

Dog Fouling;

This appears to be an increasing problem particularly in the School Lane / Maypole Road area. The Parish Council has provided various bins around the village to enable owners to clear up after their dogs. Many village children walk along School Lane and it is very unpleasant to find that dogs have been allowed to foul the pavement.

Our Handyman adds: One odd behaviour pattern of some dog owners is to carefully scoop up their pets faeces in a plastic bag, seal it, then hang it up on a low tree or shrub branch or in the hedge, often only one or two paces from an almost empty dog bin.

The Dog Warden has been informed of the problem and may take action against anyone contravening the law in this way. **The fine for this is up to £1000**

Strategic Development:

The economic downturn has affected the housing market around the country. Mid Sussex District Council has been informed by the developers' consortium that the planned strategic development of 2500 houses together with a relief road in East Grinstead is no longer financially viable. Under the plan the developers would have fully funded the road and infrastructure improvements. This formed part of the Core Strategy, which will set out long term planning policy for the district up to 2026 including locations for the houses allocated under the South East Plan.

The District Council is continuing to work on the Core Strategy and will have to reassess the options for future development at East Grinstead. The next draft will not be published until after the South East Plan has been finalised with housing targets confirmed. It is now expected that the next public consultation will be in September 2009.

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 21st April 2009 Village Centre 7.45pm

Please put this date in your diary and if you only attend one meeting in the Village in 2009 make it this one!

As usual there will be an update on the Village Plan there will also be a presentation on our exciting Summer Event. Local organisations will be able to have information stands and this is your opportunity to put questions to the Parish Council. Do come along –and let the Council know what you would like to see happen in Ashurst Wood.

The Conservation Group continue to meet on the first Sunday of every month and had done some great work on John Pears Field and in the Old Cellars see Parish Council website for more information and photos. They would like to thank local land owners, Mrs Ray and Mr Blacker for their co operation and encouragement. Our Tree Warden, Tanya , has planted four trees through the "Trees For Shade" Scheme thanks to West Sussex County Council there are now two new trees in the Primary School field and two on the A22.

Greening

The Parish Council are committed to initiating a Greening Campaign– which is an easy way to start raising green issues in the community. However this initiative needs someone to help lead and progress it. This will be a fairly short campaign– at least in the first stage around 3 to 6 months. Anyone who is interested PLEASE contact Susan or any of the Councillors. Guidelines and funding are available and it is part of a wider campaign which Forest Row are also taking forward. More information can be found on their website.

Ashurst Wood**Parish Council****Newsletter Spring 2009****CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

This edition of the Parish Council's newsletter contains news about a number of initiatives that we have been working on or giving support to and I am pleased to report that good progress has been made on the following:

- The acquisition of the Village Centre by the Parish Council
- The provision of some affordable homes for local people in the village
- The installation of a traffic island on the A22 Lewes Road by the Hammerwood Road junction
- The Summer Fair on 20th June 2009

If you are interested or concerned about any of these matters then make sure you come along to the Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday 21st April at 7.45pm in the Village Centre when you will have the opportunity to let us know your views.

Don Sinclair**VILLAGE CONSULTATION EVENT****Affordable Homes**

Ashurst Wood Parish Council has been working with English Rural Housing Association, The Rural Housing Enabler from Action in Rural Sussex, and Mid Sussex District Council, on a proposal for an affordable housing development for local people. The proposal is for eight homes for rent or shared ownership, and preliminary plans are currently being prepared. The homes, which will remain with the community in perpetuity, can only be occupied by people who have a connection to the Parish of Ashurst Wood.

A 'drop-in' consultation event is planned on

Tuesday 21st April 2009
Ashurst Wood Village Centre.
Between 3pm and 7.30pm.

This will be an opportunity to view and comment on the proposal, and discuss the plans with members of staff from English Rural, Action In Rural Sussex, Mid Sussex District Council and Parish Councillors.

The event is also a chance for local people, in need of affordable housing, to register an interest for one of the proposed homes.

For further information please contact:- Clerk Susan Wellerd 01342 823770
The consultation event will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. (see back page)

Congratulations to Ashurst Wood Village Centre Trustees on Hallmark Level 1 award

The Village Centre Trustees underwent a rigorous process to obtain this prestigious award and are now preparing for level 2.

Photo removed for web version

For full details of the report which includes high praise by the panel see Parish Council Website—Village Life section. Or contact the Clerk for a hard copy.

www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor vacancy

Malcolm Elliot has resigned from the Council and there is now a vacancy, anyone interested should contact either another Councillor or the Clerk Susan Wellerd by 28th February 2009.

