

SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY, March 1978

1. THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

The Planning Committee consisting of Mr L Parter (Chairman), Mr N Hodges, Mr E Messetter and Mr D Marshall, has been delegated the power to consider planning applications affecting Sedlescombe Parish and to pass comments to the District Council as planning authority. It also makes recommendations to the Council about the County Structure Plan and other reports such as Rother District Council's Tourism Policy.

The Finance Committee, Mr Ing (Chairman), Mrs J Keeling and Mr N Hodges, has the duty to monitor the Council's finances. This entails meeting quarterly to study cash flow figures. The Committee reviews the Council's insurances and investments and makes recommendations to the Council concerning future expenditure commitments.

The Footpaths Committee. Much has been achieved by the Committee during the year. Two residents (Mrs Parter and Mr Raymond) were co-opted to serve on this Committee with Councillors B Woodman (Chairman), Mrs R Farley, Mr L Parter and Mr E Messetter. The conducted walks were recommenced in September and have been well supported and very much enjoyed. Following each walk the Committee has discussed the problems encountered and decided on future action. The Committee has continuing work to do in keeping the paths clear and known to residents and visitors and to help with this the County Council waymarking system of small yellow or blue arrows has been adopted and is being implemented by the Committee.

(The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are members of each Committee)

2. Additionally the Parish Council has been involved in the following during the year:

1. Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations

- a) The Parish Council donated commemorative mugs to all children up to Primary School leaving age living in Sedlescombe Parish.

b) The Council obtained a plaque which has been inserted at the base of the oak tree on the Village Green. As the plaque explains the tree was planted in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

c) Despite atrocious weather on Jubilee Day, the Sports Association managed to donate generously to the Village Hall, the Scout Hut and the Youth Club from the profits of the celebrations.

2. In July 1977, the Council accepted with regret the resignation of Sir Frederick Pile. Mrs R Farley was subsequently co-opted to serve on the Council.

3. Road Safety

a) Speed limit order - The County Council has agreed to place before the Dept. of Transport an application for an extension of the speed limit order to the south of the Village. The 30 mph sign is at present situated near the Sports Pavilion and, if approved, will be resited further along Paygate Road.

b) Bend near Church - Following the fatal accident, the Council pressed for and obtained an advisory speed limit sign and a larger chevron sign.

c) New England Lane - The Council has discussed with the Asst. County Engineer possible solutions to the danger of driving from New England Lane onto the A21. It was agreed that it would be an impossibly costly job to remove the tons of earth at the corners of New England Lane to create a visibility splay.

d) Hurst Lane - Discussions have also taken place with the Asst. County Engineer about the dangerous right turn into Hurst Lane from the A229. He hopes to be able to make minor alterations at the junction to improve visibility.

e) Yellow lines - The Parish Council again considered the proposed use of yellow lines at some parts of the road surrounding the Green, to stop dangerous parking. It was agreed that yellow lines anywhere in the Village would not be appropriate.

- f) Junction The Green/Brede Lane - Broken road markings have been painted across the junction giving traffic travelling from Brede Lane the right of way.
- g) Structural Maintenance Scheme - The County Council undertook a structural maintenance scheme in the Village in May/June. This involved rekerbing, reshaping and resurfacing of the A229 from the bridge to the School. Where foundation failure had occurred, it was necessary to insert kerb stones where there had not been any before.

4. Repairs - the following repairs have been carried out during the year:

- a) Village Pictorial Sign (new board and post, moved to the Village Green).
- b) Bus Shelter, Hurst Lane.
- c) Litter bin outside The Old Chapel.

5. The following have been obtained by the Council for the Village:

- a) Anti-litter signs on litter baskets on the Green.
- b) Pedestrian barrier, East View Terrace.
- c) Pedestrian barrier outside the School.

6. Playground Equipment

September 1977

East View Terrace - swing frames repainted.

Lower Playground - one plastic swing seat replaced; the rocking horse repaired; the slide, roundabout and rocking horse repainted.

7. Sedlescombe Library

The Council has gratefully accepted the Community Librarian's offer to allow the Village library centre to remain open and at the same time provide a limited fortnightly mobile library service.

8. Best Kept Village Competition

The Parish Council is to enter Sedlescombe for the 1978 competition. A concerted effort is to be made to tidy up

the places where poor marks were obtained in past competitions and it is very much hoped that all residents will help in any way they are able.

9. Review of parish boundaries. At the request of the District Council, the Council consider Sedlescombe's boundaries with its 7 neighbours. The only change which has been recommended is in the boundary with Westfield Parish. Discussions have taken place between the Council of Sedlescombe and Westfield and agreement has been reached. It is suggested that the boundary is adjusted so that those people living in most of Kent Street and those in Harts Green Road would be in Sedlescombe Parish.

10. Review of electoral arrangements, Rother District Council
The Local Government Boundary Commission has made proposals to enlarge the Sedlescombe/Whatlington District Ward of Rother. These proposals have formed the basis of discussion with Whatlington and Westfield Parish Councils and, it is intended, that representations will be made at the local inquiry.

Bus Timetables. Consideration has been given to revised draft timetables and comments passed to the District Council.

Ground near River bridge. The Council intends to lease a small piece of land near the bridge and lay turves in order to tidy the area.

M.J. DRURY, CHAIRMAN.

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT. This year the Rother District Rate will be 17p in the £, up 17%; the County Rate will be 68.20 a rise of 7.75%; the Water Authority rate will be the same at 12.28p, and the Parish Rate for Sedlescombe will be 1p. This makes a total of 98.48 as against 91.61 last year, an average increase of about £15 a year - much more for some. It is particularly deplorable in a year when inflation is down to single figures (even if only just!) that Rother has such a large percentage increase. This is due to bad housekeeping and vacillating policy during the year. One cannot even see what one is getting for the money. For example, in the area of largest spending - council housing - only about 60 new homes were available in 1977- and only 24 are likely in 1978-79. The waiting list is 1225, with many old people living in wretched conditions and young people with nowhere to go. Many Council houses are also substandard and no money is voted for improvements. I have persuaded the Housing C to take advantage of Government grants, and longer, planned, view of housing policy.