

Village Hall

The project which I know many of us would like to see reaching a successful conclusion is, of course, the provision of a new Village Hall. This is such an important matter, that I have asked Mr Jock Robertson to give a presentation at the Annual Assembly. **This is your opportunity to hear what has happened to date, to make comments and to ask questions.** Mr Robertson has also prepared the enclosed paper for your information. I do hope you will be able to attend and take part in this very important item on the agenda.

The Parish Council is maintaining a Fund from which its contribution will be paid. This is particularly important as certain grants are only available if the project is supported financially by the Parish Council.

Employment Site A21 Corridor

The Parish Council has continued to oppose vehemently the proposals in the County Structure Plan Review to release greenfield land in this area for a large employment site. Following a study of available sites on behalf of the District Council, one in Marley Lane in the parish of Sedlescombe has been recommended. If adopted, this policy would be contrary to previous policies strenuously defended by the County Council. The Parish Council believes this development would be inappropriate, that local need has not been established and that it would result in a further unacceptable increase in traffic between Hastings and Marley Lane. As it is suggested that the site is needed to provide employment for Hastings, the use of a brownfield site within the

Hastings boundary would be much more sensible

Police

The Council is pleased that a good relationship has developed between the Village and our community police officer, Mike Kempster. Many of you will have seen him about and he always tries to attend the Open Forum before a Parish Council Meeting. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Sedlescombe is proving a useful contribution to containing crime and improving detection. Arrests are being made because of information provided locally.

Two Councillors and the Clerk have recently visited the Police Control Room at Eastbourne to see how the Police locate addresses in rural areas. Everyone is reminded that their house name/number should be clearly displayed near the road so that it can easily be found, even in the dark; this could be very important in the case of an emergency.

Parish Councillors Bill Beaney and David Fisher are respectively Vice Chairman of the Battle & District Police Consultative Committee and a member of the Crime Prevention Panel.

Traffic calming

Within days of the fatal accident at Church Hill in November, the Council contacted East Sussex County Council with a strong request for the extension of the 30mph speed limit. Residents also sent letters of support. The County Council has now carried out a study and review of signing between the end of the 30mph speed limit at the bottom of Church Hill to just past the junction of Hurst Lane. One of the recommendations for

replacing some of the existing warning signs using yellow backing boards will be carried out. Other recommendations are being held over until additional funding is available. This area will be fully investigated in the next speed limit review but it has been suggested that, if a lower than national speed limit is found to be justified, it will probably be one of 50mph.

Parish Map

Sedlescombe's attractive pictorial Parish Map was included last summer in exhibitions at Cranbrook and on tour. Several copies were sold. Copies are still available from the Parish Clerk along with the centenary booklet.

Churchyard

Members were pleased to attend the consecration of the extension to the Churchyard on 21 July.

Millennium

Although the new Millennium is still nearly three years away, it is not too soon to consider how it should be commemorated in Sedlescombe. Please bring any ideas you have to the Parish Assembly.

Members of the Council attended the Service of Preparation for the Millennium in the Parish Church on 6 April.

Spilstead Airstrip

Monitoring of the use of the airfield is continuing and the Parish Council has been represented at all the quarterly meetings with Rother Planning Officers, the Spilstead Action Group and the owner or his representatives.

Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground

This is the official name of a charity governing use of the land next to the Bridge Garage. The Parish Council is the sole trustee and acts within the purposes of the Trust to maintain the recreation ground and tennis courts for the benefit of inhabitants of Sedlescombe and surrounding areas.

This year, the expenses of the charity have included provision and emptying of a new dog bin, mowing and hedge trimming, tree work and repair and painting of play equipment. The biggest expense was a new heavy-duty metal gate to replace the wooden, often vandalised, gate into the play area.

The Council has recently reacted to two requests and will be installing a new seat and placing a few paving slabs between the tennis pavilion and the members' gate.

It is likely that the tennis courts will need resurfacing in about two years' time. The Council has been maintaining a fund since the last resurfacing was carried out eight years ago and it is expected that there will be sufficient in it to pay for the work when required. The courts are well used by the general public providing a steady income. Weekly coaching also adds to this source of income.

May I remind you that car parking is not allowed on the land next to the tennis courts. Please use the public car park in Brede Lane.

Sportsfield

Although the Parish Council is the owner of the Sportsfield, it is

leased to the Sports Association until the year 2014. Most of the maintenance work is therefore the Association's responsibility but the Council still carries out tree work and ditch clearance as required.

East View Terrace playgrounds

The new kickabout area was officially opened on 4 May and the Council is pleased to report that it is being well used. The small children's play area is let to the Council by Orbit Housing Association. Fortunately, expenditure on it has been low during this year. Plans are in hand to treat the equipment with preservative during the summer.

Miscellaneous expenditure

The Parish Council is sometimes able to grant aid village projects. This year the Council paid for the new fence at the School swimming pool and, at the request of the Scout Hut Committee, a road sign in Brede Lane directing people to the Scout Hut at East View Terrace.

A donation was made to the Great British poppy chain to celebrate the British Legion's 75th Anniversary.

The Council is fortunate to be able to employ a local person to tackle urgent small jobs.

Planning

A brief description of Sedlescombe planning applications and decisions can be viewed on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Post Office. They are posted weekly and I would advise a regular check. Often the Council is told that residents are unaware of proposals or, sometimes even,

planning approvals. Look out for the District Council pink planning notices near the sites as well. If you have a comment on any application, be sure to write to the District Council by the due date. The Parish Council is pleased to receive copies. A member of the Parish Planning Committee always views the application site under consideration.

Thanks

The workload on councillors and the Clerk is still heavy with several weighty documents to be dealt with during the year. Sincere thanks are due to them.

I shall be pleased to hear what you have to say at the Assembly and to answer your questions.

Chairman of
Sedlescombe Parish Council
March 1997