

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

BULLETIN



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SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

The Council is grateful to those people ever willing to help in the Village in a voluntary capacity. Thanks particularly to the band of eighteen volunteers who deliver the Bulletin and the Annual Report throughout the parish every quarter. If anyone else would like to help, please contact Pauline Raymond on 01424 870508.

FENCE REPAIRS

During the autumn, part of the tennis fencing was replaced by the Council together with fencing around the playground.

The tennis courts are still available free of charge during the winter.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT & DIRECTORY

The 2009 Annual Report & Directory is now in preparation and local organisations and businesses are invited to submit their entries by 5pm on 9 February at the latest. Sorry, no late entries can be accepted. As usual, those who advertised last year will receive a letter from the Council but any new entries are very welcome. Further details can be obtained from Pauline Raymond on 01424 870508 or by e-mailing her on sedlescombe@freezone.co.uk. Voluntary organisations and charities are allowed free entries. Businesses are asked to contribute at least £20 (including VAT) towards printing costs.

We plan to deliver the Report/Directory to every house in the parish at the beginning of April.

NEW PAVILION AT THE SPORTSFIELD

Construction work and fitting out of the new pavilion is progressing well and to time.

Donations have continued to be received from bodies such as the Sussex County Playing Fields Association, Battle Partnership and another welcome donation from the Sedlescombe Societies Association. Local residents have also added to the Fund as has the very successful fund-raising committee. Currently the group has raffle tickets on sale. Full details of all funding and costs will be available on completion of the work.

Although local fund-raising has been very successful, major national funders have not been so helpful. We have had a recent further disappointment with a rejection of our £40,000 funding application to The Foundation for Sport and the Arts. The Parish Council's only option now is to raise a loan to make up the shortfall.

The bright side to this is that the interest rate on a Public Works Loan Board loan is as low as it has been for a long while making repayments correspondingly reduced.

SEDLESCOMBE YOUTH PROJECT

At its November Meeting, the Council received a request from the Sedlescombe Youth Project for permission to take over the portacabin when the pavilion is complete and to leave it where it is at the Sportsfield.

As the land is leased to the Sports Association, the decision lay with that organisation. Members have given the idea enthusiastic support.

However, planning permission will be needed for it to be allowed to remain at the sportsfield and an application is expected to be submitted.

PUMPHOUSE ON VILLAGE GREEN

For most people, the open-side listed building known locally as The Pumphouse which covers the derelict pump on the Village Green is emblematic of Sedlescombe. At a recent inspection, it was noted that the oak benches to the north and south of the Pumphouse are becoming in need of attention or even replacement. It has, therefore, been decided that a bid should be put in to The Heritage Lottery Fund for grant aid. The plan is to replace the benches and refurbish the pump, not to bring it back into use but to maintain it as a historical reminder of its importance during the first half of the twentieth century. We also plan a small booklet.

NEW PUBLICATION SCHEME

By 1 January 2009, all public sector organisations had to have adopted a new Model Publication Scheme and have made members of the public aware of how they can obtain detailed information about the organisation.

Sedlescombe Parish Council adopted the scheme at its meeting on 11/11/08 and by 1 January the required information had been added to the website.

There are details about the Council, what it spends, what its priorities and plans are, how it makes its decisions, its policies and procedures, the lists and registers it maintains and the services it offers. A new item on the website sidebar "Parish Council Publication Scheme" gives you direct access.

If, however, you do not have internet access, hard copies are also available.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CORE STRATEGY

Rother District Council is preparing a new planning strategy to guide development and change over the next twenty years in Rother including Sedlescombe. The public, other stakeholders and interested parties are currently being consulted. The consultation lasts twelve weeks, expiring on 30 January 2009. Full details are available on the Rother Planning website (access through the www.sedlescombe.org.uk site).

FISHING FOR AMERICAN SIGNAL CRAYFISH IN THE RIVER BREDE

Following the article in the last Bulletin, some interest has been shown in catching the non-native American Signal Crayfish in the Brede for the table.

The Parish Council has discussed the subject with The Environment Agency and has subsequently drawn up a policy which can be seen on the website. This policy allows for applications to be sent to the Parish Council for permission to set a maximum of 4 traps in The Brede between Sedlescombe Bridge and the eastern end of the Sportsfield for periods not exceeding 6 months or one year by persons living in Sedlescombe. Anyone applying to the Council should have obtained the relevant Environment Agency Licence. A waiting list will be maintained by the Council so that, on expiration of one licence, the next person who has an Environment Agency licence will be given the necessary authorisation by the Council.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT R N FRENCH, THE STREET

Planning permission was granted in December 2008, for demolition of the former R N French building and, in its place, the erection of 2 three-bedroom dwellings with off-road parking

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – Please note the date is Tuesday 28 April 2009