



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 11

Issue 1

Jun 2017

Dates for your diary 2017

Summer Event Recreation Ground	18th Jun
Planning Committee Youth Centre	6th Jul
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	17th Jul
Planning Committee Youth Centre	3rd Aug
Planning Committee Youth Centre	7th Sep
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	18th Sep
Planning Committee Youth Centre	5th Oct

Full Parish Council Meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. Planning Committee meetings are held monthly, generally on the first Thursday, if applications have been received.

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 website at least 3 days before the meeting - planning applications are on the Rother District Council web site - www.rother.gov.uk and comments on planning applications can be submitted on-line.

VILLAGE STEWARD

The Parish Council is delighted to introduce Peter Pattenden as our Village Steward. You may recall that in September 2015 a fantastic 67% of residents completed our 'Big Questionnaire', and 76% of them were in favour of us appointing a Village Steward, as Rye had successfully done. His role is to carry out all the little maintenance jobs that help keep our public areas pleasant and cared for. We are extremely lucky to have secured Peter for this role, as he has many years of experience with ESCC Highways, and therefore has ideal skills and accreditations already.

Peter started in April - you may have met him at the Annual Village Meeting on 3rd April when he was officially introduced, and chatted to many of you informally too. There are bound to be seasonal fluctuations in workload for him, but Peter has been contracted to work (part-time) for roughly one-and-a-half days a week.

So far, he has already:

- Resurfaced a large area of the car-park at the Recreation Ground and some footpath areas with planings
- Strimmed, cut back vegetation/hedges and tidied the path to the playground area and the car-park entrance at the Recreation Ground (several times!)
- Fixed/repaired various fences: along the Clappers; near the new gates on the railway boundary of the football field; around the play area, including re-fixing the wire fencing around the playground
- Fitted toilet door bolts in the toilets at the Recreation Ground, some brackets in the store there, and a securing hook for the new five bar gate on the railway boundary
- Replaced a missing bench slat within the play area
- Re-set the wobbly 'Noah' statue in the ground in Jubilee Gardens
- Washed village entrance signs, washed both the bus shelters and strimmed around them
- Removed old redundant signs, and various rubbish and debris

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There will be a number of painting jobs we hope he can undertake this summer: railings, bollards, benches and bins for example. When everything is ship-shape, Peter will then endeavour to keep it that way, maintaining nice clear paths, pavements and channel drains. He will lay more plantings where required in the autumn, and if required, help with pavement clearing and gritting in snowy or icy conditions. Please say hello when you see him out and about and let him know if you think there are jobs that could be added to his 'list'. Alternatively, phone or email the Clerk at the Parish Office.



Left: improvement to the muddy southern end of Pipers Lane.

Above right: re-surfaced car-park area at the Recreation Ground



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: UPDATE

It was in November 2014 that the Parish Council decided to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish, driven by the fact that Rother District Council's (RDC) own Plan contains a requirement to find space to build at least 155 new dwellings in Robertsbridge in the period up to 2028. The reasoning was simple – that it would be better for those in our local community to choose where new housing is to be built, plus the incentive of an increased amount of the new Community Infrastructure Levy coming directly to the parish when a Neighbourhood Plan is in place.



Roll forward to June 2017 and much has happened. The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has produced a comprehensive plan, identifying not only preferred sites for housing, but also covering such matters as: protection of green spaces, important buildings and the environment generally, support for footpaths and bridleways, future provision for all three of our schools and much more.

The draft plan was consulted on by the Parish in September to November last year, and many of you put forward your refinements to the Steering Group's ideas – a process called Reg. 14 Consultation. The Plan was revised in the light of these and submitted to RDC in December (called Reg. 15) then RDC, as the Planning Authority, held a six-week consultation between 10 February and 24 March (Reg. 16). They have now finished collating the representations they received, which are available to view on RDC's website. A number of issues were raised. In April an independent Examiner was appointed to review the Plan and all the accumulated evidence. The examiner will produce a report but may call for a public hearing if there is anything of serious concern. His report will then go to RDC and the Parish Council; modifications may need to be made, and RDC officers will make a recommendation on what to do next to RDC's Cabinet and Full Council (*what a number of hoops we have to jump through!*).

If Cabinet and Full Council both agree, the Plan will then go to a referendum of all eligible electors in the Parish. At the moment we cannot be certain when this will be, but it is unlikely to be before September.

FLOOD WARNING SERVICE:

The Environment Agency has made some changes to its Flood Warning service:

Residents are encouraged to register for the service or, if already registered to check their details, via the website: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

or the Floodline (0345 988 11 88).

New quick dial code for our Area/Parish:

Our Flood Alert Area is called: **The River Rother Area**

You will need quick dial number **217019** to access these messages when you call the Floodline and select option 1.

Our Flood Warning Area is called: **Robertsbridge**

You will need quick dial number **317019** to access these messages when you call the Floodline and select option 1.

If residents have any questions they should contact the Floodline on 0345 988 11 88 or email the local Flood Resilience Team on ksl_frt.kentslondonandesussex@environment-agency.gov.uk

HELPING HANDS:

Robertsbridge & Salehurst Helping Hands has been going now for over two years! For anyone who hasn't heard of us yet, we are group of around 50 volunteers who try to meet various requests from villagers who need a "helping hand" sometimes. So far we have carried out a variety of jobs such as shopping, small practical jobs, occasional light gardening, a friendly chat with anyone who might want some company and our most frequently requested task; lifts when personal or public transport is not an option e.g. hospital visit.

We have recently launched a "Welcome Pack" - a resource for all new residents who move into our village giving them all the information they need to appreciate what is going on in the village.

Helping Hands reaches out to villagers of all ages and our volunteers are all DBS checked - the Government's criminal records checking register.

We have a dedicated phone number for requests: 07726 592739

Even if you are not sure whether we might be able to meet your need, do give us a ring.

We also need you if you would like to be a volunteer and part of the team: please phone either Sue (881309) or Anne (880832).

We have our own website www.robertsbridgehelpinghands.co.uk which gives more information on this successful community resource.

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Karen Ripley
Assistant Clerk: Mrs Angie Goodwin

The Parish Office:
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Robertsbridge TN32 5AP

Phone: 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	2pm to 4pm
Thursday	2pm to 4pm

Rother District Council

Web address: www.rother.gov.uk

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Rother District Councillors

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CLlr Susan Prochak 881309
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THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN:



This year the village Spring Clean day participated in the national Great British Spring Clean campaign, led by Keep Britain Tidy.

Originally scheduled for 5th March, it was postponed due to bad weather to Sunday 19th Mar.



Once again, the Darvell Community very kindly provided a lovely free BBQ after the litter-pick, for the volunteers.

FAREWELL TO CLLR CHERRY MICHELL & WELCOME JEMIMA BOLTON & ROGER PALAMARCZUK

A rather belated, but no less sincere, thank you and farewell to Cherry Michell, who had been a valuable member of the team since 2015. Difficult personal circumstances meant she didn't feel she could commit enough time, so took the very gallant decision to stand down in September, to enable the Council to take advantage of the tremendous response to the first vacancy, with seven very good candidates coming forward.

This left Members with a difficult choice – just two from seven – when all would have been valuable additions. We are very grateful to them all for being prepared to give their own time to benefit the community. Let's hope some – and more – will be prepared to do so in May 2019 when the current terms of office end and all nine places are up for grabs! (Current Members can re-stand if they wish.)

So, we offer a big welcome to Jemima Bolton and Roger Palamarczuk, our two successful candidates and already well established Members.