

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

Your Local Council. In May, nine Councillors were elected to serve on the Parish Council until 1979; see the back page for details.

I would like to thank the retiring Council for their valuable work over the past years, including Dr J Wright who served on the Council for 18 years, 17 of them as Vice-Chairman.

The past year

Sedlescombe Village Hall. 4 members of the Council joined 4 members of the Village Hall Management Committee to form a Building Committee and work started on improvements on 1st October 1976. The Parish Council obtained a £6000 loan from the Public Works Loan Board in November, which it will repay over the next 10 years. (Unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain any form of grant.) With £2293 donated by Societies and Individuals, £2900 from the Council and £410 interest, the Fund has received £11603 since it was set up by the Council in March 1975. To date £11000 has been paid from the Fund to the builder.

How the Village has felt the closure of the Hall! Only the "Library Ladies" continued to use it during the winter, often experiencing difficulties, and we thank them very much for their perseverance in providing this much appreciated service.

Playground Equipment. Charles Wickstead's Service Engineer inspects the equipment annually and following his report the Rocking Rockette and Slide at East View Terrace were repainted and the roundabout at the lower playground was repaired.

Planning Applications in the Village. The Planning Committee has met to consider each application and has sent comments to the Planning Officer of the District Council.

Footpaths. We have been most fortunate in getting 3 much needed bridges constructed by a team of men employed by the County Council, under the Job Creation Scheme. This team has been clearing paths and bridleways in many parts of E. Sussex.

In December a series of footpath walks were issued - the expert work of Mrs Salkeld, an ex-Councillor, now a co-opted member of the Footpaths Committee. She has devoted several Sunday afternoons to leading stalwart groups of walkers along our paths, negotiating muddy fields, rickety stiles etc. These walks have been much enjoyed by the participants. The Footpaths Committee has given its whole-hearted support to a scheme Claverham Community College has started in Battle and area to encourage youngsters and older people to use the paths, while at the same time providing useful projects for the students. A walk has been arranged in Sedlescombe by the College from the Post Office to Powdermill Reservoir returning to the Queen's Head, on Sunday 3rd April; anyone is welcome to join in. Details in Parish News later.

Open Forum. In July, an Open Forum was introduced before each Council meeting and various matters have been raised including - Allied Bakeries, Litter, Parking outside the School, Resiting 30mph sign above School, Horse-riding on the Green and Repainting the Village Sign.

Litter. We have been very disappointed to see the amount of litter left on the Green and thank Miss Russell-Leonard for undertaking the unenviable task of clearing it. The Council is considering erecting notices here and also at Bowlings Corner to encourage picnickers to take their litter home.

Logs on leads. The Sports Association asked the Council to erect a notice on the sportsfield asking dog owners to keep their animals on leads to prevent fouling of the sports areas. Following the erection of this notice there has been some improvement.

Car Park and Public Conveniences. Following the increased number of visitors during the summer months, the Council continues to press for the urgent provision of a Car Park and Public Conveniences in the Village.

Sedlescombe School. It was with great disappointment that the Council heard in December that the building of the new School would not commence in 1977, following the Chancellor's cuts in expenditure. Letters of protest were immediately sent to the County Council and the Council is still pressing for an early commencement of the building.

(In September 1976, the Council had been approached by the County Council asking if community facilities should be provided in the plans of the new school: to which we replied that, although we agreed in principle, we were not prepared to contribute any money at the moment. All available monies were required for the repair of our existing Village Hall.)

Allied Bakeries. The Council heard grievances of residents living nearby where large vehicles bring bread to the depot several times each night. Subsequently the residents convinced Rother District Council that a nuisance exists. In February of this year, Allied Bakeries were given 3 months to inform the District Council of a course of action which they propose to take to abate the noise nuisance at the premises. In the absence of a satisfactory response from the Company, an abatement notice under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 will be served.

Bus timetables. Much consideration was given to Maidstone and District's proposed bus timetables and the Council's comments were studied by the Bus Company and East Sussex County Council. Replies were received from them, in some cases substantiating with figures the proposed cuts in services. The Council is attempting to persuade the Bus Company to retain one evening bus from Hastings and a limited service to and from Battle on 2 days a week.

Queen's Silver Jubilee. Sedlescombe Sports Association has made elaborate arrangements for a Festival on Tuesday 7th June and plans are in hand for the decoration of the sportsfield and the Village Green. The Council will present children attending Sedlescombe C.E. School with a Commemorative Mug.

All is set for an enjoyable, friendly day in the Village, and all we must hope for is fine weather.

Many other items have, of course, been discussed, often at great length, during the year, but I hope the above will give you some idea of the wide range of activities in which your Local Council is involved. **THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND EVERY MEETING IN ORDER TO LISTEN TO THE DEBATES.**

M.J.Drury.
11th March 1977.

THE PARISH ASSEMBLY which, last year, was attended by 70 residents, is to be held on TUESDAY 22nd MARCH 1977 at 7.45 pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL and YOU are cordially invited to attend.

A G E N D A

1. Notice Convening the Meeting.
2. Minutes of the last Annual Assembly.
3. Adoption of the Minutes.
4. Approval of the Draft Accounts for 1976-77.
5. Approval of the Estimates for 1977-78.
6. Questions to Mrs A Moore - County Councillor.
7. Questions to Commander J Forster - District Councillor.
8. The Chairman's Report.
9. Reports from Village Associations.

PLEASE BRING THIS LEAFLET WITH YOU TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY