



East Sussex & West Sussex Village of the Year Competition

2009 Competition Guidelines and Application Form

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Name of Village: | Sedlescombe |
| County: | East Sussex |
| Population: | 1361 |



Guidance Notes

The Village of the Year celebrates the many achievements of active communities that strive to improve and enhance village life for all their residents. We want to hear from you about your village. We want to help you to celebrate your achievements and let others know about your successes.

For each County there are the following entry categories

Entry Categories:

Category 1 - Population under 1000

Category 2 - Population 1001 – 5000

All applications must show which of these 2 population categories the village falls into (in the appropriate section of the entry form). The population of the village should be based on the 2001 Census figure or the County current projection of the population.

Action in rural Sussex will announce the following winners:-
(a total of 10 winners overall)

1. There will be one overall winner for East Sussex and one for West Sussex who will then represent their county in the Calor regional/national Competition
2. A Category 1 winner and runner up for East Sussex and a winner and runner up for West Sussex
3. A Category 2 winner and runner up for East Sussex and a winner and runner up for West Sussex

Each winner and runner up will receive a cash prize and plaque

Representatives from all entrants will be invited to attend the Awards Ceremony on Friday 10 July 2009

Entry Conditions:

1. The maximum population of any participating village is 5,000 (2001 Census or County Council projections).
2. All questions must be completed in order to be eligible for the Sussex and Calor Village of the Year National competitions.
3. A village cannot win the overall County award 2 years in succession.
4. This year's entry form has been expanded to include details of a **specific project or initiative** which your village feels demonstrates to the judges why it would be worthy of the Village of the Year Award. It is important that only one project or initiative is identified as judges will only consider one project or initiative for each village. Judges will expect to hear further details of your chosen project or initiative as part of their visit if you are short listed.
5. The Sussex Village of the Year Competition nominates the County Winners to participate in the regional and national Calor competition. These submissions have to conform to all the Calor rules and regulations.

Calor Rules on re-entry to the national and regional competition:

- Winning Villages cannot be nominated to represent their county for the National Calor Village of the Year competition in the subsequent year.
- A village that has won an overall regional award will not be allowed to enter the national competition for three subsequent years.
- If a village has won the national Calor Village of the Year competition they may not re- enter for five subsequent years.

For further details please visit the Calor Village of the Year website at:

www.villageoftheyear.org

Timetable:

| | |
|---|---|
| Closing date for applications | 9—March 2009 revised date Monday 16 March 2009 |
| Short listing completed by | 31 March 2009 |
| Short listed villages notified of Judges' visit by | 6 April 2009 |
| Judging period (Judges visits will take place) | 20 April – 1 May 2009 |
| Winners announced at Awards Ceremony | 10 July 2009 |

Assessment:

The Assessment is in two stages: 1) Application Form
2) Judges visit for short listed villages

1) Application Form

Villages will be short listed from their application form.

You are questioned and marked on four themes so remember this is what you are being short listed on. Therefore, as well as ticking the relevant boxes, please ensure you give further written details in the spaces provided.

The scoring system is as follows:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Theme 1 | Community | 20 points |
| | Q1.20 Special project | 20 points |
| Theme 2 | Business | 10 points |
| Theme 3 | Sustainability | 10 points |
| Theme 4 | Communications | 10 points |
| | Total maximum | 70 points |

2) Judges Visit

Themes

- Themes 1 to 4 (listed above) plus Q1.20 special project/initiative – Maximum 70 marks

Effectiveness and quality of presentation

- Maximum 10 marks

Judges' overall individual assessment – Maximum 10 marks

- Based upon individual judges' assessment of each village and its efforts

Judges' Visits: Notes For Villages

These notes are intended to help you make the best of the Judges' visit to your village making it an enjoyable and positive occasion.

1. It would be helpful if the judges could meet you at a venue where they could be provided with space to make notes, such as a village hall. The judges will also expect during their 2 hour visit to walk around the village or part of the village.
2. The judges will want to meet a range of people, representing a variety of age groups who can give them a good idea of all that goes on in the village.
3. The judges would like the visit to take place during office hours.
4. The judges will want to hear a short presentation about the project or initiative highlighted in question 1.20 under the Community theme.
5. If your village has entered the competition before, it would be helpful to tell the judges what has changed and improved since the last visit.
6. The judges may wish to take photographs during their visit.
7. If after the judges have left, you remember something which you have not told us, please don't hesitate to contact the office with this information.
8. The winners and awards will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Friday 10 July. There will not be any release of information until that date.

About Us and our sponsors

The Sussex Village of the Year Competition is organised and managed by AirS. It does this in conjunction each year with a range of sponsors. Calor is the principle sponsor as it provides funding to each County as part of the national competition, but AirS continues to seek local sponsorship to promote the Sussex competition. In addition to the sponsorship offered by Calor, we have to date secured sponsorship from Sussex Association of Local Councils and Sussex Police.

Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

We want Sussex to be a place where an inclusive, active, community life is valued equally alongside economic success and environmental protection and where all three are pursued together.

Our Aims are

- *Reduce both the incidence and impact of disadvantage and poverty on people living in rural areas*
- *Increase the capacity of rural communities to bring about change to the benefit of all their members*
- *Inform and amplify the voice of rural communities in public policy*
- *Champion community life in rural Sussex and seek common cause with others who share this aim throughout Sussex.*

Calor Village of the Year®

Calor, the leading supplier of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) to those living and working in the countryside, has supported rural activities in England, Scotland and Wales for 21 years through its Rural Sponsorship programme, which includes the Calor Village of the Year® for England competition. The Calor Village of the Year® for England competition, now in its twelfth year, was founded and developed by Calor, and is organised and funded by the company on an annual basis.

Sussex Association of Local Councils

Sussex Associations of Local Councils [SALC] is based at Sussex House, Lewes and represents the interests of 250 member town and parish councils across East and West Sussex through affiliation to the National Associations of Local Councils. The role of SALC is to encourage, represent and advise its member councils and ensure that the voice of the first tier of local government is heard across both counties, the South East Region and by Government.

