

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

BULLETIN



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SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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CELEBRATE SPRING IN SEDLSCOMBE 2010

During the dark days of winter, we look forward to spring eagerly. As last year, we will be having a "Celebrate Spring in Sedlescombe" Week from 24 April to 1 May which will include a Bluebell Walk (details to be announced in due course), the Annual Sedlescombe Parish Assembly on 27 April and the May Fayre on 1 May. The Fayre is in aid of refurbishment work to the old village pump and its shelter. The Parish Council hopes to have some appropriate exhibits on the Village Green. We have identified several examples of yokes used in the first half of the 20th century to carry water from well to homes. More items can be accommodated if you contact the Clerk.

Members of the Heritage Committee have been meeting with various contractors re the proposed pump and pumphouse refurbishment work so that a robust application can be made for grant funding the project.

- SEDLSCOMBE -

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Since the last Bulletin, Sedlescombe's Community has had two more successes in the Village of the Year Competition. Firstly, in September it was awarded the Regional Community Award and, then, in November, the icing on the cake was the announcement that Sedlescombe was the National Community Champion. This is a just reward for all those who work so hard to make Sedlescombe such a good place in which to live. Many congratulations to all. Sedlescombe's share of the total prize money for the Competition was £1,300.

PESTALOZZI PUBLIC MEETING

Virtually all the Pestalozzi students were in the Village Hall on 13th November when a public meeting was held to give Sedlescombe residents an opportunity to meet the students and to hear about this important local Charity's plans for the coming year.

Mr Paul Evans, the Chief Executive, explained that the Charity has been split into three parts. The core Charity is looking after thirty 16-18 year old overseas students who are doing the testing International Baccalaureate at Hastings College before going on to universities across the world. There is also the Educational Outreach Project and the Estate which is made up of the buildings, all rather ancient now, and 160 acres of surrounding land. The Pestalozzi Charity's accounts have shown substantial deficits over the last two years and, therefore, it is essential that more funds are raised from the land and buildings. The plan is to open the Estate as a The Pestalozzi Country Park Estate in March of this year and to introduce footpaths, bridle paths and mountain bike trails.

In addition, events open to the public are planned for each month. Some are low key but others could affect Sedlescombe residents. An application for a premises licence to cover Films, Music, Dance and supply of alcohol at the Black Horse Folk Festival on the Estate at times between 19:00 on Friday 28/05/10 and midnight on Monday 31/05/10 was submitted to Rother Licensing before Christmas. The decision date is 16/02/10.

The re-introduction of the Speed Hill Climb is planned, hopefully to include a substantial contribution towards the repair of the access road (now called Ladybird Lane), which also leads to the Sedlescombe Sportsfield Car Park.

Although there were some objections to the planned events, Cllr Wright, Chairman of the Parish Council, suggested that Mr Evans returns to the village hall at the end of 2010 to meet residents and review the situation.

A21/B2244 JUNCTION

Since the Highways Agency made changes to the road markings earlier in 2009, there have been many complaints both to the Parish Council and direct to the Highways Agency. The main problems are for vehicles turning right off the B2244 onto the A21 when visibility can be hampered by standing traffic and the problems caused by neither right turning vehicle having an over-riding right of way.

Although, originally, the Parish Council's request for a site meeting had been refused, officers eventually met the Council's Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk at the end of November in Sedlescombe.

According to the Highways Agency, the need for the changes to the layout of the junction was highlighted when the old road markings needed to be renewed after the fatal accident in December 2006. Unfortunately, the old markings did not meet the latest standards and could not therefore be renewed in the exactly same way. The junction had to be redesigned to reflect the new standards. The Agency will continue to monitor the situation at the junction and concerns about safety will specifically be addressed in a Road Safety Audit Stage 4 in May 2010. In addition, the Agency's contractors are currently working on designs for a roundabout to be installed at the junction. The designs, together with planned lower speed limits on the A21, will be part of a bidding process for funds, the result of which will not be known until November. After that, only if the bid is successful, extensive consultations will take place. If finally approved, the roundabout must be seen as a longer-term project.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Parish Council has been supporting several local businesses who believe that some drivers on the A21 are unaware that they exist because of the lack of appropriate signs. Discussions are in progress to find a satisfactory way forward after meetings attended by representatives from the businesses, the Highways Agency, parish councillors and Greg Barker MP.

YOUTH CENTRE

As reported in the last Bulletin, the site being considered currently for some sort of youth centre is the East View Kickabout Area. A lease of the whole site has been drafted by the Council and passed to the Youth Development Service. Further details should be available by the Spring.

LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

The Parish Council is planning to work with Rother District Council in helping local residents to reduce their carbon footprints. Further information will be available in the coming months.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION B2244

Approval has been given for the reduction of the speed limit in Hawkhurst Road, Sedlescombe from 60 to 50mph.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT AND SEDLESCOMBE DIRECTORY

The Parish Council will be publishing its 2010 Annual Report and Directory in time for the Annual Parish Assembly which this year is on the Tuesday 27 April in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

As has been the custom for several years, local businesses are invited to submit adverts for inclusion in the Directory. The charge this year for a 60mm x 50mm business advert remains at a minimum of £20. This figure will include VAT which, of course, has increased from 15% to 17.5% from 01/01/10. The Council is very grateful for the generosity of local businesses whose contributions usually cover the cost of printing enough copies to distribute one to every house in the parish of Sedlescombe. There are also enough for some to be left in the shop and one to be given to each household moving into the Village during the year.

All local organisations and charities are invited to have a free entry in the Directory.

The final date for copy to reach Pauline Raymond is Wednesday 3rd February 2010. DON'T MISS OUT!

