

MISCELLANY

Producing the draft Neighbourhood Plan has proved to be more arduous than expected. As a result its recent publication is about eight months later than initially predicted. I hope that the considerable care taken to make it reflect the needs and views of the majority of Newick's residents has been worthwhile. Please show your support both now and at the referendum.

The new path installed by East Sussex County Council on the Village Green has caused some controversy. Many residents have expressed their thanks for the path, but a local society has said it should be removed or at least partially removed, and any remaining section should have its paving slabs and kerbstones replaced with more costly bricks and granite, as these would be more in keeping for a conservation area. The future of the short section of path linking the main path to the older narrow path along the other side of that section of the Green will be reconsidered at some point in the future, but there is no intention to modify the main path. Its presence and its kerbing has stopped the erosion of the Green that was being caused by buses and lorries; it provides a safe route to the bus stop; and its paving slabs and kerbstones will mellow with age. The same society also objected to having a bus stop sign, but if we want to keep our bus services we have to conform to 21st century practice.

The Council has agreed in principle to a request from the British Legion for permission to erect a memorial stone on the Village Green for all of those who died in the two World Wars and other conflicts. The possibility of planting a tree for each Newick resident who died in the two wars is also being investigated and has the Parish Council's approval in principle.

The doctors of the Mid-Downs Medical Practice, which includes Newick Health Centre, read the Village Society's latest newsletter and its attack on their proposal to open a dispensary at their South Chailey surgery, and assumed from its references to the Parish Council that the newsletter had been produced jointly by the Parish Council and the Village Society. Immediately the Parish Council received the doctors' written objections to the attack,

the Parish Clerk advised them that the Parish Council had no involvement in the newsletter or advanced knowledge of it. In the meantime, however, some of you may have picked up one of the copies of the doctors' letter of objection to the Parish Council, as these were made freely available in the surgeries. Please accept my assurance that the newsletter was as much a surprise to Councillors as it was to our doctors.

Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman

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Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2014



NEWICK VILLAGE FESTIVAL 27TH TO 29TH JUNE 2014

Preparations for the Festival are well under way and lots of individuals, clubs, societies and businesses are embracing the ideas. Young people from the school, pre-school and toddlers are getting involved and it is hoped that lots of you will come along and have fun. We are still refining the programme and will keep you updated, but here is what is planned so far, with lots more to come.

Friday 27th June

- ◆ Members of **Newick Rootz** are organising a walk for the school children during the day, and arrangements are being made to include children from pre-school and toddlers in an adapted walk, perhaps during the week before the festival.
- ◆ **Family Evening at King George V Playing Field.** Details of this event will be included in the next update.

Saturday 28th June Family Day

- ◆ **Local Sports Clubs** will be hosting activities throughout the morning and the Sports Pavilion will be open for refreshments
- ◆ **Newick Tennis Club** will be having an open morning
- ◆ During the afternoon the **Village Green** will host lots of fun activities starting with a **Big Picnic** and finishing with a **Mad Hatter's Tea Party.** During the afternoon there will be numerous activities including arts & crafts, story telling, games, maypole dancing and a chance to make a hat and parade it before sitting down to tea.
- ◆ **Summer Ball** hosted by **Newick Bonfire Society** at the Village Hall in the evening. Tickets go on sale in April.

Sunday 29th June Garden and Art Trail

- ◆ Eight gardens will be open for the trail and some of them will have art installations or exhibitions to view. **Ketches Gardens** will be open for fizz and strawberries and St Mary's Church and Barn Centre will be exhibiting art and providing teas. Details of the trail will be available soon.

