



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

New Cycle Stands



The Parish Council has taken advantage of a WSCC scheme offering free cycle stands, which was a great opportunity for co-operation across the three tiers of local government. Our

application to WSCC for six stands was successful and we have asked Mid Sussex District Council to install four in the Denmans Lane car park, in the space next to the toilets (formerly the recycling area) and two in the Tollgate car park at the top of the slope from the High Street. We hope that these stands will be appreciated by cyclists and that they will be well used.

Newton Road

Work is under way on the housing development at the Newton Road site, following the temporary stop notice served by Mid Sussex District Council while the details of the traffic management plan were being negotiated. At the outset, the construction work caused considerable inconvenience and distress to residents of neighbouring roads as none of the access roads are suitable for construction traffic. After the temporary stop notice was served, Members of the Parish Council attended a meeting with representatives of Barratts and Steve Ashdown (the MSDC Officer who is overseeing the implementation of the planning permission) at which Barratts presented their reasons for their preferred route from the three possible options. As of 1 March MSDC agreed a construction route with Barratts that requires deliveries to enter and leave via the High Street, Brushes Lane, Dukes Road and Newton Road. Deliveries are likely to average 10 a day, by rigid back lorries. Low loaders and articulated lorries are not normally to be used but they are necessary in certain situations in the delivery of machines to the site. The first phase of the work was on the site entrance and to ensure that there is adequate room within the site for all contractors' parking and for loading and unloading deliveries, to ease the problems in the adjacent roads. Barratts have been granted an open licence by WSCC to undertake work to the highway to repair any damage caused during construction of their site. There may be instances where certain over runs, particularly at the junction of Newton Road and Dukes Road, may need to be reinforced during the construction process, with Barratts then repairing back to their original state upon completion.

Snow

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the winter weather will be long gone. However there were lessons to be learnt from the experiences of last winter and the issues are being addressed at all levels. WSCC held a "Snow Summit" on 11 March to discuss the impact of the recent severe winter weather on West Sussex and



how the various agencies can do better together in the future. The Town and Parish Councils were not invited to this event because of space limitations but this Council has fed in comments

through our County Councillor and through the Sussex Association of Local Councils who were invited to attend. Unfortunately the copy date for this Newsletter was the day before the Summit so we are unable to report on it. However the event can be viewed on WSCC's website www.westsussex.gov.uk and there will be a published report recommending how the authorities and agencies working in West Sussex can better tackle any future snow. We are hoping that the outcome of this summit will give us clear direction as to the role of the Parish Council in emergency planning for severe weather conditions. This year, as the untreated pavements in the Village centre were clearly going to become more and more treacherous, a number of us went out on several occasions clearing the snow and spreading salt, including Will Blunden and Christine Irwin (pictured above). Thanks also to Pieter Hemsley, Sue Kolien, Mike Leach and Richard Powell, who all rose to the challenge. However we would like to be better prepared, so planning for severe weather will be on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on 21 April, to give residents, schools, medical centre, churches and traders the opportunity to share their views which will help us plan for future years and give us information to feed back to the principal authorities. The issue of liability has put a lot of people off clearing snow from the pavements outside their homes and there does not seem to be definitive guidance on this, although the general advice seems to be that people should take all reasonable steps not to make the surface more dangerous or pile snow where it will cause problems for others.

Potholes

The severe weather this winter has taken its toll on the roads with potholes appearing everywhere. Potholes can be reported direct to West Sussex County Council by telephone: 01243 642105 or online at www.westsussex.gov.uk

Pond

A number of people were puzzled by the low level of water in the Pond back in February. The reason for this was that Mid Sussex District Council, the managers of the Pond, had arranged to have the numerous, large carp de-stocked. Other fish which cause fewer problems remain. The carp were removed to a more suitable location by personnel from a professional fishery who asked for the water to be drained as low as possible to ensure that all the fish could be caught. This operation was closely monitored and the water in the Pond soon returned to its normal level after the heavy rain which followed.

Easter Walk

Our Chairman, Will Blunden, is planning to lead another walk in the countryside surrounding the Village around Easter. Details will be on the Parish Council's notice board and website when the walk has been arranged.

Don't forget we have a new website!

The Council's new website is now live at www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk, complete with a Community Page. Carolyn Nurse is our new Community Editor and she can be contacted either directly through the web site (communityeditor@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) or by more old-fashioned means through the Parish Office, if you have village news or events to contribute. We are aiming to maintain a directory of local organisations and businesses, which is still under construction. Please let us know if your details are incorrect. We hope that you will find our new website to be "user friendly" and that you will find what you are looking for.

