



Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3

Winter 2007

We need a new volunteer to deliver the Newsletter in Heathfield Gardens. Can you help?

Does your group have anything they would like to put into the next Newsletter ??

If you can answer yes to either, or both, of these questions please contact the parish office.

See back page for contact details.

Dates for your diary 2007

Planning Meeting Youth Centre	8th February
Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	12th March

Planning Meeting Youth Centre	12th April
----------------------------------	---------------

Annual Parish Meeting Robertsbridge	16th April
---	---------------

Parish & District Elections	3rd May
--------------------------------	------------

All meetings start at 7.30pm and a period of up to 15 minutes is allowed at the start of the meeting for public comment or questions.

Agendas for meetings are posted on the parish notice boards and web site at least 3 days before the meeting—planning applications are available for inspection at the parish office during normal opening times or on the Rother District Council web site.

We have started the New Year on a wet & windy note - and hopefully the good thing is this may mean that we avoid too many water shortages in the summer. We have had some worrying moments with rising river levels in the last few months but fortunately we have so far escaped any flooding.

Just before Christmas the Environment Agency were on stand-by in the village all night and the stop-log defences were put in place at Grey Nicolls, but fortunately were not needed. It was good to know however that the EA procedures worked well.

We still have some potentially wet months ahead so the Parish Council has provided a supply of sand and bags for filling at the Recreation Ground. Hopefully, these will not be necessary! Also, please remember that we have some

Are you proud of our village and its immediate environment?

Do you find yourselves carrying out little tasks that you think will make a difference i.e. picking up litter, clearing the odd overhanging branch, tidying small areas and cutting that little extra strip of grass? Would you like to join a small group of like minded people, who are interested in maintaining and enhancing the beauty of our village and who are committed to working together as a team, in the knowledge that several hands make light work and group enthusiasm towards the end projects is hugely effective and much more enjoyable.

If so, please do make contact with us, we would love to welcome you to our

monies available to help with emergencies.

With all the wet and windy weather the village will be more in need of it's annual 'Tidy Up day' than ever and there are details below of how you can get involved in helping to keep the village a good place to live.

This is election year for both Parish and District Councils and we hope that there will be more names coming forward to fill the inevitable vacancies. Ask the Clerk, or any Councillor for more information or, the Parish Council has an information folder and DVD which can be borrowed or viewed at the Parish Office by appointment

This is your village, why not get involved in helping to keep it running well? .

friendly team on the newly formed **Friends of Robertsbridge**, a group of volunteers who have formed a Working Group under the umbrella of the Parish Council. All projects are approved by the Parish Council but carried out by us on a voluntary basis.

Or, drop in and see us on Saturday 24 February at 10.00 am

We are holding an open morning at the United Reformed Church in the High Street. Coffee will be available and you can come and chat to us and find out what we have been up to so far, what we would like to do next and maybe you can offer some new ideas.

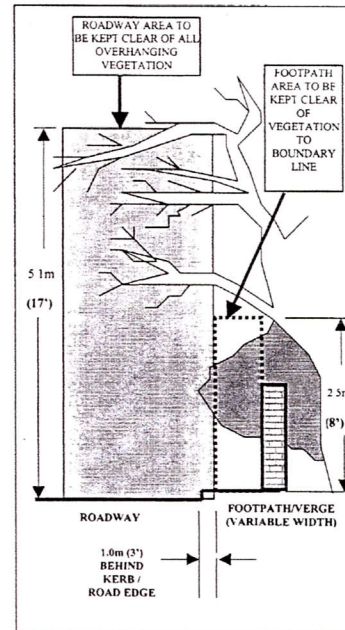
For further information, please call Lynn on 01580 881818

What is the Parish Council doing about.....? In each issue of the newsletter will try to focus on one aspect of the parish council responsibilities.

Trees and hedges obstructing the highway -

Does your hedge overhang the footpath? Are people forced to walk at the edge of the footpath or even in the road? Do trees on your land overhang the highway or obstruct street lights? Think about the effect this has on others—particularly the blind, elderly and people in wheel chairs or parents with push chairs.