Sussex Police Authority

Sussex Police Authority sets the strategic direction for policing in Sussex and holds the Chief Constable to account for the policing service delivered.

Sussex Police

We pride ourselves in the quality of our relationships in Sussex. We want to maintain and develop the excellent relationship between Sussex Police and its partners including local authorities, town and parish councils and community organisations.

Sussex Community Foundation

Sussex Community Foundation helps local communities across Sussex to work together to meet local needs. It encourages people and companies to give to their local community, by helping to get their charitable giving to where it is most needed.

We are building a substantial permanent fund which will be available to support local communities for generations to come. If you would like to support your local community, or you know of a charity or community group that is looking for funds, please contact us.

Website www.sussexgiving.org.uk Tel 01273 409440



Application Form 2009

This form does not have to be completed by the Parish Council but can be completed by any group on behalf of the village. Please ensure however, that you notify your Parish Council so that we only receive one entry per community.

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of Village | Sedlescombe |
| Population | 1361 |
| County | East Sussex |
| Website | www.sedlescombe.org.uk |
| Contact details of the Parish Council | Tel: 01424 870508 Email: sedlescombe@freezone.co.uk |
| Contact Name/s for VOY entry | Mrs Pauline Raymond |
| Role | Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer |
| Organisation (if applicable) | Sedlescombe Parish Council |
| Address | Woodland Cottage, Chapel Hill, Sedlescombe, Battle TN33 0QX |
| Telephone No: | Day: 01424 870508 Evening: 01424 870508 |
| Fax: | None |
| Email: | sedlescombe@freezone.co.uk |



Theme 1 – Community – a better place to live

Please note:

- We are not judging what your village has, but what your village community does.
- Your village will not be penalised if you are unable to tick any of the boxes in a particular question
- The final question (Q.1.20) gives you an opportunity to focus on a particular project or initiative that you feel demonstrates an active and involving community

Q.1.1 Details about your Parish Council. Is your parish council:-

- Already a Quality Council?

Please give further details of any of the items ticked above:

Quality Status first obtained in July 2004. Sedlescombe was the first Rother Parish or Town Council to obtain Quality Status and remained the only one for the following two years before Rye joined Sedlescombe. Sedlescombe received re-accreditation up to 2013 in March 2009. Currently there are four Quality Parishes in Rother.

Q. 1.2 Has your village undertaken a Parish Action Plan?

- Yes . If yes – when was it completed? - October 2002

Q.1.3 How does your village identify people ‘in need’ within the community?

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Volunteer support groups (eg care group) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Through faith groups & leaders eg vicar |
| | Good Neighbour Scheme | | Surveys/questionnaires |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Drop in centre/group or Lunch Club | | Action Plans |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Clubs and activities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Please give further details about how your village supports people ‘in need’:

1. Lift Scheme operated by the Parish Council to help Sedlescombe residents who are finding it difficult to attend hospital/surgery appointments because of lack of transport. A list of names of drivers who are willing to provide lifts is published and those wanting lifts simply make a telephone call to any one on the list and pay the driver mileage charges.

2. Active Neighbourhood Watch scheme which identifies people in need and acts as a “good neighbour” scheme in some instances where elderly people are known. Our local PCSO is also able to identify people in need. Once identified, he keeps an eye on them, visiting regularly for a cup of tea and chat. Although there is not an official “Good

Neighbour Scheme”, people in need often speak of their gratitude for the help and support that has been provided in the Village. Our Village Correspondent wrote at the beginning of 2009 in the Village Voice column of the Rye & Battle Observer: *“I am thinking of making representation to Her Majesty to have the entire population of Sedlescombe honoured in the next List. If anyone deserves it, you do, for all the kindness and goodwill expended to those in need which includes me at the moment.”* (See Sedlescombe Village Voice 9 January 2009)

3. Free Home Security advice and installation of security and smoke alarm equipment available in the parish of Sedlescombe. This has been taken up by many households. Sedlescombe Parish Council obtained funding to purchase the security goods and volunteers have carried out the installations. Residents are also able to borrow an engraving appliance free of charge.

4. Sedlescombe residents can, on application the Neighbourhood Watch Group, obtain payment for installation and first month’s rent of Lifeline.

5. The Sedlescombe Lunch Club has been in operation since 2001 and gives people the opportunity to have a meal in pleasant company in friendly surroundings. Anyone over 60 may join and transport can be arranged.

6. The Sedlescombe Friendship Club was founded in 2007 and aims to counteract loneliness and isolation. A number of events are planned each year.

7. Using a specially adapted coach, the Sedlescombe & Westfield Branch of the East Sussex Disability Association takes disabled residents on monthly outings. Through the Association, disabled people can obtain help with benefit claims, employment and holidays.

8. The Sedlescombe Branch of the Royal British Legion is very active and looks after the welfare of ex-service personnel and dependants.

9. Sedlescombe has a range of clubs which provide people with the opportunity to meet and chat.

10. Sedlescombe Youth Projects Forum is working with youngsters to provide a Youth Club. On 01/04/2009, a film produced by the youngsters about this quest is to be shown in Sedlescombe Village Hall.

11. Coffee Mornings, open to all, are run each week by Sedlescombe United Reformed Church.

12. Coffee Mornings, open to all, are run each month by Sedlescombe Parish Church.

13. Weekly friendly Coffee Mornings are run by local women. The PCSO attends when he can to provide re-assurance to the elderly.

14. A Child Welfare Clinic, run by volunteers, with professional help from nurses, is held monthly in Sedlescombe Village Hall.

15. The Pestalozzi International Trust is situated in Sedlescombe. It sponsors selected students from some of the poorest communities in the world on a two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, run in partnership with Hastings College. Local residents are involved with helping.

16. Sedlescombe Village Library opens for one afternoon a week to provide books including Talking books and large print books.

17. Local volunteers visit people through the “Home from Hospital” service.

18. Weekly “Extend” exercise class for the elderly is held in the Village.

19. An initiative to help victims of domestic abuse and/or hate crime called The Sanctuary Scheme is available to Sedlescombe residents and is being supported by Rother District Council. This scheme enables the victim to have a safe room in their own property by changing the door to a half hour fire rated door which is turned to open outwards and is fitted with seals against fire and smoke. Contact information is advertised on the Sedlescombe Parish Council noticeboard.

