



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

Issue 4

March 2015



Dates
for
your
diary

BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR: next steps...

2nd Apr	Planning Committee Youth Centre
6th May	Planning Committee Youth Centre <i>please note it's on a Wednesday due to the Elections</i>
7th May	ELECTIONS
18th May	Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall
4th Jun	Planning Committee Youth Centre
21st Jun	Village Summer Event
2nd Jul	Planning Committee Youth Centre
20th Jul	Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall

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.

* Planning Committee Meetings will be held monthly, generally on the first Thursday in the month, provided applications have been received. See the Parish noticeboards and/or the website www.salehurst-pc.org.uk for confirmation & the agenda 3 days prior. Plans and documents can be viewed on www.rother.gov.uk, and comments can be submitted online.

Full Parish Council Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. See the Parish noticeboards and/or the website www.salehurst-pc.org.uk for the agenda 3 days prior.

Hopefully everyone is aware by now that in May all nine Parish Council seats are up for election/re-election, and several of the current councillors will not be seeking re-election. If you are considering standing for election yourself, this should clarify the steps you need to take. The Nomination period for applications **opens on 30th March 2015**, and from this date the nomination pack (with forms) will be available from either the Parish Office or Rother District Council. These are *different* packs from the information pack you might already have picked up! You will also need a proposer and a seconder (who must be registered to vote in this Parish).

The Nomination period is very brief - it **closes strictly at 4pm on Thursday 9th April 2015**. Your *valid* application needs to be submitted, preferably by hand, at the Town Hall in Bexhill by this deadline. So, allow time for any errors and omissions to be dealt with. Also, be aware that your electoral roll *number* (and those of your proposer and seconder) will be required; you can obtain these from the Parish Office or Rother District Council.

If nine or less nominations are received, all will be 'elected unopposed'; if more than nine are received there will be a poll, on 7th May (alongside the Rother District Council and General Elections). The new council will come into effect on 11th May.

Good luck, and we hope to welcome some new faces!

A WORD ABOUT STREETLIGHTS...

If you spot a streetlight in the village not working correctly, then the Parish Council is the appropriate place to report it to, on 882066 or email clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk. Those on the 'main arteries' - George Hill through to the roundabout, and Station Rd, are generally on from dusk to dawn, but others turn off at midnight.

When one becomes stuck on during the day, it does not run up our electricity bill, as this is *unmetered* for streetlights. However, of course we wish to prevent energy waste promptly.

CONFUSED ABOUT WHO TO REPORT PROBLEMS TO?

Well, you can be forgiven for that, because there are at least 4 different places it could be appropriate to report local issues to. When the Parish Council is informed of something that's not our responsibility, of course we forward your report to the right place. But this can often delay the matter reaching the right people, as the Parish Council office is only staffed part-time.

See the table below for ways to report the most common things. www.streetrepairs.co.uk aims to forward all street-related issues to the correct council for you.

FREE FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service are offering personal fire safety visits to eligible residents' homes.

Contact them on 0800 1777 069 or enquiries@esfrs.org to discuss this, and find out if you may even qualify for free smoke alarms, supplied and fitted by them.

What or where the problem is to do with	Who's responsible	Report online at	Report by phone
Potholes & other road issues, broken paving slabs, blocked drains, damaged or overgrown verges, public footpath problems	East Sussex County Council	http://eastsussex.fixmystreet.com/ www.streetrepairs.co.uk	0345 6080193
Street lights on the A21 including the bypass	Highways Agency	Email: area4@bbmmjv.com	0845 6000 414
Street lights in the village, but not the A21	Parish Council	Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk	01580 882066
Graffiti	Rother District Council	www.rother.gov.uk/article/4383/Report-it www.streetrepairs.co.uk	01424 787000
	Sussex Police	www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/report-something-online	101
Abandoned vehicles	Rother District Council	www.rother.gov.uk/article/4383/Report-it www.streetrepairs.co.uk	01424 787000
	Sussex Police	www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/report-something-online	101
Dog fouling	Rother District Council	www.rother.gov.uk/article/4383/Report-it www.streetrepairs.co.uk	01424 787000
Dog Waste Bins	Parish Council	Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk	01580 882066
Fly-tipping	Rother District Council	www.rother.gov.uk/article/4383/Report-it www.streetrepairs.co.uk	01424 787000
Car park & toilets in Station Road - <i>at present</i>	Rother District Council	www.rother.gov.uk/article/4383/Report-it www.streetrepairs.co.uk	01424 787000
Car park & toilets at the recreation ground	Parish Council	Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk	01580 882066
Illegal parking	Sussex Police	www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/report-something-online	101
Recreation Ground & Children's Play Area (incl. play equipment)	Parish Council	Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk	01580 882066
Football field & football pavilion (but not cricket)	Parish Council	Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk	01580 882066
Pocket Park, Bishops Meadow, Pipers Meadow, Jubilee Gdns	Parish Council	Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk	01580 882066

YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY...

An exciting project to offer our younger residents 'a voice' in local matters, particularly the Neighbourhood Plan, is to run from September, thanks to a grant from SPARK. Local youth worker, Hilary Watkins has put together a varied programme of writing, music and workshops to encourage and enthuse our 13-16 year olds to use their 'Uth Voice' to express their views and ideas. The only bid to win full funding, this offers our young people a great opportunity to 'get involved' and get their message heard, alongside those of adult residents, during the forthcoming consultations.

A BIG THANK YOU...

To former Chairman of the Parish Council David Allen for many years of producing and distributing the PC Newsletter, including the last four years when he kindly continued even after standing down from the Council. David has decided to hang up his editorial hat now, and we wish him well in his 'retirement' from this task.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN update...