With the growing season about to start (did it really finish?) the Parish Council will inevitably start to get complaints about trees and hedges obstructing the pavement. This is really the responsibility of the County Council Highways department but we try to help out because a local approach is often a better way to resolve the matter. The Clerk will usually send a polite reminder to the land owner and this almost always gets the matter dealt with. But, if this fails, we pass on the matter to County Highways. As a landowner you then run the risk of a formal notice from the County Council and ulti-



mately they can seek a court order giving them the authority to remove the obstruction and recover their expenses from the land owner. You could also face legal action from an injured member of the public.

The Highways motto is:
Don't delay, clear the way!

Graffiti isn't art, it's criminal damage! - whilst Robertsbridge suffers less than many places from graffiti, when it does happen it is unpleasant and costs money to remove. The picture below shows just part of the graffiti damage that was carried out just before Christmas in the public toilets in the Recreation Ground.



It costs money, YOURS, to clean this off. Our policy is to photograph the damage and pass the pictures on to the police who are accumulating a lot of pictures and their intelligence has enabled them to identify some

of the culprits. If the perpetrators of the damage to our property are identified then we will prosecute—no exceptions! We have reason to believe that the culprits for this particular damage come from Bexhill.

If residents suffer problems with graffiti to their own property then the Parish Council has a graffiti removal kit which they can borrow free of charge to clean it off. It is best to clean it off as soon as possible as leaving it tends to encourage more. Contact the Clerk but photograph it if you can and give the pictures to the police or to the Clerk. If you don't have the equipment to photograph we can probably arrange to get it done for you.

East Sussex Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Are you interested in the future of access to the countryside in East Sussex? This is your chance to tell ESCC what you want. They want to ensure that their vision for the rights of Way Improvement Plan is the same as yours. To achieve this they have published the Consultation Draft which is now available to the public. There are a number of ways for you to view the draft:

- On the web site www.eastsussex.gov.uk/currentconsultations
- At all East Sussex public libraries
- At main Council offices in East Sussex
- By e-mailing rowip@eastsussex.gov.uk or telephoning 01273 481627
- Or by writing to:

Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Transport & Environment
East Sussex County Council, FREEPOST LW43
County hall, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE

Your response must be received by **Friday 23 March 2007**



Information Regarding Rother DC New Waste Collection and Recycling Contract and Associated Communication Campaign

There were three issues that were addressed on the Council's new waste contract: -

1. Residents were asking for improved recycling services
2. the Council had identified improved recycling as a priority
3. the need to meet government targets

A cross party/cross District Working Group to explore options of how to implement improved services within the contract.

The outline service that was approved and tendered to meet the above requirements was: -

- Alternate weekly collection (AWC) of residual waste (week 1)
- Collection of green garden waste (week 2) [new service]
- Collection of newspapers, magazines, junk mail [as per present arrangement but extended across the District]
- Collection of cans and plastics [new service]
- The use of wheeled bins for residual and green waste
- The use of boxes for paper and cans/plastics [similar to existing boxes]
- Edge of property collection of containers

This is typical of the sort of scheme a large number of authorities have implemented to provide quality services and give high recycling performance.

Not all properties will be able to receive full recycling services initially, but service variations, where necessary, will be taken into account, e.g.

- Assisted collection for the elderly and infirm where a case can be proved

- Flats/ properties in multiple occupancy
- Difficult access properties
- Properties with potential storage problems
- Alternative storage/collection containers

The aim is for District wide coverage of AWC and recycling services and the Council and the contractor will be working together to maximise coverage of the scheme.

The new contract with **Verdant** (replacing Serco) starts on April 1st and implementation of the new waste/recycling collection will be within about 4 weeks. Serco staff will transfer to Verdant on similar terms and conditions of employment, so the regular operatives will still be working on the rounds.

Waste and recycling is the most widely accessed service by Residents. To ensure residents are fully informed about the new system a communications consultant, **EnviroComms**, has been appointed to prepare an educational/promotional campaign. The first phase of this was a series of Focus Groups held across the District and a Christmas Campaign to raise awareness of recycling. Early in 2007 an extensive door-stepping exercise will be undertaken by EnviroComms, through its agent Hyder Consulting, to meet face to face with a large cross-section of residents to get feedback on expectations and service requirements. This information will be used to determine final scheme details.