20. An initiative called The CRI Hastings & Rother Domestic Abuse Service is available to Sedlescombe residents and is being supported by Rother District Council. The project provides a range of services for young people and families in East Sussex including a domestic abuse service, parenting programmes, an intensive family intervention project to tackle anti-social behaviour, and information, advice and guidance for young people, including those who are homeless. The Youth Taskforce has provided funding for a new project working with young people in this area who are displaying challenging behaviour. Information is displayed on the Sedlescombe Parish Council noticeboard.

Q. 1.4 How are those needs provided for?

Please list organisations and societies who provide for those identified needs. Please include all age groups when answering this question.

Sedlescombe Parish Council

Neighbourhood Watch

Safer Sedlescombe (through Crime & Safety Committee)

Lunch Club

Friendship Club

E.Sussex Disability Association (Sedlescombe & Westfield branch)

Royal British Legion (Sedlescombe branch)

Youth Projects Forum

Sedlescombe United Reformed Church

Sedlescombe Parish Church

Local volunteers

Infant Welfare Clinic

Jellybeans – Toddlers Group

Pre-School

Pestalozzi International Village Trust

Sedlescombe Village Library

Sedlescombe Garden Society

Sedlescombe Players (people of all ages involved)

Thursday Club

Sedlescombe Women's Institute

Sedlescombe Green Women's Institute

Archery Club

Badminton Club

Cricket Club

Junior Football Club (200 children)

Senior Football Club

Netball Club (Junior and Senior)

Flyfishers Club

Rother District Council Safer Partnership

Short mat bowls started June 2006 – very popular for the elderly – meets twice a week and has had to close its books because it is full

Q.1.5 Please indicate what provisions there are within your village to assist people with limited mobility, older people or people suffering from isolation:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Transport Scheme | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Home visits by volunteers/befriending |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local Shop Delivery scheme | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Shoppers bus |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Meals/drop in/lunch club | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gardening or other practical help |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Clubs/organisations within the village | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other |

See answers to other questions for details. Bus timetables are available in the Village Stores and in the foyer of the Village Hall. A shoppers bus takes residents to Jempsons in Peasmarsh. Gardening advice is available through Sedlescombe Garden Society where regular meetings are held. Several residents provide professional gardening services which are welcomed by the elderly and infirm.

Q.1.6a What do you do to welcome ALL new residents into village life? How do they find out about village life and what is going on?

New residents are provided with a Welcome Pack when they move in. This includes information through the Annual Report and Directory of Village Organisations as well as Village businesses. Other information is given about dog walking, Neighbourhood Watch, local walks and history.

All residents are invited to the annual Parish Assembly (125 attended in 2008 and more than 100 for the previous two years) where display tables are set up by local organisations and businesses with the opportunity for new residents to speak to members of local groups over a cup of tea.

Q.1.6b Describe what steps your community takes to welcome people from other cultures or backgrounds:

Most people from other cultures and backgrounds come to live at the Pestalozzi International Village. Local people attend events and open days at the International Village and talk to the youngsters (aged 16-18) about their communities. Some are invited for a meal with local people.

Q.1.7 Has your village attracted grants from public or charitable sources in the last 3 years?

Yes No

List the sources of grants received and name the project funded:

Isabel Blackman Foundation – Sedlescombe sports pavilion

Local Action Plan - Sedlescombe sports pavilion

Rother District Council - Sedlescombe sports pavilion

Battle Partnership - Sedlescombe sports pavilion

Sussex County Playing Fields Association - Sedlescombe sports pavilion

Lucy Tate Trust - Sedlescombe sports pavilion

Biffaward – Playground refurbishment

Awards for All – Friendship Club

Youth Opportunities Fund – Sedlescombe Youth Projects - Funding for youth centre, outings and production of a film

Q.1.8 Does your village have access to any kind of community transport scheme?

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ✓ | Mini bus scheme | ✓ | Lift/Car Share Scheme |
| ? | Walking bus | | Other |
| | Volunteer Car scheme | | |

Details:

Lift Scheme – see details above under question 1.3

Battle Community Transport – community bus twice a week to Battle. Parish Council makes an annual grant.

Although not currently in operation, a walking bus from the village hall through the fields to the school has worked successfully in the past.

Q.1.9 Are there any village charities that provide support to the local community? If so, please give brief details, including how they are publicised.

Sedlescombe Restholme Trust – Small long-term charity giving gifts to villagers who are in need. They must live within the envelope of Sedlescombe. Details can be seen on Charity Commission website. Trustees are aware of people in need.

Q.1.10 Please list the type and frequency of activities that go on in the village hall, or ANY OTHER village meeting place, or facility (including mobile facilities)

| Activity/Club | No. of groups | weekly | monthly | other |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Sports clubs (eg tennis) | 7 | 7 | | Bowls Clubs meets 2 afternoons each week |
| Hobby clubs | 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 Twice | Flower Club Garden Society Silk Painters Whist Drive Drama K9 Dog Club |
| Drama/theatre group | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Local history group | | | | |
| Drop in / 'coffee and chat' | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Women's group(s) | 2 | | 1 | |
| Learning/Training | 1 | | 1 | Pampered Chef |
| Youth groups | 2 | | | Pestalozzi & Village |
| Parish council | 1 | | | As required |
| Business support | | | | Meets in Battle |
| Keep fit/exercise class | 2 | 2 | | |
| Playgroup/nursery | 1 | | | 3 days week |
| Baby/toddler group | 2 | 2 | | Jelly Beans Jumping Beans |
| Fundraising events(fairs etc) | 12 | | 12 | Various jumble and National Childbirth Trust sales etc. |
| Private functions | Yes | | | Regular use of village hall 61 in 2008, 13 so far in 2009 |
| Film club/night | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|--------------------------|--|
| Brownies/Guides/Cubs/Scouts | 1 | 1 | | Brownies |
| Music/Arts events | Yes | | | Occasionally |
| Fete/Carnival | 3 | | | May Fayre, Summer Fayre, Autumn Fayre |
| Crafts or other fairs | Yes | | | As arranged 3 times year |
| Computer activities | Yes | | | Computer suite available at school |
| Firework night | 1 | | | Annually at pub |
| Village walks | 1 | | 1 | |
| Farmers markets | 1 | | 1 | Local produce available at Church Coffee Morning |
| Lunch club | 1 | | 1 | |
| Citizens Advice Bureau/surgery | | | | Available in Hastings |
| Library | 2 | 1 | 1 every other week | Village Library and mobile library |
| Outreach Health Services | 2 | | | Full doctors' surgery Monthly infant welfare clinic |

