



Lindfield Parish Council Newsletter

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

Telephone: 01444 484115 Fax: 01444 484918

Email: lindpc@gotadsl.co.uk Web site: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

Denmans Lane Public Toilets



FLUSHED WITH PRIDE, members of the Parish Council officially re-opened the Denmans Lane public toilets on 29 May after a complete refurbishment by Premier Hygienic Ltd. The Parish Council took this facility over in 2007 from Mid Sussex District Council to save it from being closed. The toilets were in a poor condition, did not meet the current DDA requirements and really let the village down especially considering that these are the only public toilets in Lindfield for visitors to use. Lindfield deserves the best so we have now spent £66,000 on upgrading the toilets and we no longer feel ashamed of them. The work involved completely gutting the building, opening up the north face and inserting three self contained modules. Sam and Matt who did most of the work on behalf of Premier Hygienic Ltd thoroughly enjoyed working on this project and particularly enjoyed the interest shown by people passing by, many of whom stopped to chat to them. We now have a gents' and a ladies' cubicle plus a spacious disabled cubicle, all with direct access. The disabled toilet is accessible via a RADAR key. Baby changing surfaces and nappy bins have been provided in each of the cubicles. Unfortunately unforeseen problems do arise with major projects such as this and the work took longer than originally anticipated. We hope you will all think our luxurious lavatories are well worth the wait. Any comments on the condition of the toilets should be made to the Parish Office and these will then be raised with the contractors responsible for cleaning and maintenance.

Website

The Parish Council's new website will soon be going live: www.LindfieldParishCouncil.gov.uk

Greening Campaign

Sara Grimes of the Greening Campaign gave an enthusiastic presentation to the Annual Lindfield Parish Meeting on 23 April. We were told how the Campaign supports communities wanting to reduce the effects of climate change, starting with small achievable and measurable changes to people's lifestyles, such as turning off lights when leaving the room. Despite a relatively low attendance at the Parish Meeting, there was enough support for the Campaign to take it forward and a small group of people will be liaising with Sara Grimes about holding a public meeting to launch the campaign. If anyone is interested in taking part in this campaign please give your details to the Parish Clerk (484115)

SPRING CLEAN



OUR ANNUAL Spring Clean event on the morning of Saturday 15 April was a great success. We had about 35 volunteers out in the Village, clearing litter (approximately 24 bags of it) washing down posts and litter bins and cutting off the basal growth on the High Street trees. As an added bonus this year WSCC Highway Rangers came along and cleaned the white gates at the northern entrance to the village and the large signs at the other approaches into Lindfield as well as cleaning other street furniture and helping with the work on the trees. SERCO gave us their support by providing sacks and gloves and two large bins for the bags of rubbish. We ended the morning with a simple lunch in the King Edward Hall. Our thanks to SERCO, the Highway Rangers and to all of the volunteers, including a group of children from Blackthorns School with their parents who did a sterling job cleaning the posts on the Common and round the Pond.

Civic Service

The Parish Council was pleased to welcome Civic guests and representatives of local organisations at the annual Civic Service on 17 May at All Saints Church. The Service was led by Canon Dr. James Clarke, with an inspiring sermon on Community from Reverend Charles Martin and intercessions led by Parish Councillor Rev. Michael Davies, both from the United Reformed Church. The Lessons were read by Councillor Mrs. Margaret Johnson (WSSC) and Parish Council Chairman Will Blunden. For Margaret and her husband Derrick, this was their last Lindfield Civic Service, as our local Member on West Sussex County Council and Parish Councillor respectively, as they were to retire from their Council roles in June. Their many years of dedicated service were gratefully acknowledged and Canon Clarke wished them both well for their retirement on behalf of the Lindfield community.

Core Strategy - Extraordinary Meeting

Lindfield Parish Council and Lindfield Rural Parish Council held a joint Extraordinary Meeting on 22 April, to raise public awareness of the proposal to include site "K" (land between Gravelye Lane and Scamps Hill) as a development site of 550 or more new dwellings in Mid Sussex District Council's Core Strategy, which is a significant policy document of the Local Development Framework. The meeting was very well attended by over 100 people who heard a very clear explanation by Planning Consultant Dereck Wade of planning policy and the process leading to approval of large scale new development. Mr. Wade stressed the importance of engaging with the District Council at the appropriate time to get maximum benefit for the local community from any development by means of legal agreements between developers and the Local Planning Authority. John Jesson of the Lindfield Preservation Society spoke about the likely impact development on this scale would have on the village, particularly in terms of the increase in traffic. After Mr. Wade and Mr. Jesson set the scene, a lively open session followed. Cllr. Will Blunden, Chairman of Lindfield Parish said that Lindfield was being expected to take most of the new homes expected of Mid Sussex and the policy makers should be made to recognise Lindfield as a village and not part of "Greater Haywards Heath". Inclusion of site K in the adopted Core Strategy will establish a policy for developing this land and the principle of the development cannot then be used as a reason for objecting to planning applications from developers. It is therefore of the utmost importance to send in comments during the consultation period for any of the Local Development Framework documents.