This is your opportunity to help make the decisions which affect the village and its future.

Village Centre:

The Parish Council have agreed a purchase price for the Village Centre and hope to become the owners of the freehold later in 2009. It is currently owned by the Diocese of Chichester and the Council believe the purchase will protect the site for the community and allow it thrive and continue for the benefit of all in Ashurst Wood. The Council do not expect any changes in the day-to-day running of this facility and appreciate the dedication of the Trustees and look forward to continuing working with them.

Bus and Train timetable : Councillor Jonathan Samways has updated the combined bus and train timetable and produced an excellent reference document. He has expanded it to now to show weekend services and Forest Row. Please see website under Transport or contact the Clerk for a paper copy.

Summer Fair update

It has been a long time in the planning but the date for the Ashurst Wood Summer Fair is creeping closer. Make sure you have the date - **Saturday 20 June** - firmly in your 2009 diary.

There will be lots to do for all the family during the afternoon - a variety of arena events, the usual sideshows and stalls, a dog agility course, a display of classic cars and much more.

In the evening there will be the hog roast with music by the well known local band, the Buffaloes.

The aim is to make this an event where the whole community can come together.

Offers of help with setting up, taking down and running events on the day will be sought nearer the time. In the meantime if you want to know more or have something you feel you could bring to the event as an added attraction please do get in touch. And most importantly, make sure you keep the date free in your diary!

Also there is a new page dedicated to this event on the Parish council website.

Keith Stacey

Chairman of the Steering Committee

01342 323880 or keith@keithandwendy.net

Ashurst Wood Parish Council (AWPC) Handyman's Notes

One of my Handyman duties is the monitoring of the service provided for the Village by the Mid Sussex District Council via their contractors (currently SERCO) in emptying both their (MSDC) and the AWPC owned dog faeces and litter bins.

SERCO currently state they service all the bins in the village on Mondays and Fridays.

That is why you often see me about on Tuesdays and Fridays, peering into our bins.

All of us in the Village pay in one way or another for this service, and it is part of my job to ensure we get full value for the money we pay over to MSDC for this service.

Another of my duties is to make regular patrols of Litter hotspots/high footfall/ traffic areas such as Park Lane, School Lane, and Hammerwood Road. I also try to visit all the remote or outlying areas of the AWPC area at least once a quarter to collect any litter left by walkers or motorists and report any fly tipping since my last visit.

Within the Village, Pedestrian derived litter is a pleasingly small item- occasionally alcohol/soft drink containers stuffed in hedges but usually smokers litter or confectionary wrappers and concentrated not far from our shops, bus stops, Dors Patch to Wray Close twitten entry points and along the foot routes home from Primary School and School bus drop off points.

The prime sources of litter collected within the village boundaries are, in order of bulk;

Smoker's discards, soft drink containers, branded disposable coffee cups and fast food wrapping, confectionary wrappings

The major source appears to be items of the above types thrown out of cars from where I find it; Wall Hill Lane, Park Lane, other village gateways/entry points/ junctions, and along the A22 are particular hot spots. Pedestrian footfall in these locations is very light so the litter origins are very clear.

Remember, a carelessly thrown away bottle, can, or container could then or later cause an fatal accident by bursting a tyre or shattering a windscreen, strike and injure a child, other pedestrian, or animal, so it is not potentially a "minor" victimless crime.

As a Village, we are, at all age levels, very tidy and caring of our environment.

Fly tipping and Littering of any sort is illegal and costly to clear up. Our PCSO, George Lock advises that if you see it occurring, do not confront the offenders, but unobtrusively note date and time, location, their description, the number/colour /make of any vehicles involved, and phone this MSDC fly tipping number: **01444 477440**

(e-mail;streetsweeping@midsussex.gov.uk) or the Crime stoppers number **0800 555 111** for more serious/urgent reports, e.g. hazardous waste or dangerous locations.

Dick Tyrrell.

Village Spring Clean Sunday 5th April

This is being organised by the Conservation Group with the Parish Council starting at 2pm everyone welcome please try to come along and help keep your village tidy.

Website Photo Gallery.

There is a new page on the Council website: "Photo Gallery" it would be great to add to this and have a new photo' on the home page every month. Please send photo's to the Clerk email as below if possible 60KB then watch the web.

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
Brian Phillips,	824154
Jonathan Samways,	322226

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Public Services

Chairman: Alan Del Mar

Planning

Chair: Jenny Forbes

Finance & Administration

Chairman: Alan Del Mar

PARISH CLERK

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

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

www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk