agenda at the Parish Council meeting on 13 May as we had been asked by WSCC to comment on the design details. At this meeting we were made aware that the developers were understood to be about to submit an application for rescission of the planning condition and it was agreed that the Parish Council should support this course of action.

High Street Grass Verges

There is no doubt that the verges in the High Street look stunning in early Spring when the croci are in full bloom. However there is a price to pay – cutting the grass before the foliage dies down is said to deprive the bulbs of nourishment and result in them not flowering the following year. West Sussex County Council’s Highways Department (whose contractors cut the grass verges) have always delayed the first cut until the end of May, with the support of the Parish Council, for this reason. The consequence of this is that the verges become very overgrown and the weeds flourish, particularly during May when the High Street is otherwise looking at its most attractive with the fresh leaves on the trees. Last year the Parish Council approached WSCC as we were unhappy about the standard of grass cutting in the High Street generally. We were informed at that stage that due to budgetary constraints, the number of cuts would be reduced this year and in fact it has now been confirmed that WSCC will only pay for 7 cuts whereas there used to be 11. It has been put to the Parish Council that we could take over the responsibility for the maintenance of the verges with a contribution from WSCC of the amount they would have paid for the 7 standard cuts. At the time of writing this newsletter, the Parish Council has signed and returned a licence to WSCC and this item is on the agenda for the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting on 10 June for members to consider quotations received from prospective contractors for maintaining the verges at a standard to meet our requirements.

We will have to address the issue of the croci and the first grass cut for next year and beyond. We could take a chance and arrange for the first cut to be brought forward to the first week of May to see what effect this has on the crocus display the following year. Having received a number of complaints this year about the state of the long grass, we would very much welcome the views of residents – would you support taking the risk and cutting the grass earlier to keep the High Street looking tidier? Please return the slip below or email: clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Would you support bringing forward the first cut of the High Street verges to the first week of May and taking the risk that the croci will not flower the following year?

Yes No

Please return to: The Parish Clerk,
Lindfield Parish Council, 6 Denmans
Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2LB

or email:
clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



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County Local Committees

County Local Committees (CLCs) have been mentioned twice in this newsletter, so it seems appropriate to say something about what these are and what they do. The following has been taken from information contained in the "Talk With Us" section of West Sussex County Council's website: www.talkwithus.westsussex.gov.uk. The CLCs were set up by West Sussex County Council as an approach to involving local residents in decision making and as an opportunity for County Councillors to engage further with their communities. Meetings are usually held in the evening, normally lasting for two to three hours. CLCs are designed to make sure that local people can help shape the 80 per cent of services provided by the County Council. Many of the decisions that used to be taken at County Hall are now being made at local level by CLCs, for example road traffic orders and the appointment of local authority school governors. There is also a local community fund, which enables the CLCs to make small grants to local community initiatives, from which Lindfield's own King Edward Hall benefited last year.

This area is served by the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee, which currently meets four times a year and its Members are: [Chairman] Peter Bradbury, Cuckfield & Lucastes; Bill Acraman, Worth Forest; Anne Hall, Haywards Heath East; Peter Griffiths, Hurstpierpoint & Bolney; Brian Hall, Haywards Heath Town and Christine Field, Lindfield & High Weald. These meetings are held in public at different venues within the area and time is set aside at each meeting for members of the public to raise matters of concern to them. Two, sometimes more, Members of Lindfield Parish Council normally attend the CLC meetings and speak as appropriate, particularly when matters of direct relevance are on the agenda, such as proposals for new Waiting Restrictions.

The next meeting of the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee will be on 7 July at 7 pm in the Studio at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Consultation on Draft Service Plan for 2011-12

We have been asked to publicise the forthcoming consultation on the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Draft Service Plan for 2011-12 to run from 19 July to 8 October 2010. The consultation is aimed at making sure the Fire and Rescue Service has the resources it needs to continue keeping West Sussex Safe and the proposals will mean changes to some fire stations, personnel and appliances but also include significant investment in training and facilities for fire-fighters as well as a faster response in parts of the county, pinpointed by sophisticated 'risk mapping', such as large urban and industrial areas. Copies of the draft Service Plan for 2011-12 will be available in all libraries, District and Borough Council offices and on request from Fire Service HQ as well as on the West Sussex County Council website www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire. There will be presentations at meetings of County Local Committees around the county and residents and businesses can take part in the consultation via public meetings or submit views: by email: fire.redesign@westsussex.gov.uk by telephone: 01243 753706 or in writing: Ian Coleman, Fire Redesign Team, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Northgate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1BDber - 10am - 11.30am

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 Friday 23rd July - 10am - 11.30am, Tuesday 24th August - 1pm - 2.30pm and Thursday 30th September - 10am - 11.30am

Amenity Freighter

The Freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 11th July and 12th September, between the hours of 10am and 12noon. 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 July to Sept 2010

Tuesday	6 July	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 pm
Thursday	22 July	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 pm
Tuesday	27 July	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 pm
Thursday	5 August	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 pm
Tuesday	17 August	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 pm
Thursday	26 August	Full Council	7.30 pm
Tuesday	7 September	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 pm
Thursday	23 September	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8:00 pm
Tuesday	28 September	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 pm

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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