

MISCELLANY

Having been through a period when we are constantly told how many days or shopping days (is there a difference?) there are to Christmas, I would like to point out that there are now only seventeen months to the next Parish Council election. I recognise that I am now past my "sell by date" and will certainly be past my "use by date" by May 2015. Thus I will not be standing for election again; I believe there are also likely to be several other Councillors who will decide not to stand again. For an election to be held, we need at least twelve candidates. If you think you may be able to contribute to the success of the Parish and Village as a Councillor, please stand for election. If you think you know somebody else who could, please persuade them to stand. Remember that it takes all types to run a successful Council. A mix of people with widely differing skills and experience can contribute far more than a group with similar backgrounds. We will remind you all again nearer the time.

By the time you read this newsletter, the new Lewes bus stop and path on The Green should be in service. This will make walking to and from the bus far safer. In the interest of limiting the clutter, or "street furniture" on The Green, we had hoped to have a reduced height bus stop post without the usual "flag" on it. Unfortunately, government policy has intervened and dictated the use of standard bus stop posts. At least this will mean that visitors and newcomers will be able to see clearly where the stop is. It may even generate increased use of the bus and perhaps a better bus service will result eventually. Or is that excessively wishful thinking?

Newick is doing well in the recycling stakes. At present we stand to take a good share of the £40,000 Zero Hero Community prize fund put up by Lewes District Council. The areas that send the most for recycling and reduce their "black bag waste" the most, will take the largest share of this fund. The proceeds will pay for improvements in the local environment. Please keep up the good work and help ensure that we stay in the lead in this competition.

On behalf of the entire Council, may I wish you all a good Christmas and New Year.

Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman

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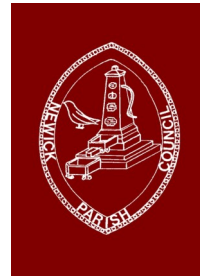
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Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Winter 2013



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

We have, at last, got into action using the equipment which we share with Chailey Parish. There is a need for more personnel to do justice to the opportunities which are available when it is our turn*. At present we have only one police approved site but others have been requested and we hope to cover Allington Road as well as a further site on the A272 as soon as the wheels of the approving routine grind into action.

The dangers of the A272 have surely been emphasised by the two accidents, one tragically fatal, in recent weeks. Speaking personally, the prime aim of Speed Watch is to draw drivers' attention to the fact that the residents of Newick do not appreciate people speeding through their village. Meanwhile, recording the speeds of the more serious offenders is a satisfactory result.

Cllr. Ross Houghton, for the Speed Watch Team

* If you would like to join the Speed Watch Team please contact PCSO Steve Knowles on 07787685708 or steven.knowles@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Full training will be given at your convenience.

OPERATION CRACKDOWN

Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative run by the Safer Sussex Roads Partnership and Sussex Police, and gives members of the community an opportunity to report specific instances of antisocial driving that they have witnessed.

An officer from Operation Crackdown will be coming to Newick next April to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting. However, in the meantime, if you witness an incident of antisocial driving (this can include speeding by individuals, a driver using a mobile phone at the wheel, a driver not wearing a seatbelt, and careless or aggressive driving), you can report this and it will be followed up. Incidents can be reported either on the dedicated website www.operationcrackdown.org, or by phoning 01243 642222 during office hours.

Please note that Operation Crackdown should not be used for emergency situations such as obvious drink-driving—these should be reported via the 999 emergency number.

Sue Berry, Clerk to the Parish Council

Newick Now to 2030

Newick's Neighbourhood Plan

For a number of reasons, work on the Neighbourhood Plan over the last couple of months has been somewhat slower than we had hoped. However, work is still progressing and the Steering Group intends to work very hard on the draft Neighbourhood Plan over the next two months. By the time of the next Parish Council newsletter, we expect to be encouraging you to take part in the consultation exercise on the draft Plan. A report on our Sustainability Analysis will be published at the same time as the draft Plan.

The Parish Council had a pleasing response to its November newsletter, the one that was dedicated solely to Neighbourhood Plan matters. Only one letter expressing dissatisfaction with that newsletter was received, alongside seven expressing support plus several verbal expressions of support. This suggests that the majority of residents continue to support the way the Neighbourhood Plan is being developed. It is noticeable that much of the strongest support comes from those who have lived in Newick the longest.

Cllr. John Lucas on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

NEWICK FESTIVAL 2014

Following the success of the Jubilee Celebrations of June 2012 it has been proposed to do something along similar lines for 2014.

The Jubilee Weekend was such a lovely 'Village Event' we would like to try and achieve that again with lots of support from everyone.

All Clubs and Societies were invited to a meeting in October where lots of ideas were shared and a plan came together.

The weekend that has been chosen is **27th, 28th, 29th June 2014** and the over-arching idea is for a Festival of themed activities to include the 'ARTS' and 'SPORT'.

Sporting events, garden openings, music, drama and dance events, art installations, a Summer Ball, three pub challenge and a BIG PICNIC are just some of the activities to be enjoyed!

Please put the date in your diaries and keep the weekend free to come along and enjoy the FUN!

Cllr. Jenny Smerdon, Chairman of the Festival Steering Group

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

I just wanted to begin by suggesting again that people add their email address to the Newick NHW list. You will not be bombarded by advertising or be asked to do anything, it is there purely and simply to inform you of any crimes committed in the village or surrounding area. Such information can warn people, perhaps encourage them to take extra precautions or even, as has happened in the past, enable people to pass on any suspicious activity they have witnessed. It has also helped to reunite people with lost pets! Occasionally I receive helpful advice or information from Lewes Police, which I then pass on to street co-ordinators who forward it to their residents.

So, if you would like to join the "Newick Wide Web", email me and I will pass your details on to your street co-ordinator (nearly every road has one). They will then pass on messages to you, that's it.

We had a few incidents of phantom door knocking ('knock down ginger'), in Allington Road in the autumn - when people opened their door there was no-one there. At the end of November, Sally Anne Reed our P.C.S.O. caught a young lad in the act. She took him to the house to apologise and then took him home. He and his friends have been spoken to and their parents have been made aware.

Again in Allington Road in November someone had their solar garden lights stolen and the petrol pipe in their car cut - Police have been informed.

If you want to get in touch to discuss adding your email address to the residents list, contact me on 01825 724478 or email jcsheppard3@btinternet.com. The more contacts we have the more chance we have of preventing crime.

Cllr. Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The Parish Council has received a request from a local landowner to remind members of the public, and dog walkers in particular, that they should stick to the public rights of way when they are out walking in the countryside around Newick.

We are fortunate in this area to have a wealth of public footpaths and bridleways on which to walk, however, just because there is a public footpath running across a field it does not mean that you are entitled to walk anywhere in the field. If you leave the designated footpath or bridleway you are trespassing on somebody else's land and could well be causing problems for the landowner or nearby residents.

Thanks to local volunteers, the public rights of way around Newick are well maintained and well signposted, but if you are unsure about where you are allowed to walk please check on an Ordnance Survey map. In addition, the Parish Council has produced a booklet which gives more information about footpaths in the Parish. This is currently being updated but copies are still available from the Post Office or from the Parish Clerk.

Sue Berry, Clerk to the Parish Council