Community Orchard to be developed at the Scrase Valley Nature Reserve

Scrase Valley Nature Reserve is an important site for wildlife, providing an important green gap between Lindfield and Haywards Heath. The 6 hectares (15 acres) of land is a mixture of woodland, scrub (low trees and woody plants), grasslands and most important of all, marshland. It has been designated a Local Nature Reserve with approval from English Nature.

A new development at the edge of the reserve near the entrance from Wilmington Way, is the creation of a Community Orchard. Mid Sussex District Council, with assistance from the volunteers who assist in the management of the reserve and some pupils from Oathall College, have been renovating the old orchard near Hayland Road that already has a number of mature apple and pear trees.

A public meeting was held at Oathall College on 15th March to launch the Community Orchard. Local residents can become involved with the project by planting additional apple & pear trees, managing the orchard and harvesting the fruit.

Further details can be obtained from:

Ursula Glass Tel: 01444 451861/ 07808661981
Email: orchardhh@yahoo.co.uk

*Lindfield Parish Meeting
Wednesday 21st April 2010*

The Parish Meeting (which, it must be stressed, is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council) is a forum for local government electors to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions on them, although such resolutions are not binding on the Parish Council. As this Parish has a Parish Council, it is the Council's Chairman who must convene and, if present, chair the meeting. This year's Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 April at 8.00 pm in the King Edward Hall. The Agenda will be on the Parish Council's notice board in Denmans Lane nearer the time, as well as on our website (www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk). We will be including an item on planning for severe weather (see "Snow" article above).



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

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 surgery will be on Tuesday 27 April between 1 and 2.30pm.

Village Spring Clean – Saturday 17 April 2010

Since 1999 the Parish Council has undertaken an annual Spring Clean of the Village, an initiative started by the Tidy Britain Group. A number of volunteers meet in the King Edward Hall and are given tasks such as collecting litter from the areas in the village not covered by the normal street cleaning agencies. In addition, street furniture, such as the posts around the Pond and the Common, has been washed down and vegetation in the footpaths has been clipped back. Encouraged by the good turnout last year, the Parish Council will be holding this year's Spring Clean on the morning of Saturday 17 April from 9.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. and there will be free refreshments for all participants. Those who have taken part in the past will tell you that it is a very worthwhile exercise and we are always looking for new volunteers. Any children taking part must be supervised by an adult (parents or group leaders if they belong to youth organisations). Suggestions for areas in the village that might benefit from a little "TLC" are always appreciated. Bags for litter will be provided but you are asked to bring your own gloves and wheelbarrows can be very useful for bringing back sacks full of litter.

Lindfield Civic Service

The annual Civic Service will be held on Sunday 16 May at 11.15 am at All Saints Church. All are welcome. Coffee and biscuits will be available in the Tiger lounge after the Service.

Amenity Freighter

The Freighter will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 9th May & 11th July, between the hours of 10.00 am 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.

Budget 2010/11

In the last Parish Council Newsletter, published in the January edition of "Lindfield Life", we spoke of the budget process and the dilemma currently facing so many Councils and indeed other public bodies and commercial organisations. At times of economic stringency there are always pressures on services. Less resources are available but there seem to be more demands on them. The last three months' weather has not helped!

However, Councillor Michael Davies (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) is very happy to be able to report that the Parish Council, at its meeting on 14 January, agreed to maintain the "precept", (i.e. that part of the Council Tax which comes to pay for local services provided by the Council) at the current level for the coming financial year.

We have reviewed the likely expenses and we believe we can maintain the present services and also put aside sufficient funds to constitute a prudent level of reserves without increasing our funding requirement. We have agreed to start building a fund towards a new public toilet on the Common, although we are very aware that there are a lot of hoops to go through in order to achieve this, particularly as there are legal issues relating to use of the Common, but as this is likely to be expensive and the preliminary stages of getting the necessary permissions and plans drawn up will incur significant cost, we have put £20,000 in the budget to start us off.

Other items we have added to the budget this year, which will improve the environment of the Village include:

- purchase of equipment for snow clearing and some additional grit/salt bins
- removal of the basal growth on the lime trees which proved to be abundant last summer after the trees were pollarded
- a contribution towards grass cutting to a higher standard in the High Street
- a contribution towards repair and painting of the post and rail fencing round the Common and Pond and alongside the road by the Pond
- a fund to cover our share of the cost of re-pollarding the High Street trees

Parish Council Meetings April To June 2010

Thursday	8 April	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 pm
Monday	12 April	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 pm
Wednesday	21 April	Parish Meeting - not a Council meeting	8.00 pm
Tuesday	4 May	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 pm
Thursday	13 May	Annual Meeting of Council	7.30 pm
Thursday	20 May	Finance and General Purposes Committee)	8.00 pm
Tuesday	25 May	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 pm
Thursday	10 June	Environment and Amenities Committee	8:00 pm
Tuesday	15 June	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 pm
Thursday	24 June	Full Council	7.30 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.

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.