



Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Issue 1

February 2009

Do you have something you want to say about your group?

We are happy to try to publicise it for you - send to the Clerk or Chairman or via our web site.

Dates for your diary 2009

Planning Meeting 12th
Youth Centre February
2009

Parish Council Meeting 9th
Robertsbridge March
Hall 2009

Planning Meeting 16th
Youth Centre April
2009

Annual Parish Meeting 20th
April
2009

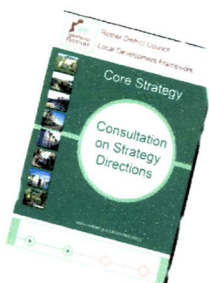
Parish Council & Annual Meeting 11th
Robertsbridge May
Hall 2009

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

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 - www.rother.gov.uk and you can comment on planning applications on-line

Local Development Framework - An extra Parish Council Meeting was convened on 20th January 2009 in order to consider the Local

Development Framework Core Strategy document which Rother DC put out for consultation. This document is one of the most important policy documents that Rother District Council has to produce, as it will guide development and change in the District (and your village!) over the next 20 years.



Rother DC ran the consultation for 12 weeks from 7th November 2008 to 30th January 2009 and organised a number of public exhibitions across the District

including one held in Robertsbridge Hall on 4th December 2008.

The Parish Council response to the consultation can be seen on the parish web site under Minutes or in the Parish Office during normal opening hours (Tuesday 9am -11am or Thursday 2pm – 4pm)

Play Pathfinder Scheme - Following consultation with young people in the village where they were invited to nominate their preferences for new play equipment we were successful in our funding bid and went out to tender for four new pieces of equipment - a Galaxy climbing unit (as shown here); an Aeroskate unit; a Spinning disc unit and an Aerial cableway.



A tender has now been accepted, an order placed and, weather permitting, work should start on installation by mid-February and has to be completed by the end of March 2009! - we are hoping for some drier weather!.

Affordable homes - Following the Housing Survey conducted last summer, the Parish Council in partnership with Rother DC and Action in Rural Sussex has been trying to locate a piece of land suitable and available for building affordable homes. This is proving difficult but we are continuing to pursue the matter.

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

The Freedom of information Act - The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities, sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities.

The Parish Council has adopted the 2009 Model Publication Scheme issued by the Information Commissioner's Office. This endorses our commitment to routinely publish and make available a broad amount of information about the council as part of our normal business activities. The Model Publication Scheme can be seen on our website www.salehurst-pc.org.uk under Freedom of Information.

We aim to ensure that a significant amount of information is available without the need for a specific request, and therefore minimise inconvenience and cost to the public. Most of the information is available on our website. In addition, where possible or practicable we also make information available on the parish notice boards located at the car park in Station Road and near the church at Salehurst and in our quarterly parish Newsletter.

Guide to Information

The council has produced a table showing the information that is available, how it can be obtained and whether there is a charge. The guide includes a schedule of charges where applicable and is available on our website www.salehurst-pc.org.uk under Freedom of Information.

If you do not have access to the internet but would like to see copies of the Publication Scheme and the Guide to Information please contact the Clerk.

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

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

Normal opening hours for the office are: Tuesday 9am – 11am & Thursday 2pm to 4pm

Further information and details about the Freedom of Information Act can be found on the website of the Information Commissioner's Office: www.ico.gov.uk

Cardboard recycling in Robertsbridge - Robertsbridge Enterprise Group have arranged with Culverwells for Robertsbridge residents to have access to their cardboard recycling skip on Saturday mornings and also on Wednesday afternoons.

Take your cardboard to the blue container located towards the end of the yard opposite the workshops.

Appeal Decision – 22 High Street (former Post Office building) - The Planning Inspectors decision on the appeal for change of use of the former post office building to residential use was published a week after our last Newsletter went to the printers!. As most probably know by now, the Inspector upheld the appeal allowing change of use.

The full report can be seen in the Parish Office during normal opening times or on the parish web site at http://www.salehurst-pc.org.uk/documents/PO_Appeal.pdf

This is the fourth of a series of articles about the area in which we live - the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which covers parts of 4 counties – East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent and Surrey and is a nationally important landscape. With an area of 570 square miles (1,457 sq km) it is the 4th largest AONB in the UK. It was designated by Government in 1983 to conserve and enhance its historic character of rolling hills draped with small irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes.

The Story of the High Weald's Woodland

Seventy percent of the woodland in your parish is probably 'ancient'!

Trees and woodland cover over one third of this distinctive landscape - with its pattern of steep, wooded ravines (called gills), small woods and copses separating the fields.

