

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

December 2008 Newsletter

Chairman
Mr. A. R. Peters, MBE
Plashett Park Farm,
Ringmer BN8 5SJ

Published by Ringmer Parish Council
Clerk to the Council: Mr. C. Elphick (as from 1 January 2009)
Parish Council Office, Village Hall
Lewes Road, Ringmer, BN8 5QH
Tel: Ringmer (01273) 813242 + Ansaphone + Fax. email: clerk@ringmerparishcouncil.fsnet.co.uk
Website: www.ringmerparishcouncil.org.uk

Appointment of New Clerk

The Council has appointed Chris Elphick, pictured below, as its new Clerk from 1 January 2009. Chris has already taken up post and will work alongside Nick Hall until Christmas when Nick retires. A resident of Cross-in-Hand, Chris has extensive local government experience having worked for many years as a senior planner with Wealden District Council. Over the coming weeks if anyone would like to drop in and introduce themselves Chris would be very pleased to see them.



Quality Council Status Achieved

It has recently been confirmed that the Council has been awarded Quality Parish Council status. Essentially this is formal recognition of the standards the Council has achieved across a range of aspects including: how well it represents its community; the services it provides; its management; the qualifications of its staff; and its communications with residents. The award reflects the work of both councillors and officers and that of Edwina Morris who voluntarily maintains the Council's website. The award means that the Council is well placed to take advantage of any new powers granted by the government that are restricted to councils with quality accreditation. It may also offer future opportunities to work in collaboration with the District and County Councils on aspects of the delivery of local services.

New Footpath to the Downs Proposed

Thanks to an imaginative proposal by Ian Loughborough, and its ready acceptance by Gus Christie of Glyndebourne, considerable progress is being made towards the establishment of a new licensed footpath up to the Downs. This would start from New Road, just south of its junction with Gote Lane, and follow the track past Little Heaven, before coming out at the top of the Downs by Saxon Cross and joining the existing public footpath that goes to Lewes. To meet safety concerns during the shooting season on the Glyndebourne Estate the path would be closed for up to 30 days a year and this would be signposted. The South Downs Joint Committee will be responsible for establishing the path and its signing. The Council have welcomed this addition to the existing footpath network which will provide scope for enhanced walking taking in the downland above the village.

Walkers may also be pleased to note that following a request from the Council the South Downs Joint Committee has improved footpath 23, from Springett Avenue to the Mill Post, where it passes the copse on the hill. They have widened the path and installed additional steps which should make the path safer and complement the recent work undertaken to install kissing gates. There is now a very pleasant and accessible circular walk taking in Potato Lane, footpath 21a to the Mill Post via Keepers Cottage, and back to Springett Avenue via footpath 23.

Ringmer to Lewes Cycleway

The Council has been concerned at the lack of progress and information concerning the proposed cycleway. Arising from this it arranged a meeting with officers from the County Council to establish if they remained committed to the development and gain an insight into their plans. The meeting was very useful and the main points to emerge were that the County Council remains committed to the cycleway and will press ahead with a design for the complete route with the intention of building at least one stage by December 2010. Proposals for a related bus corridor to speed up the passage of buses at Earwig Corner have been dropped, as this would not have been cost effective, and this in turn has simplified issues relating to the cycleway.

The main difficulties related to the Lewes end of the route and plans to establish a temporary route through the nature

reserve have been shelved on cost grounds. The design stage will seek solutions and address the knotty problems presented by Earwig Corner and any possible alternative route taking in Mill Road at Lewes. The County Council have undertaken to keep the Parish Council fully informed throughout the remainder of the project. The important point is that the project has not been shelved and positive steps are being taken to bring it to completion.

Drainage of the Village Pond

This has now been completed with a new drain being installed to take overflow water from the pond which in turn empties into the ditch at the top of the Green. So far, despite the heavy rainfall, it has stopped a repeat of last year when the pond overflowed onto the Green. Hopefully by next Spring the line of the drain will have grassed over completely.

Support for Carers of People with Dementia

In the Autumn Council received a presentation from Vicky Hill of the Alzheimer's Society about support that was now available in the district for the carers of people with dementia. If you are interested in finding out more please contact:

Vicky Hill, Outreach Worker, telephone 0787 267 5161 or email LewesVillagesOutreach@alzheimers.org.uk OR Kathy Fordham, Development Officer, Action in Rural Sussex, telephone 01273 405880 or email kathy.fordham@ruralsussex.org.uk

Safeguarding High Value and Easily Lost or Stolen Items

The Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership is launching an 'Immobilise' project to encourage people to register and record their high value items such as mobile phones, iPods, cycles, laptops etc that are easily lost or stolen. Anything with

RINGMER'S CURRENT COUNCILLORS

PARISH COUNCILLORS: Chairman : Mr. A. R. Peters - Plashett Park Farm

Vice-Chairman & Chairman of Planning Committee: Dr. J. E. Kay - "Fair Meadow", Rushey Green.

Chairman of General Purposes Committee: Mr. P. Longhurst – Dart Cottage, The Elms

Chairman of Greens Committee: Mr R. Wilcox – 5 Gote Lane

Mrs E Pitts – Chanctonbury, Broyle Lane

Mr. R.B. Truman – 1 Cheyney Cottages, Lewes Road

Mr. A. J. Grindley - 25 Springett Avenue.

Ms. P. Lewis – 3 East View Cottages, Harrisons Lane

Mrs. V. C. Humphrey - 26 Oakmede Way.

Mr. K. White – Celandines, Bishops Lane.

Mrs. J. Fordham – 53 Broyleside Cottages, Broyle Lane

Mrs. J. Woollons – 36 Christie Avenue.

Mr I Wilson – Dorian, Rushey Green

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Mr C A Bowers, Mr P Gander, Mr P Gardiner;

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Mrs R St. Pierre

COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Full Council and Planning Meetings are held respectively on the second and fourth Thursdays of most months at 7.30 p.m. in the St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall and Committee Meetings on some other Thursdays. The Clerk can provide full details.

Council Office: please note that the Office is open to members of the public from 10am – 12 noon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

a serial number can be registered via a website. For further information and to register go to www.immobilise.com . Registration will help the police to trace the legitimate owners of property that they recover.

Cuilfail Tunnel, Lewes

Notification had been received from the County Council that the tunnel will be the subject of temporary overnight closures from 20:00 hours to 06:00 hours Monday to Friday from the evening of Monday 5 January until Monday 6 July. Diversions will be put in place. The closure is needed to undertake essential tunnel refurbishment works.

Floodlighting of the War Memorial

It may have been noticed that sadly this year we were unable to light up the war memorial in the weeks either side of Remembrance Sunday. This was due to a fault with the electricity supply cable that only became apparent at a late stage; too late to get it repaired in time. This was a great shame as the memorial had been cleaned in preparation. Once again the act of remembrance at the memorial was well attended despite the weather and the police action in stopping the traffic was much appreciated. Needless to say the cable will be repaired in time for next year!

Parish Council Office – Christmas Closure

Please note that the office will be closed from Wednesday 24 December and will re-open on Friday 2 January.