

# SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

# BULLETIN



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## SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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### SEDLSCOMBE TO HAVE TWO VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS

In June, the Parish Council received an offer from the County Council of traffic calming measures for Sedlescombe. This came as a surprise as it had only been the previous month that the Council had been told that villages with existing 30mph speed limits and no serious accident histories would not yet be considered for traffic calming measures. However, there was a change of heart and the Parish Council welcomed the initiative to provide two permanent vehicle activated signs, 30mph repeater signs and road surface 30mph roundels. The Parish Council will not have to contribute towards the cost.

The County Council has chosen the siting for the vehicle activated signs in The Street – to the north of Suntrap Cottages and to the south of Kester House. In these positions, the signs will deliver the greatest benefits.

In addition, to the above, the Council has asked for lower speed limits in Hawkhurst Road, Church Hill, Stream Lane, Chapel Hill, Brede Lane and Crazy Lane.

### NO SMOKING IN PUBLIC INCLUDES THE BUS SHELTER

From 1 July, virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England became smokefree. For the Parish Council this means that the bus shelter is a smokefree area and notices to that effect have been pinned to the back of the shelter.

### COUNCIL APPRECIATES HELP FROM BRIDGE GARAGE

The Bridge Garage was quick to repair the initial damage caused to the gate into the Riverside playground in July. Considerable force must have been used to rip the heavy metal gate off its hinges. Unfortunately, whether by further vandalism or just wear and tear, one of the hinges broke again the next month. At the same time, the Orbiter roundabout was jumped on so heavily that the bearing broke and the wooden table was carved into, had green paint thrown over it and was burnt. The green paint culprits have been found by our Police Community Support Officer and they have been made to remove the paint. The other damage is not so easily repaired and the roundabout had to be temporarily removed. It is a shame as the playground was only refurbished last year and gives a great amount of pleasure to young children. If you see anyone causing damage in the Village, please phone 999 so that the Police can attend and catch them red-handed, or ring crimestoppers with information.

**PLEASE HELP STAMP OUT MINDLESS VANDALISM WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE COUNCIL TAX OF EACH HOUSEHOLD IN THE PARISH.**

### A NEW SPORTS PAVILION FOR SEDLSCOMBE

Since April when the Sports Association asked the Parish Council to help replace the pavilion by raising the funds, parish councillors have been working very hard.

Although there had been talk at the Parish Assembly of taking out a loan to pay for the work, the Council has now ruled this out as it would be too big a burden on the future residents of Sedlescombe. Instead several councillors are investigating funding opportunities and making applications. The project is currently estimated at £190,000 including demolition of the old pavilion, piling work, construction of a new pavilion and a small disabled parking area, closure of the access by the bridge, pitch improvements and landscaping. In addition, temporary accommodation in the form of a portacabin has been provided which is being fitted out by groundsman, David Mitchell.

An application to the Football Foundation for three quarters of the cash required is being submitted. Out of the four sports played at the field, football is the strongest with more than two hundred children between 6 and 15 playing for Sedlescombe Rangers in 13 teams and a waiting list for some age groups. The senior Football Club has two teams and, last season, had fifty members. All the teams have had some success and are enthusiastically looking forward to improved facilities at the field.

**STOP PRESS:** On 18 September, Battle Partnership agreed a £2,000 grant towards the project.

## **COUNCIL WRITES IN SUPPORT OF SEDLESCOMBE POST OFFICE**

A local resident, who himself used to be employed by the Post Office, suggested at the July Open Forum that residents might be encouraged to write in support of our Post Office. Subsequently the address to write to was put up in the shop and hopefully many people will have written as did the Parish Council. Postwatch has said that an announcement on post office closures across Sussex will be made in November. There will then be a six-week consultation period. It has been decided by the Government that objections will only be allowed on:

1. The distance to remaining post offices in the area.
2. Local factors such as the age of the population or other demographic issues.
3. Inadequacy of transport links.
4. Any effect on the local economy.

## **TERRIBLE LITTER AND DOG BIN EMPTYING**

The Parish Council apologises that the litter and dog bins have not been kept clear as they should have been this summer and sweeping of the Pumphouse and bus shelter has not been done. The litter bin emptying and street sweeping have always been done by Rother District Council's contractor but, since Verdant took over waste collection, this has been very hit and miss. Serco used to empty dog bins for the Parish Council but stopped doing so when they lost the waste collection contract with Rother. The Parish Council is continuing to pressurise Rother on this matter. Please be assured that this will be sorted out as soon as possible.

Please note that, according to Rother District Council, neither the litter bins nor the recycling area in the car park should be used for dumping general household rubbish. It is also important that proper arrangements are adopted for disposing of commercial waste.

## **YOUTH GROUP WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE SCOUT HUT**

With the closing of the Sedlescombe Scout Group last year, the scout hut became redundant. Its value over many years has been to provide a venue for meetings of cubs, scouts, brownies and guides. The Council is aware of the many hours of work that volunteers have put in to keep the Scout Hut in good order. The work is appreciated as is that of those who were leaders.

Recently, the Youth Development Service has been working with some of the East View Terrace young people to find ways they can occupy themselves. The young people themselves would like to use the scout hut for a youth club but desperately need adult help. At the moment, the Youth Development Service is helping to find funding for essential repairs and maintenance of the building.

Remember, that the Scout Hut could be used for meetings of village organisations.

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Do you ever have questions about life in Sedlescombe that you can't answer? For example, about such matters as fireworks, fly-tipping, grass-cutting, hedges, noise or pests. Answers are readily available on the Home Page of the Parish Council website. Have a look at [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk) and go back to it regularly as it is always being updated. If there is anything else you would like included on the website, please let the Clerk know.

## **DOG WALKING ON LEADS AT THE SPORTSFIELD**

Please note that you must keep to the public footpath, which roughly follows the river and dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Fouling should be cleared up and placed in the bin provided near the gate.

**Football, Cricket, Stoolball and Archery are the sports played at the field. Anyone is welcome to join. Contact the Sports Association Secretary, Jenny Mitchell on 01424 870707.**

## **SEDLESCOMBE PARISH PLAN 2002-7**

Five years ago, the Parish Council carried out a major consultation in the parish. This, together with information from the Battle Market Town Healthcheck and various other consultation meetings, resulted in publication of the Parish Plan. Sedlescombe was one of the first parishes in the area to complete its Plan. This means though that its five-year life is about to end.

The Parish Plan has not lain idly on the shelf during the five years. Each year, parish councillors have considered reports on progress and have added a raft of additional actions.

Many of the proposed actions have been completed but others are still outstanding. For example, the Council has extended the sportsfield car park so that it now takes about 50 cars, but the pavilion/clubhouse is still being worked on. Although the Sedlescombe Youth Projects Forum was very close to getting a skateboard ramp, the lack of adult help and the unsuitability of the proposed site meant it failed to materialise. One playground has been refurbished to a high standard. The small children's area at East View which is Orbit Housing Association's responsibility still desperately needs new equipment. Much valuable footpath work has been undertaken by Ralph Dellow, Reg Glew, Jonathon Vine-Hall and others but the bridleway network has not been enhanced and we have not designated a new path along the River Brede to Rye. Sedlescombe School pool is still waiting for a cover. Access to the village hall has been provided through Red Barn Field Nature Park but we have not been able to establish the biodiversity of the site through surveys.

What would local residents like the Parish Council to do now about the Plan? We need your comments.

Please complete and return the accompanying form to the box in Sedlescombe shop by Monday 15 October 2007. Thank you.