In the last Parish Council Newsletter you read about the exciting plans the Parish Council had to create our own Neighbourhood Plan; to have a shared vision for the future of our community, to have a say about where new homes should be built, what type they would be and what they would look like, to safeguard our treasured assets and green spaces, and to influence all types of development within our parish.

At the first public event, in the Youth Centre on 10th January, many of you turned up to hear from experts what our own Neighbourhood Plan could do for us. The big consultation process, so essential to the production of a sound Plan, started there with people's ideas going onto the big maps we had set out. Several people said they were willing to help in the task of driving the Plan forward, and they were contacted and have now met several times under the auspices of the Parish Council to start the process. We now have Terms of Reference, which are

essential to show good governance and Stephen Hardy was elected to chair the Steering Group.

From the 10th January event it was clear that several themes emerged from all the public comments. The Steering Group decided to divide up the work into these strands, a course followed by most of the thousand-plus parishes in England who have done or are doing their own Neighbourhood Plans. Our themes, together with their leaders are listed in the table below.

If you would like to get involved and one of these areas particularly interests you, please get in touch with the leader, who will be very glad to hear from you.

The formal application to RDC to designate the parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area is now in the 6-week consultation period. See Rother District Council's website www.rother.gov.uk.

Our stall at the Annual Village Meeting in March gathered further ideas from the community about making the village better - parking problems, especially, were a concern.

Please look out for the major questionnaire we will be circulating to every household in the next month or two, which we really want you all to fill in. The more information we get, the more views we have, the better will we be able to plan for the future.

If you belong to an organisation in the village and want to know how the Plan will affect your group or how you can influence the Plan, please get in touch as someone from the Steering Group will be only too happy to come and talk to your group. Please contact Sheila who is looking after all admin matters.

Finally, look out for anything with the magic words Neighbourhood Plan on them. Remember it is your opportunity to shape the future of our amazing village.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP CONTACTS

Housing	Dale Allen	880664	dale@elementalarchitecture.co.uk
Economy & Tourism	Stephen Hardy	881309	stephen@stephenhardy.org.uk
Education	Nick Greenfield	880998	chairman@salehurst-pc.org.uk
Environment	Peter Davies	881258	pcdavies77@btinternet.com
Leisure	Xand Church	881179	wanderingchurch@yahoo.co.uk
Infrastructure	Sean O'Hara	881234	sean.ohara@salehurst-pc.org.uk
Admin/Secretarial support	Sheila Brazier	880740	brianandsheilab@googlemail.com



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

www.salehurst-pc.org.uk
www.robertsbridge-pc.org.uk

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

01580 882066
email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk

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

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

Tuesday	2:00 to 4:00pm
Thursday	2:00 to 4:00pm

Parish Councillors	Tel:
CLlr Nick Greenfield (Chair) nick.greenfield@salehurst-pc.org.uk	880998
CLlr Sean O'Hara (Vice-Chair) sean.ohara@salehurst-pc.org.uk	881234
CLlr Ruth Augarde ruth.augarde@salehurst-pc.org.uk	860149
CLlr Neil Barden neil.barden@salehurst-pc.org.uk	880457
CLlr Nigel Lockwood nigel.lockwood@salehurst-pc.org.uk	882204
CLlr Keith Marden keith.marden@salehurst-pc.org.uk	880534
CLlr Dicky Clymo dicky.clymo@salehurst-pc.org.uk	881563
CLlr Gillian Smith gillian.smith@salehurst-pc.org.uk	880810
CLlr Anne Wells anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk	880832
East Sussex County Councillor CLlr Angharad Davies cllr.angharad.davies@eastsussex.gov.uk	831969
Rother District Councillors CLlr Graham Browne cllr.graham.browne@rother.gov.uk	860118
CLlr Susan Prochak cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk	881309
Rother District Council:	www.rother.gov.uk

TREES, HEDGES & HIGHWAYS

Overgrown trees, hedges and vegetation can cause problems for people using highways and footpaths, especially if they suffer from impaired vision or need a little more space for wheelchairs, mobility scooters or buggies.

A tree is the responsibility of whoever *controls the land* on which the tree is growing - occasionally this is an agent or tenant. That person has a legal responsibility to ensure their tree(s) cause no harm to highways users. If overhanging a road, there must be at least 5.2 m clearance above the road, or 2.4 m for a footpath.

The Highways Authority can (under The Highways Act 1980) serve you a notice giving you 14 days in which to cut back vegetation causing a nuisance, and if this is ignored, they have the right to deal with it and reclaim the cost from you! No-one wants it to come to this, so please keep on top of maintaining *any* vegetation (including hedges and shrubs) at the edges of your property.

If a tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or growing in a Conservation Area, you must consult Rother District Council before cutting it back.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP PUBLICATIONS

Following the disbanding of this group, the Parish Council has taken over responsibility for the "Who Lived Here" series, to ensure they remain available. We aim to eventually make them downloadable, but for now softback copies are available from The Floral Boutique and the Parish Office. Prices for "Who Lived in..." vary from £13.50 to £16.50, and there are also cheaper 'Notebooks' - please enquire for details.



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Did you know that the Citizens Advice Bureau offer free advice sessions in Robertsbridge Hall on the last Friday of the month, between 10.00am and 12 noon. You can have a short introductory interview to help establish how you can be best advised on your legal, money and other problems.

SUPPORT ST. MARY'S

If you would like to see St. Mary the Virgin in Salehurst thrive and the parish to have its own vicar again, then please consider helping; the cost to have our own vicar, including salary and housing, has to be *entirely* funded locally, from collection plates and donations – which currently fall a long way short. The local Church Council will be writing to everyone in the parish, so look out for this, and please do what you can if our lovely church is important to you.

