



Ashurst Wood Parish Council

Newsletter

Autumn 2011



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday 2nd December 2011

3-7 pm

Village Centre

SANTA'S GROTTTO

BBQ

SWITCHING ON CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS
CAROLS FROM SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Organised by the Parish Council together with the
Village Centre Trustees School, Pre-School,
Conservation Group and St Dunstan's Church.

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter, which outlines some of the projects we have been working on recently. To make life easier if we have another bad winter, we have arranged for a resident to clear snow from the roads. We have also been meeting with other local Councils to discuss ways in which we can share information and resources to help our communities. In addition, we have employed a new Youth Worker and the Youth Club should be reopening very soon. Remember your elected Councillors are dedicated, unpaid volunteers doing our best for the future of our village. Do come along and meet us at the Christmas Market or one of our new Surgeries.

Jenny Forbes

NEW: PARISH COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

**Starting on Saturday 19th November 9-10 am
(and subsequent 3rd Saturdays of the month)**

**You can now meet Councillors once a month
for an informal chat at the Village Centre.
This is an opportunity to ask any questions
and raise any concerns about Ashurst Wood
and meet *your* Councillors face to face.**

RAIL AND BUS PASSES

The Parish and District Councils are continuing to subsidise senior citizen and disabled persons rail cards. Applications for new cards and renewals are available in the Parish Council office.

New applications for bus passes can also be made at the office with renewals being automatically issued by the District Council.

If you are unable to visit the office during working hours, please telephone to make an appointment for a suitable time.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

We are delighted to announce that we have arranged for residents of Ashurst Wood to join the Forest Row scheme to help patients with transport to and from medical and dental appointments. There is a charge of 40p per mile (minimum £3) plus £1 admin fee. Extra is payable for the driver's waiting time.

Volunteer drivers and coordinators are always welcome.

To book giving 48 hours notice, phone Forest Row Parish Council on 822909 for more information please see Forest Row Parish Council Website or leaflets which are available in the Ashurst Wood Parish Council office. Or to volunteer visit Forest Row Parish Council office or ring 822661.

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

The Parish Council has prepared a draft Budget and will be agreeing the precept for 2012-2013 at the December meeting. The draft budget can be viewed on the website and copies obtained from the office. The Council has made a commitment to employing a Youth Worker to keep the Youth Club open. **It is provisionally proposed to increase the precept by £2000 to cover the Youth Worker's salary. If you wish to make any comments about the budget please do so in good time before the December meeting so that your views can be taken into account.**

WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL DOING?

If you have a computer, the best way to keep **up to date with the Council's activities is to register** for our monthly e-news letter. You will also receive important announcements, such as road closures. Just send your email address to the Clerk, who will add you to the mailing list. You can also visit the website, which contains a great deal of information.

You can find out information about meetings from the noticeboards at the Post Office, Village Centre and John Pears Field. Newsletters are delivered to every house in the village and a monthly update is included in the Parish News published by the Church.

Finally, you can come along to Council or Committee meetings, or pop into the office during opening hours.

W I N T E R M A N A G E M E N T

The Parish Council has been working with WSCC and arranged for a local resident to use his tractor and snow plough to clear and grit village roads in the event of snow. You can help by clearing your own drive and pavements around your house following the Snow Code (see our website). Please keep cars off the road as much as possible – parked cars will hinder efforts to clear snow. Our handyman and other residents will appreciate assistance with snow clearing. Please remember that the grit in the **Parish Council's bins is NOT** for use on private land. You are advised to stock up early while local garden centres etc. have plenty of grit available.

The Ashurst Wood Village Players present **"It Could Be Anyone of Us"** by Alan Ayckbourn- their latest production at the Village Centre on Wednesday 9th November until Saturday 12th November. Tickets are from £6.

Queen's Jubilee celebration.

Cllr David Loveday has volunteered to chair a group organising village events. Anyone who is interested please come to a meeting in the Three Crowns Wednesday 23rd November 7.30pm

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The application to build 12 homes for local people in Hammerwood Road was withdrawn and resubmitted in order to incorporate a slight widening of the road required by West Sussex County Council following a road safety audit. The new application documents can be seen at www.midsussex.gov.uk under reference number 11/02918/FUL, at MSDC's offices in Haywards Heath or at the Parish Council office by prior arrangement. It is hoped that the application will be decided by the MSDC planning committee soon.

The Parish Council strongly supports this scheme, but respects the views of those who disagree. Unfortunately, rumours and misinformation circulated around the village have led to some confusion and concern. The Parish Council therefore wishes to clarify that

(1) there is a presumption against development outside the built up area of the village. The proposed homes would be built under the Rural Exception Site policy, which allows the release of such land only for a small development of homes to be occupied by local people, and sets no precedent whatsoever for any future house-building.

(2) several sites have been assessed as possible locations, however land at the Industrial Estate (which is occupied by several local businesses) has not at any time been offered for Affordable Housing and would not in any case meet the requirements of the Exception Site policy.

