

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

October 2009 Newsletter

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

Published by **Ringmer Parish Council**

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CONSULTATIONS:

Comments are invited from dog owners as to where **dog bins** are most needed. Some of the existing ones are due for replacement and this is an expensive exercise – we need to be sure that the limited numbers that we can afford are in the right places. Regular emptying is also costly and we are conscious that the bill for this facility is met by the whole community, not just by those with dogs! And we can't put bins everywhere so please, make the small effort of taking your doggie bags home if you don't find a bin just when you'd like to see one nearby.

ESCC is consulting over its **Waste and Minerals Strategy** up until 2 December and there will be a public exhibition on Fri 6 November from 10am-8pm in Lewes Town Hall.

Ringmer-Lewes Cycleway

The County Council's proposals for the eastern part of the route were reported in the last Newsletter, but some residents have expressed concern at what they regard as a limited amount of consultation allowed over the matter. We have therefore decided to arrange a **public meeting** to enable further discussion and views to be aired. This will be held in the Village Hall at 8.30pm on 26 November (following on from the standard part of the Planning Committee meeting which starts at 7.30) and will be attended by representatives of ESCC including local County Councillor Mrs St Pierre.

Co-option of new Councillors

The Council has been sorry to see the resignation of 3 councillors in recent months- Pauline Lewis, Philip (Loft) Longhurst and Eileen Pitts – who have all provided valuable service to the community. We are pleased to report that 5 candidates have come forward to replace them and the new councillors will be chosen from these at the November Council Meeting.

Drinking of Alcohol in Public Places

The proposed designation order to prohibit the drinking of alcohol in public places i.e. much of Ringmer's built up area, has now been subject of consultation and will be considered by Lewes District Council in December, and so hopefully should be taking effect imminently.

Proposed Village Hall extension

Many residents will have seen the model of these proposals in the village hall and the necessary planning application is currently under consideration. If approved and implemented, facilities for the disabled would be improved by the addition

of a new toilet and chair lift between the two halls. It is also planned that the St Mary's meeting room would be modified to provide a better meeting space for groups of up to 30 and to accommodate a new Parish Office. The present library would be converted to a storeroom where much of the equipment currently in the main hall, e.g. the big chair racks, could be stored. And a new library would be created, larger in size to the present, and would provide an enhanced service utilising the latest information technology. The Hall's Trustees accept that the plans are ambitious but believe that they are necessary and that they will be achievable with the support of the whole community.

Street Lighting

Subject to funding availability, ESCC has indicated that it intends to modify its equipment in response to the Parish Council's request that street lights be generally dimmed in the quieter hours, which should save money and energy.

Twinning Association

At its recent AGM it was reported that reciprocal visits had been made by representatives of the Ringmer and Geschwenda communities with a view to a partnership contract being signed in 2010, that a pen friend scheme has been set up for young people, and that a French partnership was also being pursued.

Ringmer Village Plan

Following overwhelmingly supportive feedback from local consultation, Council has formally adopted a Housing Strategy for Ringmer as part of the Village Plan (which can be seen on the website above) to accompany the Employment policy and is now proceeding with work on a strategy for the provision of Leisure Facilities. The Parish Council will need to be kept updated please, with contact details for all the parish's sports and leisure groups.

Affordable Housing

The planning application for 4 affordable dwellings in Potato Lane to accommodate local people has been made by Hastoe Housing Association and awaits a decision. The land is being made available by Glyndebourne Estate and is an 'exception site' which means that its development would not set a precedent for speculative further development in this otherwise protected countryside location.

Reservoir at Clayhill

As South East Water's management plan proposals were not found to be sufficiently soundly based and did not explore alternative approaches (one of only 3 water companies' schemes in the country to be criticised in this way) they will now be subject of a Public Inquiry which is proposed to take place in the New Year. The Parish Council intends to take part in this and will ensure that it is appropriately represented in its opposition to the reservoir.

South Downs National Park

The boundary of the National Park has now been confirmed as far as Ringmer is concerned and details are displayed on the noticeboard and can be seen on various websites. It will be April 2011 however before the Authority is finally formed and takes on its full statutory powers and functions. Its purposes will be to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the park's special qualities by the public. National park status is said to give the highest level of planning protection.

Landshare initiative

There has been surprisingly limited feedback following the item in the last Newsletter about this alternative to using formal allotments (for which there are continuing waiting lists), which enables people to share land on which fruit and veg can be grown. However we are aware that some people have made such arrangements themselves and it would be useful to hear about their experiences.

Litter pickers

We are now lucky enough to have 2 people litter picking in their parts of the village and if anyone else is willing to volunteer, the Parish Council will be very happy to lend the necessary equipment to make the job easier. Help is particularly needed at Anchor Field and the Village Green – perhaps some anglers (who currently use the pond free of charge) could help improve things in that part of the area?

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

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. 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 or see our website.

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.

Policing and Security

Ringmer's Neighbourhood Police Team has been busy with your priorities in mind, as decided at the recently established Neighbourhood Panel. High visibility patrols have been stepped up, more fines have been issued to inconsiderate parkers and reports of anti-social drivers to Operation Crackdown have increased. Some examples: On 5 September Ringmer became the first to host a Crime Prevention Road Show, where 80 items of property were security marked and registered on a national property register free of charge. On 13 September a van was reported speeding in Moore Lane, the area was searched and the van was witnessed, by Ringmer PCSO James Armstrong, to be driving both dangerously and at speed; the male driving was a well known dangerous driver. When the vehicle was stopped the driver was found to have no insurance, tax or MOT; his vehicle was seized, and he was fined heavily and given numerous points on his licence (which DVLA will probably take away anyway). If you would like to find out more about Ringmer's priorities please visit www.lewesnp.co.uk, and to keep up to date with what your local officers are doing see their web logs on www.sussex.police.uk.

Play area improvements

The Parish Council is proposing to use some of the remaining funds that have come from developers' contributions to improve the fencing and facilities at the small play area in Broyle Lane and to repair the deteriorating safety surfaces under the play equipment at The Green and Fingerpost Field.

Broyle Lane parking

Following discussions with the Community Association and local PCSO about overparking at the southern end of Broyle Lane, it has been decided to again raise this problem at a forthcoming liaison meeting with ESCC as highway authority.