Other (please specify):

The Primary School also has many events, some of which are open to the public, some are in the School and others in venues such as the local hotel. The school does well musically and often holds concerts. An example is planned for 29th May when there will be a concert in the school with the school choir and school musicians. Indian students will be visiting and will be involved.

Schoolchildren are encouraged to take part in the Hastings Music Festival and usually are successful.

Q.1.11 What has been done to ensure that your village hall/meeting place is well used and welcoming? Does it have sufficient facilities available for local needs and are there any restrictions on who is allowed to use the hall/meeting place? (NB. We know that many Village Halls are old buildings – but how do you make the most of what you have?)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | The Village Hall Committee consults on local needs and ideas for improvement | | Takes into consideration people with disabilities (eg Hearing Loop, access for wheelchairs) |
| ✓ | Has information board or leaflets to tell residents what events are taking place | ✓ | All residents are welcome including young people |
| ✓ | Signposted/easy to find | ✓ | Warm, comfortable and attractive |
| | Energy saving measures | | |

Details:

Sedlescombe's Village Hall was new in 2001 and provides an excellent facility for Sedlescombe and surrounding Villages and towns. The Village Hall Committee is active in maintaining an excellent hall and makes alterations as and when these are required. Recently, they reacted to requests for a new door to be installed between the kitchen and

one of the committee rooms so extending the use that can be made of the kitchen facilities. The hall is often fully booked.

Q.1.12 Describe what has been done to improve accessibility to your village facilities

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| ✓ | Drop kerbs/Ramps | ✓ | Signposting |
| ✓ | Hard paths to facilities on recreation grounds | ✓ | Marked disabled parking spaces |
| ✓ | Accessible entrances | ✓ | Other |
| ✓ | Lobbied local authorities for improvements | | |

Details:

The village hall has good access for the disabled.

The newly-built sports pavilion also has good disabled access and marked disabled parking spaces. The volunteer leader of the Sedlescombe Youth Project is disabled in a wheelchair and, therefore, the importance of good access for the disabled is well known. This is an important part of the current project to turn the portacabin at the sportsfield into a youth centre.

Kerbs on pavements have been dropped. Several residents use motorised scooters including a 95-year old lady this is important.

There is a hard path serving some facilities in one recreation ground especially to a roundabout suitable for disabled use which was installed in 2006. Access to the other two playgrounds is completely hard surfaced.

The Doctors' Surgery is purpose-built with easy access for wheelchairs.

A sloped access to the shop door helps people with limited mobility.

Public rights of way are well-signposted. A small group of men have replaced about twenty stiles with gates to give an easy-access field path to encourage more use of our footpaths.

The Parish Council paid for a new footway to be built in front of the pub in 2007 in order to improve the safety of pedestrians accessing the Village Stores. In 2008, after requests from an elderly person with disabled relatives, the Council lobbied the County Council about adding another dropped kerb which can be used by people with simmers and wheelchairs when the other access is blocked by inconsiderate car drivers.

Good parking facilities have been provided by a District Council public car park where there is public toilets (including disabled) which are signposted from the Village Green. At the Village Hall, there are fifty car parking spaces and a similar amount at the Sportsfield.

Young People

Q.1.13 How are young people actively encouraged to participate in community life and events within your village?

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | Youth representation on the Village Hall Committee or other village organisation | ✓ | Representation of young people's views on the Parish Council |
|--|--|---|--|

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Consultation with local young people | | Information for young people |
| ✓ | Young volunteers | ✓ | Sporting activities for young people |
| ✓ | The provision of leisure activities for young people | ✓ | Other |

Please give further details of any of the items ticked above or any other relevant activities relating to young people:

Young people are very involved with sporting activities in the Village. Sedlescombe Rangers Junior Football Club has 14 teams including 2 girls' teams and achieves good success in tournaments. Around 200 children are members of the Club and participate not only in match play but also general Saturday morning practice sessions.

A Junior Netball Club has been formed recently and hopes to establish its homeground at Sedlescombe tennis courts where netball lines were added last year to allow the new Senior Netball Club to play there.

There are many after school activities at the local Primary School which are detailed elsewhere on the form.

Youth Church takes place weekly in the Rectory.

Rotaract (part of the local Rotary Club but for young people between 17 and 25) meets at Pestalozzi, and invites local youngsters to join those living at Pestalozzi.

Young people and youth development officers are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings (and do) to speak on matters on the agenda. Young people have also been surveyed on their needs, they have written to the Parish Council and meetings have been held with them.

Prior to installation of new playground equipment, a citizenship event was held over several days including a mock parish council meeting with the Primary schoolchildren consulted on what should be supplied. This resulted in the installation of a bigger slide. Consultation takes place with young people whenever provision for youth facilities is being made.

With the opening of our brand new pavilion, we hope that surrounding schools will be able to use our Village sportsfield for joint events such as cross country.

Schoolchildren are encouraged to enter the Garden Society Shows three times a year. There are various classes especially for them.

Schoolgirls are invited to take part in an annual competition to find the Village's Flower Princess and attendants. The Flower Princess opens our Village Fayre at the end of July.

A member of the Sedlescombe Garden Society runs the Gardening Club at the School with the help of a parent.

Pestalozzi students, as part of their International Baccalaureate Course at Hastings College, undertake voluntary work in local schools, hospitals etc.

