



Newsletter Winter 2010



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Despite the appalling weather conditions it was decided to go ahead with the Christmas Market held in the Village Centre on 3rd December. It was the right decision as it proved to be a great success for all those organisations who took part. I would like to thank all the people who helped out and in particular the stalwarts who stayed behind afterwards to clear up. Special thanks to Graham Keenor who donated the Christmas Tree in front of the Village Centre.

The Council is going into the New Year with a challenging list of projects in mind including the possibility of some affordable housing, plans for the Village Centre, the possibility of some allotments, village gateways and a safer route for pedestrians between the village and Forest Row. There are elections to be held in May 2011 and if you have a view on these projects or any other items you think the Parish Council should be addressing why not put yourself forward as a candidate (see the article below).

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Don Sinclair

ELECTIONS 2011

Parish Council elections will be held in May 2011

Become a Local Councillor: Make a difference.

Ashurst Wood Parish Council is looking for people to stand for election in May 2011. Information about becoming a Councillor is available from the Clerk, Susan Wellerd, who has leaflets and a DVD available to borrow.

Parish Councillors are elected by the Public and serve four-year terms. Following the election the Council will elect a Chairman. Parish Councils have number of responsibilities; including, representing the whole electorate within the Parish, delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve the quality of life in the Village. Local Councils make a difference by making your views known to other bodies and councils e.g. when being consulted about planning issues or changes in services.

Ashurst Wood has nine Councillors, is a non party political Council and all members are volunteers. Details about the numbers of meetings and Committees that the current Council has are available on the website.

The Council achieved the Quality Council status and is a proactive, involved body- this is your chance to become part of that at the most local level of government. Do check the Council's website or contact a member of the Council or Clerk.

Newsletter

This newsletter is being distributed by the Pre-School and previous editions by the Conservation Group. If you are a group and would be interested in distributing to the 650 homes in Ashurst Wood for a fee. Please contact the Parish Council office.

Christmas Market

Not even a foot of snow could stop the second Village Christmas Market from happening thanks to the many volunteers who braved the sub zero temperatures on the morning of Friday 3rd December to clear the car park and entrances, decorate the hall, light the tree and erect the marquee.

Understandably some of the stall holders were unable to attend but there was still a good variety of things to buy and do ranging from home made produce, a barbeque, secret shopping, mulled wine and wreaths to the Santa Grotto and children's colouring competition. Thank you to everyone who came and supported this wonderful Village event and to the many helpers from the School, Preschool, Church, Conservation Group, Village Centre Trustees and Junior Football Club who worked with and supported the Parish Council in the organising and running of the event.

Cllr Karen Lindsay

Ashurst Wood Community Pre-School Development

A Public Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th January 2011 at 7.30pm in the Pre-School part of the Primary School, School Lane. This is to publicise the proposed plans for improved facilities. Everyone is welcome.

Don't fall foul of new dog control measures

Mid Sussex District Council is introducing new dog control measures in the District to impose tougher fines on those who do not clean up after or safely control their pets.

The majority of dog owners in Mid Sussex are responsible, pick up their dogs' mess and keep them under proper control. However, there is a small minority who don't and this can create problems that are of concern to many local residents.

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, local authorities have more power to protect the local environment, which includes warnings and fines for those who don't comply with legislation.

Council officers took on board residents' feedback when deciding which dog control orders should be implemented in Mid Sussex and the following measures are being introduced.

Fouling of land by dogs order

In order to reduce the amount of dog fouling in Mid Sussex, owners are required to immediately clean up their dogs' mess. This order applies to all District Council owned or managed recreational and other public land, car parks and all highway areas within a 40mph speed restriction.

Dog exclusion

To prevent people or the dogs themselves being injured as a result of sharing activity space, dogs are excluded from all fenced children's play areas and fenced recreational areas such as tennis courts, bowling greens and multi activity areas owned by Mid Sussex District Council.

Dogs on a lead when requested

In order to stop a loose dog disrupting sporting or community events or disturbing local wildlife, dogs must be placed on a lead if requested to do so by a Council officer.

Fines

Mid Sussex District Council will issue Fixed Penalty Notices for any breaches of the New Dog Control Order legislation. If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued for a Dog Control offence, the payment will be £75. Failure to pay may result in prosecution with a maximum fine of £1000.

Free bags

The Park Rangers will be handing out free window stickers for people to display in their cars and there is a chance of winning a 'Dicky Bag', a hands free container for hygienically storing dog poo bags, if your car is spotted supporting the campaign over the next few months. For more information contact Mid Sussex District Council Park Rangers on 01444 477561 or email rangers@midsussex.gov.uk.

Waste and Recycling: For the latest updates always check the Parish Council or Mid Sussex Websites or telephone the Parish Council. But PLEASE do not use the opportunity to put your rubbish into someone else's bin without permission. The Office has received several complaints about this.

Shopping Bus

Thank you to those people who came forward and volunteered to drive the bus on a Friday morning, four new drivers have successfully taken the test.

Public Services Committee.