Nearer to the start of the new services residents will receive full information packs with details of collection days and refuse/recycling arrangements and there will also be a press/advertising campaign in the run up.

In the meantime, the Council web site www.recyclingforrother.co.uk will contain the latest information on the scheme, rollout dates as they become available and so on. Residents should use this as a first port of call to find out the latest position or if unable to do so then the Council's recycling telephone line is 01424 787580.

Fergus Cameron, Rother DC

On the next page you will find some answers to commonly held misconceptions about recycling and, if you are interested in doing your bit for the environment have a look at the following web sites. **www.recyclenow.com** where you can learn more about recycling on a helpful and informative web site and **www.wigglywiggles.co.uk** which tells you how to plan your garden to encourage wildlife and improve your garden through composting.

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:
Mrs Karen Ripley

The Parish Office
Robertsbridge Youth Centre
The Grove, George Hill
Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5AP

Phone: 01580 882066
Fax: 01580 882066
Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk

Web address:
www.salehurst-pc.org.uk or
www.robertsbridge-pc.org.uk

The Parish Office is open to the public at the following times:

Tuesday	9am to 11am
Thursday	2pm to 4pm

Rother District Council
Web address: www.rother.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS TREES - A very BIG thank you!

As many of you noticed and indeed passed comment on, this year's Christmas celebrations were particularly sparkling in Robertsbridge. This was entirely due to the generosity of residents' and traders in joining together to light up our High Street – top, middle and bottom end.

It was wonderful to see so many sparkling Christmas trees, with many being put up for the first time. As the co-ordinator of the tree placements, I would like to thank you all on behalf of my colleagues in our newly formed "Friends of Robertsbridge" Group, you did us proud. We received many compliments on how lovely our village was looking and people were even more impressed with the fact that it was all self-financed by each individual.

We have also heard that several more people have expressed an interest in joining in for next Christmas. I know it is a long way off, but if you would like to have a bracket and join in with this year's display, please do make contact with me and I will be happy to arrange it for you. Your bracket will be ordered, put in place, a tree will be delivered to you and taken away for recycling.

A special thank you must go to our friends at Darvell for their invaluable help with transporting, erecting and the removal of the trees.

Lynn Lewis 01580 881818



How often have you heard the comments "It's not worth the bother of recycling - they just dump it anyway" or "Why bother keeping the different colour bottles apart - they just mix them up!" Oh no we don't! Here's what we do with it:

PAPER - All paper collected from the door and from the bring banks goes to Aylesford Paper; it's made into new "newsprint" (newspaper before it's printed). For more information, take a look at their web site - <http://www.aylesford-newsprint.co.uk/>

GLASS - We're careful to keep the different glass colours separated, and if you take a careful look at the lorry that collects the bottles, you'll find that it's got separate compartments. The glass is taken to Wealden Council's site at Bellbrook in Uckfield, and tipped in 3 bays; it's then loaded into large lorries and taken to British Glass's factories and made into new glass.

These websites will tell you a lot more about glass recycling - <http://www.recyclingglass.co.uk/> and <http://www.britglass.org.uk/index.html>

CANS & PLASTICS - We collect these materials co-mingled, and pass them on to a specialist recycling company, Grosvenor - <http://www.grosvenorwaste.co.uk/default.asp>. They operate a MRF (materials recycling facility) which separates the mix into three streams - steel, aluminium, and plastic - and these materials are sold on to factories for re-use.

For steel see http://www.scrib.org/recycling_steel/how_can_u_recycle.asp

For aluminium see <http://www.thinkcans.com/>

And for plastics see <http://www.recoup.org/business/default.asp>

TEXTILES & BOOKS - Some of our recycling points have Salvation Army "Banks" for the recycling and re-use of clothing, shoes and books. These are collected regularly and taken to a sorting centre in Northants; much of the material is re-used in the UK, some is re-used abroad, and material not suitable for re-use can be re-processed. Hardly anything is wasted.

For more information, see <http://www.satradingsco.org/>