Calling all landowners

The Parish Council has a duty to provide allotment plots when there is a demand for them. We currently have a waiting list of 59 people for plots on the Denmans Lane Allotment Site which is divided into 55 of plots or part plots so the wait is going to be a long one for many of those anxious to grow their own vegetables. The Parish Council does not own any other land to convert to allotments, so we have to consider the options open to us. We would be very interested to talk to any landowners in or close to the Lindfield Urban Parish who might have any ideas that could help us meet the demand.

Summer Parish Walk

Last year for Sussex Day, Chairman Will Blunden led a leisurely walk with information about points of interest along the way. This was greatly enjoyed by the 20 people who took part, several of whom asked for a repeat performance so Councillor Blunden is planning to get out his walking boots again on Saturday 25 July for another stroll in our beautiful surrounding countryside. Details will be on the Parish Council notice board nearer the time.

Trees

The Parish Council's Environment and Amenities Committee has agreed to the recommendations from a meeting with officers of WSSC and MSDC, regarding the future maintenance of the High Street and Compton Road trees. The trees in Compton Road that were not pollarded in the winter of 2006/07 will be done later this year, except for the two at the entrance to Compton Road from Hickmans Lane, one of which is not a lime and the other is to be left to balance it. The previously pollarded trees will be repollarded so that the whole road will be dealt with at the same time in the future. WSSC are only able to fund pollarding every four years, so to get the trees repollarded every three years the Parish Council will budget for the additional years. The High Street trees will be monitored during the current season and a maintenance programme as for Compton Road will then be considered.

Welcome

Councillor Mrs. Christine Field has recently been elected as our new County Councillor. We look forward to working with Councillor Field in trying to achieve the best we can for Lindfield.



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Farewells



COUNCILLORS MARGARET and Derrick Johnson both attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, on 12 May, for the last time as they were both to retire in June. Chairman Will Blunden presented Margaret with a floral arrangement as a small token of appreciation for her tireless and dedicated service as our County Councillor since 1981, during which time she has fought Lindfield's corner in many a battle. She hardly ever missed a Parish Council meeting, where she kept us informed of issues and initiatives and took up our concerns with the County Council. Derrick became a Member of the Parish Council in 1995 and has been well regarded, particularly for his contribution to the work of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, of which he was Vice Chairman for a total of 10 years and Chairman for 3. We would like to thank Margaret and Derrick for all they have done during their years of service and to wish them both a very happy retirement.

At the time of going to press the Council is waiting to see whether there is a demand for a by-election - if not, the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the Council meeting on 25 June.

We were also sorry to bid farewell to Vera Grainger, who has been our Deputy Parish Clerk for the past year and who has now moved on to a full time position elsewhere and we wish her well in her new job. Vera had quickly settled into her role and had become a familiar face to visitors to the Parish Office. We hope that we will soon be able to welcome a new Deputy Clerk to take Vera's place.

Horse Gin



THE FLOOR of the Horse Gin in the back garden of the Red Lion was in a very bad state of repair with an uneven and eroded surface. The Parish Council, as custodians of this piece of our historic village, has had the floor restored and improved so that the Horse Gin can continue to be enjoyed by villagers and visitors.

Village Plan Joint Advisory Committee

The current members of this committee have indicated that they wish to stand down once they have submitted their annual report on progress with the implementation of the Village Plan to the Parish Council this summer. Councillors believe that this committee performs an essential role in shaping the future of the village and should any residents be interested in continuing this valuable work of monitoring and reviewing the Village Plan, then they should contact the Parish Clerk.

Amenity freighter

The freighter will be in the Tollgate car park on Sundays 5 July, 13 September and 8 November 2009, and 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.

Parish Council Meetings July to September 2009

Tuesday	7 July	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	23 July	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	28 July	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	6 August	Environment and Amenities Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	18 August	Planning and Traffic Committee (Full)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	27 August	Full Council	7.30 p.m.
Monday	7 September	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 p.m.
Thursday	24 September	Finance and General Purposes Committee	8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	29 September	Planning and Traffic Committee (Plans only)	8.00 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. 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. Mike Leach
Cllr. Margaret Nicolle (Vice Chairman)	Cllr. Roger Pickett
Cllr. Mike Allen	Cllr. Christopher Snowling
Cllr. Michael Davies	Cllr. Valerie Upton
Cllr. Alan Gomme	Cllr. Steve Willcox
Cllr. Margaret Hersey	

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.

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council office continues to be open 3 times a week – Tuesdays 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm, 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, obtain bus passes and 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: to be appointed

Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs. Sue Kolien