



## SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Valerie Wright (Chairman)  
01424 870220  
Jonathan Vine-Hall (Vice-Chairman)  
07973 129505  
Roy Chapman 01424 870520  
Pauline Glew 01424 870258  
Julian Heap 01424 871178  
Pat Martin 01424 870353  
Jenny Mitchell 01424 870707  
Anthony Rand 01424 870722  
John Reynolds 01424 870956

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Very recently, the Parish Council has been approached regarding additional housing development in Sedlescombe. Further details will be provided in the next few months.

## HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Parish Council has supported Rother District Council's proposal to allocate rural social housing to people with close local connections.

## HEDGE CUTTING

For several years, the Parish Council has been writing on behalf of the County Council to home or land owners who have allowed their hedges to encroach onto paths or roads. They have been asked to cut back their hedges for the safety and convenience of everyone. Invariably, these reasonable requests have not been well received. The Council has, therefore, decided that it will no longer undertake this task and will, instead, expect letters to be sent direct from the County Council.

## BUS SHELTER

Bus users will be pleased to hear that the Parish Council is planning to carry out major repairs to the shelter at the bottom of the Village Green this month. It will be necessary to close this bus stop for about a week starting on 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER. All users are asked to note that an alternative, temporary stop will be provided next to the Village Sign on the Village Green during the proposed works.



## SUE WALTON JOINS PESTALOZZI

The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Sue Walton who is the newly-appointed Chief Executive at Pestalozzi International Village. Sue has attended several Parish Council meetings already as an observer and councillors and Sue have met for informal discussion.

Sue has also had a meeting with neighbours of the Estate where the good news was given that the number of events, other than in connection with education or agriculture, to be held on the Estate next year will be reduced and kept within the 28-day allowance. Neighbours still have some concerns about noise from these events. Real efforts are being made to ensure disturbance is kept to a minimum.

Pestalozzi is trying hard to work with the Village of Sedlescombe, please support them by attending their Mince Pie event on Saturday 3 December.

## LADYBIRD LANE

From Monday 24 to Friday 28 October, closure of Ladybird Lane is expected in order that a new sub-base can be installed. This will mean that, during that week, there will not be any vehicular access to the Sportsfield Car Park.

## **WINTER IN JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

East Sussex County Council is responsible for road salting and, naturally, it does the busiest primary roads first. In Sedlescombe, this means the B2244, Brede Lane through to Pottery Lane, Chapel Hill through to Westfield, Paygate Road, Marley Lane and the A21. If it is snowy, and/or very icy, Stream Lane and Poppinghole Lane will be salted as well. Other minor roads are not treated but left to thaw naturally. Pavements are not routinely cleared or salted by the County Council.

In extreme and prolonged cold weather conditions, the County Council may have to alter its salting programme if salt supplies in stock run low.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that treated roads will always be completely clear. It takes time for the salt to become effective and, in very cold weather, even salt won't prevent roads from icing. Also, there can be isolated spots on the road where running water from rising springs can wash the salt away before it becomes effective leaving icy patches. This is sometimes a particular problem experienced in Sedlescombe where there are lots of springs.

We can do something to help ourselves by clearing pavements of snow and ice outside our own homes or businesses. According to East Sussex County Council, "there is no law preventing you from doing this and it's very unlikely you would face any legal liability, as long as you are careful and use common sense". A check can be made on vulnerable people, such as the elderly, who live nearby who may not be able to clear snow and ice themselves.

## **TAKING SALT FROM BINS FOR YOUR OWN USE IS THEFT!**

The Parish Council is appalled to hear that some local residents think they have a right to take supplies of salt from County Council bins for their own use. From now on, the Parish Council will tell local Police that a theft has been committed if this action continues. Householders can purchase a small stock of grit to use on their own paths from Blackbrooks Garden Centre. A shovel full of grit will be sufficient for 20-30sq. metres of path.

## **CAN WE GET ANOTHER GRIT BIN?**

Local residents have asked if they can have a grit bin situated near where they live. Requests for bins can be channelled through the Parish or District Council or, alternatively, a request can be made to the Highways Contact Centre on 0345 60 80 193. The Parish Council is willing to forward requests for bins but only if the money (£275 in the first instance to include grit) is forwarded with the request and a suitable location has been identified. The cost of refilling the bin will be £70 on each occasion. These costs may vary from time to time.

## **VILLAGE INSPECTION**

As usual, the annual Parish Council Village Inspection has been completed in September. This work was done by Cllr Pauline Glew (Chairman of the Finance Committee) and Cllr Roy Chapman who joined the Council in May. Members of the Sports Association Committee joined the councillors during inspection of the Sportsfield.

All Parish Council responsibilities were looked at and recommendations accepted at the 13 September Council Meeting. The larger jobs will be considered by the Finance Committee in the coming months and put in place if finance is available. It is expected that part of the Riverside Playground fence will be replaced and surrounding trees cut back. An annual inspection of the sports pavilion by the Council will be started and, on this occasion only, the Council intends to carry out the necessary maintenance work to the sportsfield ditch. Working with the Sedlescombe Garden Society and Blackbrooks Garden Centre, the Council plans to install half a dozen planters on the top part of the Green in order to deter vehicles from driving over it and causing damage during the winter months. The tourist information map usually to be found on the outside wall of the public conveniences has been removed. If finance can be found, the Council would like to replace it in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

## **GRASS CUTTING AT RED BARN FIELD**

The Council is grateful to David Blowey of Brede Barn Farm for cutting and baling the grass in Red Barn Field.

## **TENNIS COURTS**

It is good to hear that local residents of all ages from teenagers to retired enjoy using Sedlescombe's tennis courts. The Parish Council is still considering how to pay for the next resurfacing and whether the courts could be used for additional sporting activities.

## **MOWING & LITTER COLLECTION**

The contracts for mowing and litter collection in various areas of the Village in 2012 have been awarded to Roger's Gardening Services.