

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL TO PARISH ASSEMBLY 1981

I have pleasure in submitting to you a report of your Council's work over the past year and look forward to the opportunity of discussing items from this report which you may wish to raise at the Assembly.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 1980. 1980 saw Sedlescombe win the title "TWO COUNTIES CHAMPION", the Best Kept Village in East and West Sussex. The Council is justly proud of this achievement. In November a celebration was held on the Village Green and the Best Kept Village plaque from the Sussex Rural Community Council and a £40 cheque from The Men of Trees were presented. It is planned that the £40, together with the £25 prize received in 1979, will be spent on the planting of hawthorn trees in the ground behind the Tithe Barn Car Park and willow trees in the sportsfield by the river. In 1981, Sedlescombe will again compete in the Two Counties Championship in a new enlarged section against Battle, Ewhurst Green, Rogate, Walberton, Forest Row, Lindfield, Minfield and Staplefield. Judging will take place in May, June and July and preparations are in hand for an extra special effort.

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL. The new Sedlescombe CE School was occupied in September 1980 and the Council was represented at the official opening in November. Swimming Pool Fund. Sufficient money has been raised by the School PTA to allow a second hand pool to be purchased; the pool should be delivered within the first two weeks of March.

TENNIS COURTS' RESURFACING. The two courts were resurfaced in May 1980 at a cost of £1996. The courts are available for hire (as are balls and tennis racquets): apply at the Bridge Garage. The Council will continue to grant £200 per annum to the Tennis Club for repayment of the Lawn Tennis Association loan.

SEDLESCOMBE LIFT SCHEME. Following the suggestion at the last Parish Assembly that alternative transport schemes should be considered by the Council, a lift scheme was arranged and started in October 1980. Those who want or can give lifts to local towns contact the Co-ordinator, Mrs Wheatley, Sed.569 or, if she is not available, her deputy Mrs Robertson, Sed.405 and, if possible, the drivers and would-be passengers are matched. Fares have been agreed and a small administrative charge is made on each journey to pay for telephone costs etc. The Scheme is still in need of drivers and it should be explained that there is no permanent commitment of those drivers taking part and passengers can make return journeys by bus if necessary. The remuneration for the drivers should be sufficient to obviate the feeling on the part of the passengers that they are asking a favour in making use of the Scheme.

CO-OPTION. Following Mr David Thomas's resignation from the Council on his move to Hastings, Mrs Beryl Fulcher was co-opted to the Council.

WHAT'S WHAT IN SEDLESCOMBE. The Parish Council has published an information sheet entitled "What's What in Sedlescombe" listing names and addresses of local organisations etc. On sale in the Post Office, price 5p.

FLUORIDATION OF THE WATER SUPPLY. The Parish Council voted against fluoridation of the water supply.

HASTINGS DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL. In June 1980, Mrs D Margaret Ross, Secretary of the Hastings District Community Health Council, spoke to councillors on the work of her Council.

RESTRUCTURING OF HEALTH SERVICES. The Parish Council opposed the amalgamation of the Hastings and Eastbourne Health Authorities. It was considered that the amalgamation could result in hospital services serving a wide area making out-patient treatment and visiting very difficult and also that it could jeopardize the building of the new District Hospital planned for Hastings.

BANK BRANCH FOR SEDLESCOMBE. The Council wrote to all the banks in Battle asking whether one of them could open a branch for, say, one day a week in Sedlescombe. However, mainly for security reasons, none of them were willing to do so.

NEW FOOTWAY TO THE SCHOOL. The County Council was persuaded to provide a path from Street Farm to the new School. However, complaints have been received that it is too narrow, too close to the carriageway and of a loose material. The Parish Council has asked the County Council to improve it.

EXTENSION OF 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT, BREDDE LANE. The Council continued to press for an extension of this speed limit especially following the opening of the new school. However, no support has been received from the Police nor the County Council. The Parish Council requested permission to erect its own signs at either end of the built-up part of the Lane asking drivers to drive carefully because of the residential area and the School, but the County Council is unable to allow such signs on the grass verges.

QUEEN MOTHER'S 80th BIRTHDAY. A telegram was sent from Sedlescombe to the Queen Mother on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

VILLAGE PICTORIAL SIGN. The Council has arranged for the replacement of the pictorial sign on the Green which has deteriorated.

BUS SERVICE REVISIONS. The Council considered the proposals for the revisions to the bus services and made requests for alterations to the proposals. However, little success was obtained and the reduced services were introduced in December. The Council supported the introduction of private bus services although was not in favour of buses being run from Sedlescombe to the new Tesco super-store.

HOME DEFENCE. The Council is constructing a home defence plan for Sedlescombe.

TREES. The trees and overgrown hedge between the Tithe Barn Car Park and the recreation ground have been tidied by tree experts. The Council would like to thank "Trees" of Hurst Lane for planting the mountain ash trees on the grass verge in Brede Lane.

PLANNING. The Council's Planning Committee considered each planning application in the Parish of Sedlescombe. These included: Blackbrooks Service Station - change of use from petrol station to garden centre; Agricultural dwelling at Petley Wood Deer Farm; Ten holiday chalets at Orchard Farm, Hooks Beech; Applications for change of use of the old School to 3 residential units, light industrial use or warehousing; Twelve touring caravans in Cottage Lane. In addition, the Planning Committee considered and commented on the Sedlescombe Draft Village Policy which was drawn up by Rother District Council. The Sedlescombe Village Policy document has now been published by Rother District Council, price 10p from The Planning Officer, Rother District Council, Town Hall, Bexhill.

FOOTPATHS. The Footpaths Committee continued to negotiate with owners for the removal of obstructions from public rights of way and repair of stiles in the Parish. Responsibility for the maintenance of public rights of way lies with West Sussex County Council and much help has been received from that Council. The Council has continued parish walks with different members of the Committee leading each one. These have been, as usual, well supported. A new leaflet was published during the year and another re-issued after being withdrawn for some time; six different leaflets describing walks around the Parish are now on sale in the Post Office, price 5p each.

TWINNING. The Council received details of Twinning Ventures with small continental towns and although it considers that the purpose of the Twinning is mainly social, nevertheless it could be valuable if wanted by enough people. Your comments would be most welcome on this subject at the Assembly.

PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE WORK 1981/2. The Council plan the following work for the coming year:

Recreation ground by the river:

Touch up roundabout and repair fence

East View Terrace playground:

Touch up seat of rocking rockette, decorate seat

First Land Bus Shelter:

Faint hardboard inside shelter, repair litter bin

Seats in memory of Sir John Keeling

Treat with preservative

Village sign: Replace

Pumphouse: Repair paths, paint railings

Postbox on Green: Paving slabs at edge of Green.

Plant trees near Tithe Barn Car Park and in the sportsfield.

D WOODMAN, MARCH 1981.