Among the items that the Committee has discussed at its meetings are;

- 1: Preparations for the management of severe weather conditions. After the dreadful winter last year, the Committee has recommended that the Parish Council buys two special snow shovels and a footpath gritter. The latter is only effective if there is grit to put into it, so everyone is urged to only use the grit from the grit bins for public walkways and not for their own personal use.
Members of the Public have been asked to report to the Police the theft of grit, via the non emergency number 0845 60 70 999
- 2: The Committee is hoping to install further cycle racks on John Pears field.
- 3: Attempts are being made to make the road name signs more uniform throughout the village. Currently there are a few of the “urban” black on white signs remaining and it is hoped to gradually replace these with the “rural” white on green signs . Should you find any damaged or missing road signs, please notify the Clerk to the Parish Council.
- 4: There has been concern that a number of hedges and trees are overhanging and obstructing footpaths throughout the village. Please can everyone to ensure that their vegetation does not impinge on public safety.

Cllr Alan Del Mar

Bus/train information

From 12th December, Sunday trains from EG to London Victoria are at 08 12 and hourly until 23 12, and from London Victoria to EG at 07 38 and hourly until 22 38 (subject to any weekend works). Also, the times of some journeys on the 261 bus have changed to reflect changes to the connecting Uckfield/Eastbourne service. The Parish Council's timetable has been updated on the Transport page of the website.

The Parish Council has looked into providing real-time information at bus stops in the village, like the displays recently installed in East Grinstead. Unfortunately in the current climate the cost is prohibitive, and we have not been able to identify any other potential sources of funding. However users can access real-time information for Metrobus services on their website www.metrobus.co.uk or (particularly for mobile users) from www.mytraveline.mobi.

As usual, if you need any further information or have any comments about services or our information about them, please contact the Parish Council office.

Cllr. Jonathan Samways

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:

Chairman:	
Don Sinclair,	824317
Vice Chair:	
Jenny Forbes,	822769
Councillors:	
Ian Arnott,	822555
Michael Box,	822664
Paul Bridgland,	822068
Alan Del Mar,	823196
Karen Lindsay,	824831
Brian Phillips,	824154
Jonathan Samways,	322226

Public Services

Chairman: Alan Del Mar

Planning

Chair: Jenny Forbes

Finance & Administration

Chairman: Alan Del Mar

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

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

www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ashurst Wood Community Pre-School

A lot has been happening in the pre-school this term. We have been busy looking for a replacement for Caz Hills, our current pre-school supervisor and we are delighted to announce that a new supervisor, Stephanie Panayi, will be starting in February. A lot of fundraising events have also taken place and have contributed to raise money much needed to maintain the pre-school open. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the villagers for coming and buying our homemade gifts at the Christmas fair. This event was a huge success and has raised the most money so far!. And finally, please note that from January 2011 the pre-school will be open an additional morning to children above 3 years old and we still have vacancies!. Should you wish to know more about what is happening in your pre-school or know how to support your pre-school, do not hesitate to visit our website

www.ashurstwoodpreschool.co.uk

Happy Christmas to you all!

Preparing for Winter

During the winter months the Parish Council will be working with other councils, the police and residents to try and minimise the impact of any period of severe weather.

West Sussex and East Sussex County Councils are responsible for the gritting of roads in our area. The priority is to keep all major routes treated and passable. This means all A roads, most B roads and other important roads such as access roads to hospitals and bus routes. Maypole Road, Hammerwood Road (as far as Maypole Road) and Wall Hill Road are usually treated but are not top priority. Other roads in the village will not be treated.

The Parish Council owns several Grit Bins, located at strategic points around the village, which will all be refilled by the County Council shortly. Please note that the bins are there for the benefit of the community and the grit is for use on roads and pavements that would not otherwise be treated. *Taking grit to use on private land is not permitted* (for paths and driveways, you can purchase rock salt from garden centres and garages, or use table salt or dishwasher salt). Grit bins may not be refilled if stocks run low.

The Council will shortly be purchasing a small grit spreader and our handyman will help with snow clearance and gritting. Assistance from volunteers will also be welcomed and will be essential if we experience a lengthy cold spell. Contrary to popular belief, there is no law preventing people from clearing ice and snow from public places. Provided this is done carefully (e.g. do not use boiling water), there should be no liability for any injury. (For more information, see the News Page on the website) Please consider pedestrians when clearing drives and avoid piling snow on the pavement.

If you have a 4x4 vehicle or snow clearing equipment or would just like to put your name on a list of volunteers, please contact the Parish Council office.

In an emergency always call 999. The non-emergency number for the Police is 0845 60 70 999. For other help or advice phone the Parish Council office or any of the Councillors. Check the news page on the Parish Council website regularly for updates about roads, transport, refuse collections and other matters. The West Sussex County Council website will provide information about school closures from 7.30 each morning and the Metrobus site is also updated regularly.

Cllr Jenny Forbes

Ashurst Wood Primary School News

As usual we have enjoyed an active and rewarding term at Ashurst Wood School. Pupils have studied a range of projects enthusiastically and have new knowledge and skills to prove it! We have also achieved a Healthy Schools Award and another for the quality of Sport in our school.

After 13 years as Head Teacher, this is my last term. I shall be leaving at Christmas to start a new life volunteering with VSO in Ghana for 2 years. My work will take me from an Education Office in the North West to a large number of local village schools, helping Head Teachers to plan for improvement and assisting with the organisation of learning. This is a huge challenge for me but a very exciting one too.

I am very sad to be leaving Ashurst Wood School after so long. I have had the honour to work alongside some of the most enthusiastic pupils, staff, parents & friends of the school I could have wished to have known. I thank all of you and will miss you immensely.

Debbie Barnes, Head Teacher