

# RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

## July 2009 Newsletter

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

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**CONSULTATIONS – This issue contains a consultation about street lighting, and some residents may also wish to send representations to support further moves towards achieving provision of a pedestrian crossing to serve the College and Primary School.**

### **Village of the Year Competition**

Given the impressively wide range of activities organised within our community, the Parish Council decided to enter the village in this county-wide competition. It was short listed and on St Georges Day, while the Hall was festooned with flags made by the brownies, the judges visited and met with 22 representatives of various village groups, and inspected local facilities. We are now pleased to report that we have been voted Village of the Year Runner Up for 2009 – this is a reflection of all the hard work and participation put in by such a large number of local residents.

### **Swine Flu**

In line with national guidance, 2 antiviral collection points (ACPs) have so far been opened in East Sussex, at Michael Hillman Centre, Lewes Victoria Hospital and at the Chapel training centre at Bexhill Hospital. They are open 9am – 5pm every day including weekends. More information is available on the general information line 0800 1513513 and on local website [www.eastsussexdownswealdpct.nhs.uk](http://www.eastsussexdownswealdpct.nhs.uk). We'll also keep the above Council website updated.

To avoid the spread of swine flu, those with symptoms should **not** go to their GP surgery, hospital or an ACP. Instead they should contact their GP by phone for diagnosis and get a 'flu friend' (a healthy relative, friend or neighbour) to collect their 'letter of request' from the surgery and to then obtain their antiviral medication for them at an ACP. (So far, no arrangements have been made for collection to be alternatively made at the local pharmacy Lloyds but there is a possibility that it and/or others might become designated for this purpose – the surgery should be able to advise if this happens.)

### **Street Lighting**

The Parish Council believes that street lighting could be extinguished or dimmed in the quieter hours of say 12 to 6, except where necessary for highway safety reasons, in order to save energy and also cost. East Sussex County Council, which is responsible for lighting of the public highway, is prepared to consider this, but would first like to know what residents think of the idea. Please send your views, &

including your name & address, by letter or email to the Parish Office to arrive by 7 August.

### **Pedestrian Crossing**

The Parish Council commissioned a speed survey which was held in April and showed that average traffic speeds through the village have reduced. ESCC is being asked whether the criteria are now met for a crossing to serve the primary school and college to now be provided, and if so what type, although this location is not currently high on its priority list. Two petitions have already been raised to press for a crossing but if anyone else wishes to make representations, they should be submitted via the Parish Office to arrive if possible by mid September.

### **Landshare initiative**

Given that there is a waiting list for allotments in the area and following the examples and information provided by the River Cottage TV programme, it is proposed to facilitate the linking of those having some surplus land, or gardens that they are perhaps having trouble keeping under control, with others who would like to be able to grow their own produce – perhaps in return for a share of the harvest. If interested for either reason, please contact the Clerk. More information is available at [www.landshare.channel4.com](http://www.landshare.channel4.com) which contains details of how it works, sample agreements etc.

### **Village Maintenance Teams**

ESCC has been given a long list of jobs that have been identified for attention around the village, including repairs to verges and kerbs, uneven paths, overhanging trees and hedges, cleaning road signs, and ditch clearance. Further matters can be reported on a rolling basis by contacting the Clerk, or the local ESCC office directly on 0845 6080193.

### **Litter pickers**

One kind gentleman from Gote Lane has been litter picking in his part of the village and if anyone else is willing to volunteer, the Parish Council will be happy to lend the necessary equipment to make the job easier. Of course, if people stopped littering there wouldn't be this problem. Council has to use some of its resources providing for extra litter bins and their emptying, and it is a pity that the benefits from these efforts are diminished by the thoughtlessness of a minority.

## **Dog fouling**

Unfortunately this is also a continuing problem, despite signage, the cost of providing dog bins and having them emptied, and education of the public to advise of the health hazards posed by dog litter. Please... picking up dog's litter, & then putting it in a red dog bin or taking it home, are responsibilities that people must take on when they are lucky enough to have a dog and take it to public areas, and the vast majority of people readily accept this. Dog litter bags and pooper scoopers are available at Creature Comforts and complementary bags are provided if you're visiting the vets, so there's no excuse not to do the right thing. The PCSOs and Dog Wardens have been asked to act against persistent offenders – there is a maximum penalty of £1000 for this offence if caught not cleaning up.

## **Financial Matters**

The Annual Return and Accounts for the Parish Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2009 for the Parish Council were discussed and approved at the June meeting. The income for the year was £83,062 and expenditure £94,871, including £10,951 agreed to be funded from reserves. This included £7,177 for the new Vehicle Activated signs installed on the Lewes Road.

The next stage in the process is for the Annual Return to be submitted to the external auditors (Mazars) for their certificate and opinion. The auditor providing this certificate has been appointed by the Audit Commission to undertake this task. The formal date for the audit is 17 August and ahead of that electors of Ringmer have the opportunity to inspect the Annual Return detail by appointment with the Finance Officer. The period for the exercise of electors' rights will be 20 July 2009 to 14 August 2009. A notice with further details and a copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts appears on the Parish Council's main noticeboard.

## **Continuing progress....**

...ESCC is firming up its proposals for the Ringmer-Lewes cycleway and is intending to construct the eastern section first, on the south side of Lewes Road between New Road

and as far as opposite the sub-station entrance. The rest of the route linking to A26 is still under design but the Parish Council is stressing that it needs to be a safe facility that people will make full use of and is concerned at the prospect of cyclists and others having to cross Lewes Road on a faster section, considering that it would be preferable to improve the path on the north side for this purpose.

...A new permissive footpath between New Road and Saxon Cross has been held up at the legal documentation stage but the parties are still optimistic that it will be opened up.

...Similarly there have been delays over the Potato Lane affordable housing scheme but the planning application should be submitted shortly.

...Following a public meeting brokered by the Parish Council, progress is being made towards finalising long outstanding issues and problems at The Forges and a residents association is soon likely to be formed.

...The limited period parking at the shops is working well and providing more assured parking for those who need it most.

The Parish Council is supportive of the provision of extra parking to specifically serve the new Surgery in Anchor Field, for which it would be willing to donate part of the land it presently leases- this would free up more general parking in the area.

...Discussion is continuing about solutions to the difficulties encountered with on-street parking at the southern end of Broyle Lane near the junctions with Broyleside and Elphick Road.

...Prompted by recent fatal motor accidents on The Broyle, a large number of the residents and businesses fronting the road wrote to ESCC and Sussex Police, asking that improvements be made as a matter of urgency, and these were supported by a submission by the Parish Council and letter from our MP Norman Baker. ESCC has responded that it will re-assess signage in this location and will conduct a speed survey, but argued that a requested lower speed limit would be counter-productive and that extension of the double white lines could not be justified.

## **RINGMER'S CURRENT COUNCILLORS**

PARISH COUNCILLORS: Chairman: Mr. A. R. Peters, MBE - 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

Mr. R.B. Truman – 1 Cheyney Cottages, Lewes Road. Mr. A. J. Grindley - 25 Springett Avenue. 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 Committee 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:** This is almost invariably open to members of the public from 10am – 12 noon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On other weekday mornings there is usually someone available to receive your telephone call or email.

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