For the facts about the policy in general and about the background to this application, see the Parish Council website.

DISTRICT PLAN

Mid Sussex District Council has issued its draft District Plan for consultation. Once completed and adopted, this will be the main planning document used by the District Council and will reflect the changes to the planning system being introduced by the Coalition Government. The Consultation closes on the 13th January. The Parish Council will prepare a response and will also be considering whether to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Individuals are encouraged to read and comment on the Plan.

ASHURST WOOD YOUTH CLUB LATEST NEWS

Interviews have taken place and a worker has been selected, the Criminal Records Bureau check is the only thing outstanding. Once this has been received the Club will be able to re-open and will be back on a Wednesday again by popular demand! The first session will be a welcome BBQ for anyone year 7 and above and their parents or carers. This will be a chance to meet the new worker and talk about the exciting programme he has planned. As soon as the date is known it will be put on facebook and notices around the village.

DOG FOULING

Please clean up after your dog. The Parish Council has paid for several bins dog waste bins around the village. Please ensure that you use them! Unfortunately, there is an ongoing problem with dog fouling in School Lane. The Dog Warden is aware of the problem and the area is being monitored. Fixed penalty notices of £75 will be issued to anyone failing to clean up their dogs' mess from public streets or from the recreation grounds in the village. Failure to pay could lead to prosecution and fines of up to £1,000. **Please report offenders with as much detail as possible to the Parish clerk.**

Walks leaflets are still available in the office and at the news store for £1 a copy and once enough are sold it is hoped to use the money to publish a second selection of walks around Ashurst Wood.

New Christmas Cards with views of Ashurst Wood will be available for sale at the Christmas Market do come along and support local organisations, enjoy a mulled wine or soft drink and a mince pie. Burgers, hot dogs and **home made soup will also be available. Don't miss this great chance to meet up with friends and buy some Christmas presents and treats.**

A man's bike has been left at the Village Centre— if you have lost one recently please contact the Parish Council for more details.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:

Jenny Forbes (Chair)	822879
Brian Phillips (Vice-Chair)	824154
Ian Arnott	822555
Margaret Bussell	823253
Karen Lindsay	824831
David Loveday	824658
Jonathan Samways	322226
Don Sinclair	824317
Derek Wailes	07747 006670

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Public Services
Chairman: Jonathan Samways

Planning
Chairman: Don Sinclair

Finance & Administration
Chairman: Brian Phillips

PARISH CLERK

Clerk : Susan Wellerd
Assistant: Rebecca Roberts
St Dunstan's Church Chapel Lane
Ashurst Wood RH19 3QT
01342 823770
Email; Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
Or assistant@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Office:

Behind St Dunstan's Church

Office hours; Monday Wednesday and Thursday mornings
(except on the Thursday when the Parish News is printed)

www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Notes from Ashurst Wood Primary School

Informal One-Way System/Parking within School Hours

We would like to remind parents that they should not park or drop children off on the zigzag yellow lines for very obvious safety reasons. Please could parents refrain from parking in the staff car park or blocking the gateway as sometimes staff need to leave quickly to attend meetings and training after school. Please park considerately, not blocking driveways, as anti-social parking poses a threat to both children and adults when they are trying to cross the road.

We would also like to inform parents/residents about the informal one way system that has been locally practised for the last few years around the roads adjacent to school. If we all follows this, it relieves the potential for congestion and frustration at the beginning and end of the school day. Please approach the school via Hammerwood Road and leave towards the Village Store and Village Hall down School Lane.
(Parish Council note—this is a voluntary scheme only)

Remembrance Service – Friday 11th November 2011

Ashurst Wood Primary School will be attending a Remembrance Service at The Memorial between 10.45am and 11.20am on Friday 11th November. The road will be closed between these times (this will not affect the buses) and we would love to see any members of the community who would like to come and remember with us.

Jive Time – Friday 25th November 2011

On Friday 25th November we will be hosting a fun evening of Jive Dancing and Music in the School Hall. All ages and abilities welcome. Basic steps lesson begins at 8pm with the party starting at 9pm. Tickets will be £5.00 per head which can be purchased from the school in advance or on the door. Learn, party and enjoy the licensed bar!

Ashurst Wood Community Pre-school presents...
Race Night, Friday 11th November, 7.30pm
at Ashurst Wood primary school

Tickets are £5 each which includes your race card, a free drink & nibbles!

There will be a total of 8 races, you can place a £1 bet on your favourite horse and even name a horse for

£2! Alternatively you can sponsor an entire race for £25, a great advertising opportunity!

There will also be a raffle with some great prizes; a manicure, a massage, a mini makeover by a professional make-up artist, 2 brand new Happyland toys & a set of "The Kings Speech" table mats donated by Turner Classic Movies.

Please come along and support our pre-school, it promises to be a great night!

For more information, contact Katie on 01342 826916 or e-mail katieflamman@gmail.com or visit our website www.ashurstwoodpreschool.co.uk