Q.1.14 What local facilities & services are available for young people in your village?

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| ✓ | Breakfast Club/After School club | ✓ | Nursery/Playgroup/other pre-school group |
| ✓ | Parent & Toddler group | ✓ | Youth Arts Activities |
| ✓ | Youth Group | ✓ | Youth Sports Activities |
| ✓ | Holiday Scheme | | Youth café/Drop in |
| | Youth Projects (eg conservation) | ✓ | Fixed/Mobile library |
| | Skate Park | ✓ | Youth Project Leader |
| ✓ | Play area/park | ✓ | Hard surface area |
| | Youth Shelter | ✓ | Playing field |
| | Youth Council | ✓ | Brownies/Guides/Scouts/Cubs |
| | | ✓ | Other/New Initiatives |

Details:

Sedlescombe Primary School has a breakfast club for any child from 8am.

Sedlescombe Primary School has the following After School Clubs:

Monday – Choir, Animation and Football

Tuesday – Dance, Karate and Football

Wednesday – Netball, Solo singing, Newspaper Club, Yogabugs (for 2 ½ - 7 year olds)

Thursday - Dance, Football and Gardening Club

Friday Tennis

Some Football and Netball Tournaments and matches are also held after school.

During the Summer holidays, week-long holiday schemes are held jointly by the two local churches. There is a theme running through the week and, at the end, there is a concert for parents.

There are two play areas with equipment, one run by the Parish Council as trustee of a Trust and the other run by Orbit Housing Association. There is also a hard surface area with two storm shooters and basket ball rings. The Trust's playground was refurbished with a Biffaward of £43,000 in 2006.

The tennis courts have been left open for the last two years allowing free use, not only for tennis, but also for other sporting activities such as football. This has reduced vandalism at the tennis courts and increased reasonable use by youngsters. The courts are also used for netball.

Sedlescombe Pre-School meets in the village hall on three days a week.

A mother and toddler group called "Jellybeans" meets weekly in the village hall as does "Jumping Beans".

The Youth Development Worker, based at Claverham Community College, has been working with the young people in the Village for the last couple of years. Funds have been obtained for them to visit places of interest including a visit to the Houses of Parliament with our MP. The main focus of the work, however, has been to identify a meeting place for the young people. Work was in progress and funds had been obtained to use our redundant scout hut. However, it was burned down in November 2007 and legal difficulties have ensued regarding use of the land. As an alternative venue, a room in the local pub was offered by the landlord and used by the group. Unfortunately, due to economic

difficulties, the pub closed in February 2009. A group of local volunteers have joined the Youth Worker to try to find a suitable site. With the completion of the new sports pavilion, the temporary portacabin could make an ideal youth centre. Plans have been drawn up and a planning application has been submitted. The land belongs to the Parish Council and is leased to the Sedlescombe Sports Association. Both bodies have given their approval to this use.

The sportsfield is well used by youngsters not only officially but also on an ad hoc basis to play informal games. Local volunteers run the sports teams, coach and act as officials. There are 7 junior football teams – further details in other answers.

There is a library in the Village Hall one afternoon a week and the mobile library calls every fortnight.

Sedlescombe used to have Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts but now there is just Brownies. The enthusiastic group meets in the Village Hall.

Young people are involved with Sedlescombe Players, a very successful drama group that puts on two productions a year in the Village Hall. Children’s books are available.

The School has recently informed the Council about a new initiative called “Creative Partnerships”. This is a national organisation which works with schools to encourage creativity in classrooms through the delivery of a broad, stimulating, creative curriculum. After going through the application process and interview, Sedlescombe CEP School is one of only fifteen schools throughout the country that have been awarded £9,000 for each of the next three years. The money will be used to employ experts in a wide range of areas. The first two people to be employed up to July 2009 are an expert storyteller/musician and the other is an expert in puppetry, art and drama.

Q.1.15 Are any of the above activities/facilities for young people...

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Run by volunteers? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Funded by the community? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Run/Organised with young People’s input? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Involved with other groups/events in the community? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provided by youth service or other organization? | | Other |

Details:

The Youth Project Group is run by volunteers from the community in co-operation with the Youth Service and with liaison with the young people.

The sportsfield is leased to the Sports Association by the Parish Council on a peppercorn rent of £1/year. The new pavilion has been provided by the Parish Council using funding from charities, local fund-raising, local authorities and the Sedlescombe Council Taxpayer. They will be repaying the loan for the next 15 years. Details of the involvement of volunteers is mentioned in previous questions.

Two of the three playgrounds and the tennis courts are funded by the Sedlescombe Council Taxpayer.

The Holiday Schemes are run by members of the local churches.

Jellybeans is run by mums.

The Village Fayre is fully inclusive and involves all groups in the Village.

Q.1.16 What joint activities are undertaken with local schools?

In 2008, the Parish Council ran a wildlife poster competition which involved a local ecologist giving the children a talk and the Clerk to the Council judging the 80 entries. The entries came from children aged 5 to 11. Certificates were presented to those whose posters were chosen. The winning posters were displayed on boards in the local nature park throughout the summer, autumn and winter. They were also, along with many others, shown on the Parish Council website.

In 2007, the Sedlescombe Tree Warden and his wife visited the School to talk to the children about the need to preserve our horse chestnut trees which are dying from a disease called bleeding canker. The Tree Warden provided enough seedling conker trees for all the children in the School and later returned to help the children plant the trees at various venues around the Village.

The School always has a display at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting.

Volunteers are always welcome to help at the School. Older people enjoy listening to children reading.

An annual award "The Lucey Cup" given to the School about ten years ago by a local resident, is made each year at the end of the summer term. It is open to children in the top class and judged by the Parish Clerk. The children are very enthusiastic to take part in the competition and some of the projects are truly amazing showing excellent craft work, interviewing and writing skills, music composition, Powerpoint and CD presentations.

Senior Citizens

Q.1.17 What facilities and activities are available for senior citizens & what part do senior citizens play in your village?

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| | Local Link Person (eg Age Concern) | ✓ | Housing to help people stay in the community |
| | Good Neighbour scheme | | Day Centre or Meeting Point |
| | Shopping Help | | Activity group/s (eg walking) |
| ✓ | Older people's forum/ reps from village to wider group | ✓ | Older Volunteers |
| ✓ | Lunch clubs | | Transport schemes |
| ✓ | Activities/clubs in the village hall or other venues (please list below) | ✓ | Other |

Details:

Rother Seniors Forum was established in 2006 by a Sedlescombe retired man. Local people who are 50+ years are invited to have their say about public services. The Forum speaks out on issues such as Transport, Life-Long Learning & Leisure, Health & Care, Housing & Pensions, Crime & Safety.

Sedlescombe retired people belong to the Battle & District University of the Third Age. There are 22 study groups including architecture, art appreciation, chess, computer club, embroidery and crafts, French, golden age of film, music for pleasure, petanque, walking, wood carving. Visits are also made to places of interest.

Sedlescombe Lunch Club was established in 2001 and meets every month for people to enjoy a meal together. Anyone over 60 may join. The future of this Club is currently unknown as the pub has just closed where the lunches were usually held.

The Friendship Club was started in 2007 by and for older people. It aims to counteract loneliness and isolation. Events are planned each year. The Club has recently applied for

grant aid through the Age Concern "Fit as a Fiddle" programme designed to help older people to live healthier, active and fulfilling lives.

Although most of the local clubs are not specifically for senior citizens, people of over 60 make up the majority of those attending and running the clubs in the Village. The person organising this year's "heavy-gang" to put up marquees etc. for the Village Fayre is over 80.

The Short Mat Bowls Club was started in 2006, meeting on one afternoon a week in the Village Hall. This soon increased to two afternoons and now the Club has had to stop taking any further members as it is full. All the officers are over retirement age.

A Theatre Club is run by a retired lady and is popular with retired people.

Social housing for the elderly is available in the Village in the form of 23 flatlets. There are also several small bungalows, mostly occupied by the elderly, in another social housing development. There are also privately-owned bungalows on several estates where older people are looked after by neighbours.

At the March 2009 Parish Council meeting, it was decided to make a citizenship award this year to two retired gentlemen who do a great deal in the Village to help their neighbours and the organisations they are involved with. These will be presented at the Annual Assembly in April.

Several people of retirement age are employed in local businesses.

Age Concern provides an Advocacy Service for people aged 60 and over in the area who, for whatever reason, feel that they are unable to cope with or speak up about situations that come into their lives. A trained volunteer will visit the person to discuss the problem, help them to find options and also help with writing letters or speak on behalf of that person and present their wishes if required. The service is free and confidential.

Q.1.18 Community Issues and Initiatives:-

Tell us about any particular community issues you have been working to resolve e.g. speeding, education, shops, post offices, sustainability i.e. bio-fuels, new re-cycling schemes:-

A Parish Council pre-budget survey carried out in 2007, found that the three things that most concerned local residents were speeding, parking and anti-social behaviour. Since then work has been undertaken to address these issues by:

Speed – speed checks carried out in the Village by volunteers over several days. Following this, several local people lobbied the County Council for permanent reactive speed signs which were installed at either end of the Village in 2008. Regular speed checks are carried out by our Police Community Support Officer.

Parking - since Sedlescombe Primary School moved to new premises thirty years ago, it has grown from eighty children to two hundred today. This has caused serious parking problems in the vicinity of the School. In order to help in a small way, the Parish Council lobbied the District Council to move the recycling bins and create a more user-friendly layout at the car park.

Anti-social behaviour – the Parish Council works closely with our Police Community Support Officer in tackling problems associated with anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council has a crime and safety committee which includes three non-councillors, all of whom are members of Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch. Meetings give the

opportunity to raise matters of concern to the Police, Fire Authorities and Housing Associations as required.

At the March 2009 Council Meeting, the problem of isolation at evenings and weekends for people without their own transport was highlighted by a local resident. This problem creeps into daytime as well as there is now a reduced 2-hourly bus service. The Council intends to lobby the County Council again.

Q.1.19 What is your community doing about Affordable Housing?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Already have an affordable housing scheme in parish or Almshouse Trust & actively encourage local nominations<input type="checkbox"/> Collected information/sought advice on affordable housing issues<input type="checkbox"/> Hold information on where people can receive help/advice with affordable housing issues<input type="checkbox"/> Currently working on an affordable housing scheme for local people with local partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Actively attempting to increase the supply of affordable housing on private developments.<input type="checkbox"/> Previously attempted to get an affordable housing scheme developed in the parish for local people<input type="checkbox"/> Have completed a Housing Needs Survey<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |
|---|--|

Details:

Sedlescombe already has an estate of eighty houses belonging to a social landlord. The latest survey raised no issues regarding housing.

THIS QUESTION MUST BE COMPLETED

Q.1.20 Please inform us of one project/initiative that provides a good example of why your village would be a worthy recipient of the Village of the Year Award (please submit supporting evidence if you wish)

SEDLSCOMBE PAVILION PROJECT

Sedlescombe would like to submit a very important project completed in the past year as a good example of why Sedlescombe would be a worthy recipient of the Village of the Year Award 2009.

SUMMARY

Consultation:

The need for the replacement of the Sedlescombe Pavilion was tested during the Parish Plan consultation and fully supported. It was included in the 2002 Parish Plan. Local people attending the 2007 and 2008 Annual Parish Assemblies supported the idea. Further consultations were carried out with the sports clubs that use the field in 2007 and a document produced by the Parish Council in support of grant applications.

Improving local facilities

The old pavilion could certainly not be described as welcoming but the greatly improved facilities will encourage more people to play and support sport. A new meeting place will be provided. This is currently important with the loss of both the scout hut and also meeting rooms that were available at the pub.

Young people

The project shows that Sedlescombe is committed to helping young people by improving sports facilities and, hopefully, helping provide a youth centre. This has received support from both the Parish Council and Sedlescombe Sports Association.

Senior citizens

The project has used the skills and expertise of several retired people in fund-raising for the new pavilion and doing voluntary work in the temporary accommodation. Even people who will not be able to use the pavilion themselves, because of advancing years, have been willing to help or make donations.

Community well-being

Fund-raising events organised by the local group have been very enjoyable. The project has been successful because of the co-operation of all those involved.

The goodwill that the project has engendered will help to make Sedlescombe a better place in which to live. It is considered that Sedlescombe is a very well-rounded Village and would be a worthy recipient of the Village of the Year Award 2009.

Further details of the project are given below:

The Background. Sport was being played at Oaklands Park more than one hundred years ago. Indeed, exactly a century ago, a Sedlescombe Ladies Cricket Team was playing at the ground and had a photograph taken:



At that time, the ground was provided by the owner who was living in the nearby Manor House but, as the land changed hands over the years, Sedlescombe sports clubs moved to various different sites in the parish.

In 1984, the sports clubs were back at Oaklands Park and, when the opportunity arose, the Parish Council purchased the 8-acre sportsfield from the owners who were the Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust. The 25th Anniversary of the field's purchase is celebrated this year.

Prior to the Council's purchase of the sportsfield, the land had been rented from the Pestalozzi Children's Trust for about 15 years and a timber pavilion had been used for changing and teas since the late 1960s.



Over the years, the users of the sportsfield increased, especially the Junior Football Club which grew steadily and today 200 members. (The Club was started in 1981 by two local men and now, 27 years later, it is the most successful Village club in Rother and one of the leading junior clubs in East Sussex.)

Facilities such as showers and inside toilets also became a necessity. This was especially important when the senior football club was successful in its League and moved into the upper divisions. The First Team is currently at the top of The Premier Division of the East Sussex League and the Second Team is doing well also. The cricket team was struggling to provide cricket teas on Sunday afternoons. Eventually, the stoolball club, which had been thriving and winning tournaments around the local area, could stand the outside toilets without washing facilities no longer and left the Association. It is hoped this Club will return to the Association in 2009 along with the new Senior and Junior Netball Clubs. The local schools were restricted in their use of the sportsfield because of the very poor facilities. The School's use is expected to increase in 2009.

The Sports Association, to whom the Parish Council had leased the sportsfield, started trying to find funds to build a replacement pavilion as long ago as the mid-1990s but, for one reason and another, plans always fell through. The idea of a new pavilion had been supported during Parish Plan consultations in 2002 and it had been included in the Plan. It was fully supported by the Parish Council.

In 2007, the Sports Association had been working with the Football Foundation for many months and, because members felt that no progress was being made, they appealed to the Parish Council for help in obtaining funding.

The decision to proceed. Very soon after the request was received by the Parish Council, the Chairman asked those attending the 2007 Annual Parish Assembly whether they would support the Council raising a loan to pay for a new pavilion which would be repaid by a substantial increase in the parish Council Tax. A hundred people attended that meeting and the voting was in favour of the Council carrying out further investigations. These investigations were undertaken and parish councillors decided that it would be far too great a burden to put on the Sedlescombe 660 Council Taxpayers to raise a loan for the full amount. It was, however, decided that fund-raising would begin at once and the project would proceed.

The Project. A Project Manager was appointed, quotes were sought and it was decided that a total price of £180,000 should cover the cost of the plans, temporary accommodation for the sports clubs while the building was under way, piling and slab work and, finally, construction work.

Funding. As well as continuing to work with the Football Foundation, applications were made to many charities, individuals, companies, lottery funds and local authorities asking for grant aid. This work was undertaken by the Parish Council with many hours spent filling in forms and sending off applications.

When the Parish Council had to withdraw its Football Foundation application because of that body's unreasonable need for a larger building, applications for large grants were made to the Big Lottery and the Foundation for Sports and the Arts. Unfortunately, because the economic climate was worsening and sports funding was being diverted towards Olympic expenses, no very large grants materialised.

However, the Sports Association was able to give more than £14,000 and the Parish Council adjusted its 2008-9 budget increasing its total contribution to £39,000 and Rother District Council gave a total of £35,000. Grants ranging from £1,000 to £5,000 were obtained eventually from several charities/bodies.

Locally, a committee was formed made up of members of the Sports Association, Parish Council and local individuals and a list of fund-raising events was produced. Those involved in this committee ranged in age from 40 to over 80 and several of them are unlikely to benefit themselves from the sports use of the pavilion. These events have been highly successful and when the final event is held in May 2009, about £14-£15,000 is expected to have been raised. These events have involved many people living in and around the Village. Other Village bodies have generously stopped their fund-raising activities so that all efforts can be concentrated on raising the funds for the pavilion. Events have included the sale of quiz sheets, big raffles, canapé and wine in homes, dinners, table quizzes, a local history walk, a golf day, a fashion show, jumble sales and Village fayres including reviving the old tradition of maypole dancing. Even now, in the spring of 2009, a retired resident is making nestboxes to sell in the Village to contribute towards the cost of the pavilion.



Temporary accommodation. Once the old pavilion was removed, a temporary portacabin was found advertised on e-bay and eventually

purchased. A lot of work went into arrangements for delivery of the portacabin but, in August 2007, it arrived and was recorded on film by a local amateur photographer. It can be seen on You-Tube.



Then followed a lot of work by volunteers to bring the portacabin up to scratch so that it could be used by the sports clubs. This involved installation of walls and provision of lockers etc. Much of the work was undertaken completely free of charge by a couple of retired gentlemen from the Village.

Construction of the new pavilion.

Work commenced on the building project in August 2008 and it should be completed this month, March 2009. During the contract period, all consultations between the Sports

Association and the Parish Council have been in a spirit of goodwill, facilitated by our excellent Project Manager. The chosen contractor has strong Sedlescombe connections including his family members playing stoolball at the sportsfield. He has been co-operative throughout and has done additional work at no extra cost.

A local firm BeSure Alarm Systems has agreed, despite the economic downturn, to stand by a long-term commitment to provide a free alarm system and SB Focus Ltd. has provided electrical fittings free of charge.



