

Dear Residents,

This will be the last E-newsletter from this Parish Council. With elections due to be held on 5th May, Councils are not permitted to distribute any information that could be interpreted as electioneering after 22nd March. This seems to be a bumper last E-Newsletter.

1. Annual Village Meeting: The Code of Conduct on local authority publicity restricts the information and publicity a Council can issue during the pre-election period, as it must not be seen to promote the views of any potential candidates. The Council has, therefore, been advised that it should not hold the Annual Village Meeting in April. The Annual Village Meeting will, therefore, take place on Tuesday 17th May at Ashurst Wood Village Centre starting at 7.30pm. The meeting will include a report from the previous Council for 2010/11 and will be an opportunity to meet the new Councillors elected on 5th May 2011.
2. Elections 5th May 2011: There are elections for the nine Ashurst Wood Parish Councillors (non political) and also for a Mid Sussex District Councillor representing the ward which covers Ashurst Wood. It is also the date for the referendum on possible changes to the parliamentary voting system.
3. Imberhorne Lane recycling site: The site will be closed from 21st March until the Autumn for redevelopment. There will, however, be a disposal only facility open at week-ends.
4. Dog waste: An increasing number of complaints are being received about owners who fail to clear up their dogs waste from pavements and roadsides. We now have contact with the responsible person at Mid-Sussex District Council. If you can report someone who REGULARLY leaves their dogs waste around then the wardens are willing to come and sit around for an hour or so. Report to Susan Wellerd rough times and descriptions, but we must re-emphasise that it must be regular for them to be able to attend. Anyone seen not clearing up is now given a fine, no warnings.
5. Amenity Collection: The Parish Council has arranged another FREE collection on Sunday 17th April 10a.m. to noon at the Village Centre Car Park for household and garden waste (no trade or builders' waste will be accepted)
6. Village Clean up Day: Sunday 10th April 2011 10am at the Village Centre, everyone is welcome to come along and help clear up litter etc. They will be using the new litter pickers bought with a West Sussex County Council Local Committee grant. This is co-ordinated by the Conservation Group in association with the Parish Council and the BTCV "Big Tidy UP"
7. Village Centre extension: Due to the cost implication of the present design the Parish Council has decided to postpone further work on the project. The new council can decide on the next course of action.
8. Affordable Housing: The initial consultation, at which the draft plans were on display, was attended by 131 people from the village. Following consideration of the consultation responses and discussion at Parish Council meetings, the Parish Council has agreed in principle to support the exciting opportunity to provide affordable homes in the village for local people. More information and an outline of the draft plan is being

delivered to every residence in the village, and is also available on the Affordable Housing page of the website.

9. Thefts from vehicles: Following a spate of thefts, including in Ashurst Wood, the police have been patrolling in the village and have reported that people are still leaving valuables clearly visible in their vehicles. They have warned again that the simple precaution of ensuring valuables are removed will make life much harder for the opportunist thief.
10. Ashurst Wood fair: Do not forget this event on Saturday 2nd July – thanks to Keith Stacey and his team it promises to be even better than in 2009!
11. Police Community Support Officer change: Danny Macleod is taking up a new post in Burgess Hill. She has provided excellent support to the village and we wish her well in her new post. We will be welcoming back George Lock.

All that is left to say is that it is now 4 years since the Parish Council started these E-Newsletters and we hope that you have found them valuable. If you have any comments or suggestions then please leave them with Susan Wellerd on 01342 823770 or clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ashurst Wood Newsdesk