



**From the Chairman:**

Let me begin by thanking Alan Del Mar for all his hard work during his three years as Chairman of the Parish Council and I was honoured to be voted in as his replacement in May in what is proving to be a very interesting year for the Council mainly due to the following:

**The Village Plan.** A progress report is contained in this newsletter and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Phillips, the other members of the Steering Committee and all the volunteers whose hard work resulted in a magnificent response to the questionnaire of 55%. The Plan when it is published next spring will inform the Council and assist it in delivering the improvements you want in the Village.

**The East Grinstead Strategic Development and Relief Road.** Following the exhibitions and public meeting held in the village, Mid Sussex District Council received a very large response to their consultation. We await MSDC's further public consultation expected next summer to see whether any of the comments made have been taken into consideration. The fight goes on.

Below you will see an alert to the proposal for three sites for housing in the village. Please ensure that you make your views know to the District Council.

**Parish Council Elections in May 2007.** I am very keen to promote service on the Parish Council particularly from the sections of the community that are currently under represented on the Council, namely the younger generation.

*Don Sinclair*

**BE AWARE OF LOCAL SCAMS**

West Sussex Trading Standards is warning local residents about several scams that are currently the 'flavour of the month' in West Sussex look out in the local press for more details.

An award is awaiting your collection: "Have you received a card through your door giving the impression there's a parcel awaiting your collection because it appears to come from a reputable company? If you're not expecting a parcel – watch out.

"At the moment more than one type of card is being sent to householders who are asked to call a number. But there's no parcel for you to collect.

"In fact the number is a premium rate one – and at best you will be entered into a draw for a prize.

"There is information on the card about how much the call will cost. So, the moral is, as always: read the small print!"

Scratch cards: "Recently, millions of scratch cards have been dropping onto doormats throughout the country, encouraging you to call to claim your prize when you scratch off and reveal the right symbols.

"Again the number to call is a premium rate one. Be aware – although you may well receive a prize it is likely to be of low value and may entail buying something else before you can take advantage of it."

**VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
HOUSING ALLOCATION: ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT SITES**

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) have issued a consultation document that includes three sites in Ashurst Wood which have been put forward by the land owners for potential housing developments, namely:

Ref No.	Location	Area	No. of Dwellings
ALT/1	Land south of Hammerwood Road	4ha	120
ALT/2	Land between 98-104 Maypole Rd.	0.22ha	6 plus
ALT/3	Land north of Woods Hill Lane and West of Maypole Road	9.6ha	288

The Parish Council will be replying to MSDC objecting to all three sites on the grounds that:

- They are outside the built up village boundary.
  - They are within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
  - In the case of ALT/3 is within the strategic gap
  - They will unacceptably increase the size of Ashurst Wood by up to 62%
- There is inadequate infrastructure to support such large developments and as such are unsustainable.

MSDC stress that they are **not** proposing these sites however the Parish Council advise that residents should reply to the consultation to Mr S Tilbury, Principal Planning Officer, Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS **before 2 October 2006.**

Further details can be found in the Parish Council Office, East Grinstead Library or on MSDC web site:

[www.midsussex.gov.uk.uk/page.cfm?pageID=5437](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk.uk/page.cfm?pageID=5437)

## ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE PLAN

We had a very successful stand at the Historian's Exhibition in March which resulted in over 30 people volunteering to help with the distribution and collection of the Questionnaires. After briefing all the volunteers in June they delivered the Questionnaire to the over 700 households in both Ashurst Wood and Greater Ashurst Wood. The response was a fantastic 55% (typically general questionnaires only obtain 5-10%). Even more pleasing is that a large number of people have taken a lot of trouble to provide additional information. All this will be very valuable and extra effort will be put into the analysis to ensure that the information is captured. The Business questionnaire returns were a little disappointing with just a 30% return. However, the Ashurst Wood Primary School excelled. They organised specific questionnaires appropriate to each age group, and the children filled them in as part of an end of term project. We now have 120 responses, which will provide us with different and very valuable viewpoints from the Household questionnaire. All three schools in Ashurst Wood provided a response to the specific schools questionnaire.

With over 400 household questionnaires, plus the 120 Primary School children's responses, the Committee has sought volunteers to help with the analysis. This is a major task that will take place over the next few months with a consolidated view being generated before the end of the year. We are on schedule to produce a draft plan early in the New Year, followed by a further Open Meeting, and then publication of the plan by Easter.

Brian Phillips Village Plan Steering Group

### **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY 2007**

#### **Would you like to become a Parish Councillor?**

The next elections for Parish Council will be on May 3rd 2007. This is your opportunity to represent the community in which you live. If anyone is interested in learning more about the work of a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk, or any of the existing Councillors for information.

### **CONSERVATION GROUP FORMED THIS SUMMER**

On 31<sup>st</sup> July this year an inaugural meeting of the Ashurst Wood Conservation Group was held at John Pears Pavilion, its aim is to enrich the Countryside and Wildlife of the area surrounding the village.

The group will be undertaking many different tasks in the village which will include: footpath clearance, hedge-laying, tree thinning amongst other tasks.

We are having a voluntary membership fee of £5. per person to help launch the group, towards Tools and Insurance, so if you didn't wish to help by volunteering you could just become a member. A newsletter for the group will be sent out twice a year to keep you informed of what we are doing for your Countryside/village.

We will be meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and are hoping to start in January 2007.

If you would like any more information please contact:

Chairman: Tanya Hayman 824431 or Secretary: Ian Arnott 822555

### **East Grinstead Strategic Development Area Action Plan**

**The Parish Council held a public meeting in which was attended by over 130 people. Both Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council were represented and a lively debate was held.**

**Many people then responded individually to the consultation. The Parish Council response can be viewed on its own website.**

**However, this is just the first stage in a long process and the Parish Council will ensure that you are kept informed about the next stage and in particular any implication proposals may have on the village of Ashurst Wood.**

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

### **Collection of Household and Garden Waste**

The Parish Council, with the co-operation of the Village Centre Management Committee have organised and funded a collection of rubbish to take place outside the Village Centre on :

**Sunday 22nd October 2006 between 10.30am and Mid-day.**

It is important that this service is used, if the Parish Council is to continue to fund

#### **YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:**

**Chairman:** Cllr. Don Sinclair. 01342 824317

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr. Jenny Forbes. 01342 822769

**Councillors:** Cllr. Andrew Bass. 01342 850511

Cllr. Alan Del Mar. Mouse Hall. 01342 823196

Cllr. Ann Duncan. 01342 822337

Cllr. Annie Pearce. 01342 823825

Cllr. Jan Pollard. 01342 823220

Cllr. Gwen Shuttleworth. 01342 823401

Cllr Karel Stockley The Barn. 01342 822606

Clerk :Susan Wellerd. Parish Office. St. Dunstan's Church. Chapel Lane. Ashurst Wood. 01342 823770

Email: [parishof@supanet.com](mailto:parishof@supanet.com) Mon. Wed. Thurs. 9am- 12.30pm. (most weeks)