This promises to be a fun community event, so **please put the weekend in your diary, there will be something for everyone to enjoy**

Cllr. Jenny Smerdon, Chairman of the Festival Organising Committee

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Newick Now to 2030

Draft Neighbourhood Plan now available to view on website

The draft Neighbourhood Plan and the accompanying report on Sustainability Appraisal and Development Site Selection have now been published on the community website www.newick.net. The public consultation period on these documents will run to 16th May. As you will see from the flyer enclosed with this newsletter, in addition to looking at the documents on line, there will be several opportunities for you to inspect paper copies and discuss the Plan with Councillors at consultation events, or you can borrow copies from Linda Farmer. A consultation form is available on the website and paper copies will be available at the consultation events and from Linda Farmer. Please indicate whether or not you approve the policies of the draft Plan and add comments if you wish. We are expecting widespread approval of the draft Plan, because its policies reflect the views of the majority of those residents who attended our two earlier public Consultation Days and completed our Parish Questionnaire.

If we fail to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Newick or if it fails to get sufficient support at the referendum, which is now expected to be held towards the end of this year, there will be no local influence over where Newick's new housing is located or the type, size or appearance of the homes. It is also possible that if there is no Neighbourhood Plan, the Planning Inspectorate would be more likely to insist on the number of new homes in Newick being far greater than the 100 proposed at present. This is because the total of 4,500 new homes proposed by Lewes District Council across the whole district is less than half the predicted demand and hence less than half the number required by government policy.

Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

SPEED WATCH UPDATE

At last we have two speed check sites on Allington Road and several new volunteers have been recruited to join the speed watch team. *Cllr. Ross Houghton*

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

It has been reported by PCSO Sally-Ann Reed that some residents have taken to parking on the pavements around the village, particularly in Allington Road and Church Road. This is causing problems for those people using mobility scooters or buggies who are being forced into the road in order to get past the vehicles. Grass verges are also being damaged. Please ensure that you consider other residents when you park your car.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Recorded crime in Newick was slightly up in January - 1 vehicle crime, 1 burglary, 2 crimes of violence and 1 'other'. Despite this, Newick is regarded by the police as a low crime area.



At a NHW meeting at Lewes police station last month I was given a copy of the "Little Book of Big Scams" which explains many of the ways the public can be tricked into handing over money or personal information. I was given enough copies to enable me to deliver one to every street co-ordinator. Copies of the booklet are also available on the Sussex Police website (www.sussex.police.uk).

I'm hoping to update the NHW page on the Newick parish website. I have checked with all the street co-ordinators to see if they are happy to have their name, email and the area they cover on the website and, if I can get to grips with the technicalities, I hope to keep it updated.

Since my last update 14 people have asked to be added to the NHW email list. Please let me know if you would like to be on it and I will contact the relevant street co-ordinator.

While on the subject, we still need co-ordinators for Harmers Hill and Jackies Lane and for 2 – 38 Western Road and Acer Lands. If you are feeling public spirited do let me know.

Cllr. Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

NEWICK SKATE PARK

The Parish Council has recently received comments about the behaviour of some of those who use the skate park at the recreation ground. Complaints have been made about the use of foul and abusive language and about the skate park being used after dark by youngsters wearing head torches. It is recognised that the skate park is a well used and much valued facility which has proved to be extremely popular, and members of the Parish Council Playing Fields Committee would like to get together with skate park users (and their parents) to talk about some of the problems and to get ideas as to how the skate park can be improved in the future. Please contact the Clerk (01825 722135 or newickpc@newick.net) if you would like to be involved.

Cllr. Chris Armitage, Chairman of Playing Fields Committee

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Parish Council precept for 2014/15 in the recently delivered Council Tax Demand Notice remains the same as for 2011/12. During that time, costs have continued to rise but the Council has been determined to get best value out of its limited resources. The Budget for 2014/15 can be viewed on our website but in essence, the Council's £59,500 income is planned to be spent as follows: Admin incl. wages & insurance 44%; Maintenance, Mowing & Environment 29%; Village Hall loan repayment 8%; Grants 5%; Projects, Events & Neighbourhood Plan 6%; Other 8%.

Cllr. Chris Jago, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee