



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

November 2012

Parish Office: 6 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2LB
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Web site: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Exhibitions



Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition at KEH on 15th September

The Joint Working Party organised two Exhibitions during September in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan that is jointly being undertaken by your Parish Council and our friends in the Rural Parish. The first was held in the King Edward Hall on Saturday 15th September and we had about 200 visitors that day, while the second was held in the Millennium Centre in Scaynes Hill on the following Saturday, where they had over 100 visitors. In addition to Councillors from both Parishes at the exhibitions, we had great assistance from planning experts from Planning Aid England who were able to answer many visitors' questions about the wider implications of the Localism agenda from Central Government and the recently announced changes to planning controls.

We obtained considerable useful feedback from many visitors to the exhibitions and we do appreciate the openness that so many of them showed in their responses to the various displays, in particular to those relating to infrastructure, landscape and housing.

We are now collecting together the 500+ completed questionnaires that have been returned to us, together with some associated letters. These will all be shortly forwarded to AiRs (Action in Rural Sussex) for independent analysis.

The report on the independent analysis of the questionnaires will be published in Lindfield Life early in 2013 and there will be presentations on it at both Parish Councils' Annual Meetings in April.

In the meantime the JWP will continue to meet regularly in order to progress various matters, including a Sustainability Report that we are required to produce. A number of villagers have indicated their willingness to assist us in some of these areas and we will be contacting them in the near future to see how they can help us.

Councillor Alan Gomme
Chairman, Planning and Traffic Committee.

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. Alan Gomme

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 Koliien

Christmas Lights

Over 500 signatures collected in one night (Christmas Festival Night) on a petition asking for Christmas Lights to be brought back couldn't be ignored, especially as Members of the Parish Council were as disappointed as our residents when we couldn't light the High Street for Christmas last year.

The Parish Council has looked at different options and decided to buy new lights from a professional company that specialises in Christmas lighting schemes for towns and villages – that way we can be sure that regulations are complied with, which, since the pollarding of the trees, has become something of a challenge when it comes to rules about height of the cables above the footpath.

Some of you may be disappointed that we cannot continue with the traditional coloured lanterns but we hope you will like what we have chosen. The new lights have the added benefit of being energy efficient and robust. As reported in our last newsletter, we have also purchased lights for the Pond islands after the successful trial last December, so our village should look festive this Christmas.

Tribute: Marjorie Butt

Members of the Parish Council were saddened to hear of the recent death of Marjorie Butt. For many years, and until the last year of her life, Marjorie tended the flower bed by the Medical Centre which seems to have something of interest in bloom all year round. The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge Marjorie's contribution to our community. She was one of those people that localism is all about – she saw something that needed doing and quietly got on with it.

New Deputy Clerk

Following the retirement at the end of June of Pieter Hemsley, who gave excellent service as our Deputy Parish Clerk for three years, we were delighted to be able to appoint Iain McLean to take over as his replacement straight away. Iain has settled in well and is becoming a familiar face to visitors to the Parish Office.



Parish Office move planned

It has been said before in our newsletters that the existing Parish Office at 6 Denmans Lane is cramped and inadequate to deal with all the activities and paperwork required of a local Council nowadays. We have been looking for a solution to this problem for several years and in June an opportunity arose to purchase Clock Tower House at the Lindfield Enterprise Park in Lewes Road. At the time of writing (8 October) this purchase is progressing through our solicitors and, all being well, we hope to be settled into the ground floor of the Clock Tower House by early in the New Year.

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 from 11.00-12.00 on Thursday 25th October, 1.00 – 2.00 on Tuesday 20th November and 11.00 – 12.00 on Thursday 20th December.

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

Cllr. Stephen
Henton

Cllr. Margaret
Hersey

Cllr. Simon
Hodgson

Cllr. Roger
Pickett

Cllr. Ron
Plass

Cllr. Christopher
Snowling

Christmas Festival Night Tuesday 4th December



Preparations for Christmas Festival Night are already under way. It will be held on a Tuesday again (4th December) as this seems to work quite well.

Please note – **THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE AFTERNOON OF TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER** – as we'll all be busy preparing for the evening.

Father Christmas is expected at the United Reformed Church at 6.00pm

The High Street will be closed from 5.30 - 9.30pm, with diversions in place and the festivities will begin around 6.00pm and finish by 9.00pm.

We hope plenty of people will take stalls. Letters will have gone out to regular stall holders but please contact Iain McLean at the Parish Office if you have not received a letter and would like to book a stall –

01444 484115, i.mclean@

lindfieldparishcouncil.

gov.uk. The charge

for stalls will be as for

last year, at £7.50 for

charities and £15 for

traders and there will

be no refunds unless

the event is cancelled

by the Parish Council.

We would like to remind

any organisations thinking about

selling beverages containing alcohol

that you will need to apply for a

Temporary Event Notice from the

Safety & Licensing Team at Mid Sussex

District Council - telephone 01444 477294.

Stall holders will have to bring their own

tables and chairs and, as the High Street is pretty dark

in places, we suggest bringing some battery operated lighting

for their stalls. However, we are pleased to say that there will be

Christmas lights in the High Street this year.

Pond Aerators

It would be difficult not to have noticed the two fountains on the Pond that appeared late in the summer. We thought we should say a few words about them in case you are wondering why they are there. The water in the Pond needs to be aerated to prevent an algal bloom forming on the surface which looks awful, smells bad and, with lack of oxygen, the fish die and the smell becomes even worse.

The pond is within the boundary of the Common which is why it is managed by Mid Sussex District Council but of course, as it is a particular feature of our village, the Parish Council takes an active interest and we work with the District Council officers wherever we can to maintain the health of the Pond and its wildlife.

There are no aquatic plants to oxygenate the water, and we are told by MSDC that these would only be eaten by wildflow, so the water in what is actually a very shallow pond, needs to be moved around to aerate it and alleviate the potential for stagnation. For several years there was an aeration pump in place to the right of the large island, which was never enough to aerate the whole



Pond and because its workings sat on the base of the Pond, it quickly silted up and ceased to function. Last summer, without the benefit of this pump, the water became very smelly and the Parish Council urged MSDC to replace the pump with something more effective and offered to pay towards its purchase.

MSDC took advice from pond restoration experts and settled for two pumps with the appearance of fountains and because these float on the surface they do not suffer from silting. MSDC are monitoring the effectiveness of these new pumps and if a third one is needed the Parish Council has offered to fund this as the health of the Pond and its wildlife is so important.

MOBILE CIVIC AMENITY COLLECTIONS

The refuse freighters will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays **11th November 2012** and **20th January 2013**, between the hours of 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, 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

Nov - Dec 2012

Tuesday	6th November	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00pm
Thursday	8th November	Full Council	7.30pm
Wednesday	14th November	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00pm
Tuesday	27th November	Planning and Traffic Committee (plans only)	8.00pm
Thursday	6th December	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00pm
Tuesday	18th December	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.