

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 1982

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 1981 AND ANTI LITTER COMPETITION

Following the success in the 1980 Best Kept Village Competition, Sedlescombe was runner-up in 1981 and the Men of Trees presented a prize of £15 to be spent on trees. The Plaques won in 1980 and 1981 have been fitted to the Pump-house. In the Anti Litter Competition, which is sponsored by East Sussex County Council, Sedlescombe was the winner in the small village section and received £125 to be spent on anti litter promotion. The Parish Council is grateful to all those who helped to tidy up the Village so that these awards could be won. In 1982, Sedlescombe will again compete in the Two Counties Championship section of the Best Kept Village Competition against the villages of Staplefield, Lindfield, Forest Row, Battle, Westfield, Alfriston, Cuckfield and Bury.

SEDLESCOMBE LIFT SCHEME

The first year of the scheme's operation was successful providing a useful service to those needing transport and financially helping those who provide the lifts. However, the Co-ordinator Mrs Wheatley, Sed.569, has sometimes found it difficult to arrange lifts to Hastings and she would like to hear from drivers who would be willing to help. The Council is grateful to Mrs Wheatley for her work in running the Scheme.

WHAT'S WHAT IN SEDLESCOMBE

This information sheet has now been revised and is available from the Clerk. It will be given, along with a welcoming letter, to newcomers to the Village.

HOME DEFENCE PLAN

A Home Defence Committee has been formed and a Home Defence Plan for Sedlescombe prepared.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME

The Council, whilst being in favour of the Scheme, decided against becoming directly involved with a team operating in Sedlescombe as difficulties of administration and finding suitable work were envisaged. A team has been working at the Pestalozzi Village.

METAL DETECTORS

Metal detectors have been used at the children's playground by the river and the Council was advised that although a detector can be used, it is illegal to dig up or take away "finds". A bye-law to prohibit the use of detectors may be necessary if the problem arises again.

ROYAL WEDDING

The Parish Council asked several Village organisations to arrange decorations on various parts of the Green in celebration of the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in July. This was most successful and the decorations were admired and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Many thanks to all those who participated in the work.

PARKING ON THE A229 OUTSIDE ROSCLANDS

Following a complaint that cars parking on the A229 outside Rosclands while owners are attending a function at the Village Hall have caused problems for

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people driving out of the road opposite, the Council obtained helpful advice from the Police which has been passed onto the Village Hall Management Committee and R.H.French.

POOR TV RECEPTION, EAST VIEW TERRACE

Complaints had been received that it was impossible to obtain good TV reception at East View Terrace. Subsequently, the Council arranged for the BBC to make a survey of the Village. The survey showed that approximately 396 people in Sedlescombe have unsatisfactory TV reception, mainly south of Brede Lane, and another 320 are marginally served. No immediate solution could be suggested although the Home Office had given permission for further low power BBC/IBA relays to be built after 1985 and Sedlescombe could then be considered for its own relay. However, even then, suitable transmitting channels and a site may not be available. The Council looked into whether the wired system previously used at East View Terrace could be reinstated but found, mainly for technical reasons, that this would not be possible. The BBC report is available for your perusal if you contact the Clerk.

SEDLSCOMBE BRIDGE, A229

At the Council's request, a "Road Narrows" sign was erected by the County Council.

CONCESSIONARY BUS PERMITS

Mrs Olive Robertson kindly undertook distribution of the Permits in Sedlescombe on behalf of Rother District Council.

ROAD TO THE SCHOOL

The Council suggested this should be called "Gammons Way" which has been approved.

LAND ADJACENT TO SPRINGFIELD COTTAGE, BREDE LANE

The County Council's mowing programme for 1981 was seriously curtailed owing to local authority financial cutbacks and consequently the County Council was unable to adequately maintain this piece of ground which is covered with shrubs. The Parish Council may decide, if the County Council's position does not improve, to take over this maintenance and possibly remove the shrubs to make the mowing easier.

FOULING BY DOGS

The Council has received complaints about dogs fouling footways, the Village Green and the sportsfield, and owners are asked to ensure that their pets are not allowed to create this nuisance.

HORSES FOULING THE FOOTWAY

A complaint has been received that horses are fouling the footways of Church Hill. The Council hopes that owners will be considerate and ensure that their horses do not create annoyance to other footway users.

POWERED HANG GLIDER

A request was made for permission to use the sportsfield for taking off and landing a powered hang glider. The Council resolved to refuse permission mainly on the grounds of safety.

MARITIME ENGLAND

Rother District Council is supporting the British Tourist Authority/English Tourist Board publicity scheme entitled "Maritime England". The Council was pleased to

hear of Sedlescombe Societies Association's plans to hold a "float" procession using this theme at the start of the Fete and Country Fayre on 31st July. Also that the Horticultural Society will incorporate the theme into the flower arranging section of the Flower Show.

ROTHER LOTTERY PROCEEDS

Sedlescombe Parish Council was fortunate in being one of the councils chosen to receive a grant from the final Rother lottery proceeds. This had to be used for a social, recreational or environmental amenity which would not normally have been provided from the rate revenue. £200 was granted and the Council agreed that £140 should go towards a new mower for the Cricket Club and £60 towards a new net for the tennis courts.

FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE RIVER NEAR THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Members of the Council were concerned that this bridge appeared to be deteriorating and asked the County Council to inspect it again. The bridge was subsequently declared "dangerous" and signs to this effect erected. The bridge will be replaced when materials and finance are available and the Parish Council is pressing for an early start on this work.

BOTTLE BANKS

The District Council wishes to place Bottle Banks in villages and asked the Council to suggest a site in Sedlescombe. However, whilst being in favour of the banks, no suitable site in Sedlescombe at present could be suggested.

PLANNING

The Planning Committee of the Council met to consider every planning application relating to Sedlescombe and passed on relevant comments to the District Council.

FOOTPATHS

The Footpaths Committee of the Council continued to work to foster the use of Sedlescombe's footpaths and to ensure that stiles etc. remain in good order. Renewal and replacement of waymarks has also been undertaken. Footpath leaflets continue to sell well in Robinsons. The Committee was sorry to lose the valuable assistance of Mrs Betty Barter who resigned as a co-opted member of the Committee during the year.

MAINTENANCE

The Parish Council aims to carry out maintenance of playground equipment, seats, bus shelters, litter bins, etc. as soon as necessary in order to keep the Village looking neat and tidy and to avoid a build up of jobs requiring finance. This past year, one of the main jobs undertaken was resurfacing the paths surrounding the Pumphouse and placing paving slabs by the post box on the Green. Another major job was the replacement of the Village sign following the rapid deterioration of the previous one. The Council is grateful to those who have given their time freely during the year doing the many necessary small jobs.

I have pleasure in submitting this report to you and look forward to the opportunity of discussing items which you may wish to raise at the Assembly.

D WOODMAN, MARCH 1982.