The woods of the High Weald were relatively slow to be cleared because they were a valued human resource, yielding wood for timber and fuel plus acorns and beech mast for animal food (particularly pigs). Although heavily exploited, High Weald woods were rarely destroyed. While the surrounding lands (and indeed much of England) were being permanently settled and farmed, the High Weald remained relatively uncultivated: by Domesday (1086) it was the most densely wooded area remaining in England.

Even when agricultural clearance did begin in the High Weald, much of the woodland was retained. Field boundaries were formed by leaving strips of the original woodland between the fields. The many woods on steep-sided gills would not have yielded useful agricultural land anyway. The remaining woodland continued to provide valuable resources, particularly for the iron industry.

Much of today's High Weald woodland has probably never been cleared. Today, over 70% of the High Weald's woodland is classed as ancient - having existed continuously since at least 1600AD. (Nationally, only about 19% of woodland is ancient.)

Having existed for hundreds of years, ancient woodlands are very important habitats for certain woodland plants that can only colonise very slowly. Ancient woodlands also contain a wealth of archaeological features - for example the remains of iron workings.

High Weald woodlands were managed for centuries by skilled workers, using a rotational coppice system. This ensured that a renewable supply of wood was always available – especially for fuel and building materials.

Woodlands need to be worked: without management, they become derelict and wildlife species that depend upon working woodland as a habitat suffer. Coppice woodland, in particular, is an important habitat because many British flowering plants, mammals and insects thrive under this rotational system – often the rarer species are now only found in working coppice.

Text provided by the High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee's staff Unit. This is a specialist team that advises on the management of the AONB; furthers understanding of its special qualities and enables action to conserve it. To find out more, please visit www.highweald.org

Battle Area Community Transport - Have you used this valuable service yet?

There is a service between Robertsbridge and Battle on Tuesdays and Fridays (market days). There are also two additional services **B80 to Tunbridge Wells** on the 2nd Friday of each month and the **B82 to Eastbourne** - but **please note, these 2 services have limited spaces available and you must pre-book by calling 01424 772001**

If you have a bus pass you can use it on all these services.

Full details of the BACT services can be found at www.sussex-villages.co.uk

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Karen Ripley

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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

Parish Councillors Tel:

Cllr David Allen (Chairman) 881056
chairman@salehurst-pc.org.uk

Cllr Tamara Strapp (vice-Chair) 881291
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Cllr Gillian Smith 880810
shop: 882265

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Rother District Councillors

Cllr George Hearn 819233
cllr.george.hearn@rother.gov.uk

Cllr Susan Prochak 881309
cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk

Get Active! For many years the Parish Council has organised walks around the parish and these have been continued by ex-councillor Jill Woodgate.

The walks take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month starting from the Station Road car park (near the Robertsbridge Club) and lasting about 2 hours. The walks are easy and friendly and all are welcome. The Parish Council has a complete set of Definitive Footpath maps at 6 inch scale and these are available to view in the Parish Office during normal opening times.

*Walks in Salehurst
and Robertsbridge*



David Allen

Also, the Parish Council sponsored the first edition of *Walks in Salehurst and Robertsbridge* which has been continued by the author and is now in its 3rd edition and is available from the Parish Office or from Mark and Jane at the Village Butchers price £1.50p or direct from the author.

Local Action Plan - this started in March 2008, when the results of your comments were published. There were 455 replies, including some from children.

There was huge support to make Bishops Lane, Church Lane and lower Brightling Road 'quiet lanes'. However further investigation found these roads not suitable for the quiet lanes initiative. The LAP committee believes that residents want to see some initiative to reduce speed on the feeder roads into Robertsbridge. This might be a PR, leaflet or shops and schools campaign. Sadly no-one on the current committee has time to develop this idea. Anyone who would like to see this idea become reality please email or phone me (tamara.strapp@salehurst-pc.org.uk tel:881291) or the parish clerk, Karen Ripley.

There was also great enthusiasm for a cycle/bridle track to Boddiam and/or Mountfield. We have started by asking permission from the five landowners along the route. They have all been extremely good and agreed to the concept of the route. We are now in the stage of finalizing with them and East Sussex County Council exactly where it will run.

An enthusiastic committee is now meeting regularly with the aim of a grand summer event for the village. Their first event will be a Father's Day picnic on Sunday June 21 2009, with DIY music! They will then start in earnest raising money for a 2010 Summer Ball through events such as a casino; RAP open air cinema; ceilidh. The Committee would welcome more people being involved, so if you are interested please contact as above.

There are other ideas ticking over in the background, however several could involve possible use of the mill site. No-one has taken forward the support for a café or museum, so any thoughts would be welcome.

For a full copy of the report visit www.sarlap.co.uk or pick up a copy from the parish office - free!