Future of the portacabin. As is detailed elsewhere, the Sedlescombe Youth Project has been looking for somewhere for a youth centre in the Village since the scout hut was burned down in the winter of 2007. The idea of turning the Council's temporary portacabin and another small portacabin owned by the Football Club into a youth centre gradually took shape as the pavilion became nearer completion. Plans were drawn up and, in January 2009, the Parish Council submitted plans for a joint project for the youth centre and for replacement of the old tractor store by the Sports Association. At the time of writing, the plans are before Rother Planning Department.

Theme 2: BUSINESS – a better place to work

Q.2.1 What local businesses and professions are there in your village (don't forget to include mobile services), or what provision is made to provide access to them?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ✓ | Post office | ✓ | Village/Community shop(s) |
| ✓ | Pub(s) – presently closed (hopefully temporarily) | ✓ | Farm(s) |
| ✓ | People working from home | ✓ | Petrol Station/Garage |
| ✓ | Health centre/Doctors/Healthcare | ✓ | Childminder(s)/Nurseries |
| ✓ | Painter/Decorator/Builder/Plumber | ✓ | Tourism related – hotel/bed & breakfast/campsite/heritage site |
| ✓ | Industrial Estates/Premises | ✓ | Out of school clubs |
| ✓ | Schools | ✓ | Other |
| ✓ | Crafts person/artist | | |

Details:

Our shop/Post Office is Sedlescombe Village Stores Limited. It was awarded the Countryside Alliance Best Village Shop/Post Office in the SE Region in 2006 and in 2008 it was a National Finalist in the Federation of Wholesale Distributors Community Shop of the Year. There is an in-store bakery, newsagent, off-licence, confectionery, tobacco, cash machine, DVD hire, photocopier, fax & laminating services. They are agents for dry-cleaning & laundry, shoe repairs and film processing. The Post Office counter is well used. Foreign exchange is available.

The Queen's Head has been an inn for hundreds of years. Recently, despite concerted efforts on the part of the landlord to introduce new attractions and to allow the pub and its garden to be used for many Village events, financial problems were too great and, in February 2009, the Queen's Head closed. We hope that the owners, Enterprise Inns, will be able to find a replacement landlord soon as the pub is an important part of Village life.

Sedlescombe has a wide range of businesspeople who work from home. Currently, these include a beauty therapist, builders, a carpet cleaning service, decking and fencing installer, window installer, a garden irrigation service, several gardeners and designers, a medical herbalist, reclaimed materials, two plumbers, a reflexologist, a signwriter and two taxis.

Sedlescombe has a good range of builders, decorators and plumbers.

On the outskirts of Sedlescombe parish is the Marley Lane industrial estate providing local factory and office employment. Within the next year, Rother District Council will be contributing towards essential roadworks which should allow improved employment opportunities.

Within the parish is a business making oak furniture. Other small industrial sites are also in the parish, although far fewer than in the past. On one of them is a builder and also an Architectural Technician.

Sedlescombe has a garden machinery centre selling and servicing all garden machinery both domestic and professional. There is also a large garden centre stocking a huge range of items from greetings cards to outdoor clothing, garden equipment of every type, bird food and plants of all descriptions. There is also a café on site.

Sedlescombe is very fortunate in its Doctors' Surgery. It is a 3-doctor practice in the centre of the Village, with advanced access appointments every weekday. There are well person checks, surgical procedures and children's clinics. This is a dispensing practice and when, in 2008, the government threatened to withdraw approval for local dispensing, local residents wrote in large numbers objecting to the proposal. The Surgery has a website at www.drsternandptnrs.co.uk where residents can obtain full details on accessing medical services. Sedlescombe Lift Scheme can provide lifts for people who have problems getting to the surgery.

There is an artist living in Sedlescombe who provides lessons for local people.

Sedlescombe has three remaining working farms with sheep, cattle and arable. One of them sells lamb for the table locally.

Sedlescombe has an award-winning organic vineyard selling wine, fruit juices etc. There is a nature trail, wine-tasting and a bluebell walk in spring.

Although there is no longer a petrol station in Sedlescombe, there are three motor-related businesses in the centre of the Village - a good car repair business doing MOTS, tyres and servicing, a car sales area and an accident repair business.

Sedlescombe Pre-School can be found in the Village Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 0915 and 1500. Childcare is provided for 2-5 year olds.

The Brickwall Hotel in the centre of the Village is well-known for its excellent restaurant and good service. It has been owned by the same person for more than thirty years. Its website is www.brickwallhotel.com. A new bistro selling cheaper meals opened in March 2009.

Bed and Breakfast is available in the centre of the Village at Forge House. They are a four star member of Tourism South East.

Just off the A21, is a caravan and camping site with 36 pitches for touring caravans and tents. Its website is www.crazylane.co.uk.

We also have an Antiques and Collectables Showroom in Sedlescombe with 13 shops under one roof. They sell art, books, glass, china, household, jewellery, pine and other furniture, records, cds, dvds etc.

Details of before and after school clubs are provided elsewhere on this form.

Q.2.2 How do these businesses support your village:-

| | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Help promote local events | ✓ | Local employment |
| ✓ | Supportive business organisations eg Rotary etc. | | Provide training/courses |
| ✓ | Equipment for hire/use in the community | ✓ | They offer a local delivery service |
| ✓ | Financial support to local causes | | Other |

Details:

The importance of the Village shop to the community cannot be over-emphasised. It sells tickets, programmes etc. for many Village events. It keeps a calendar of events to avoid clashes. It books seats for our local drama events. It allows the shop to be the repository for return of Parish Council survey forms etc. and collects posters for display on the Parish

Council noticeboard. It has a display of, and sells, books by local authors. It keeps bus timetables. It sells the Parish Council's footpath booklets. It has just selling fruit and vegetables in a box scheme. The owners are always very helpful and will deliver to people in need when required.

Despite its recent closure, the contribution of the local pub to Village life, over the last two years cannot be ignored. As soon as the landlord arrived in the Village, he agreed to become the Chairman of Sedlescombe Sports Association on the sudden death of the former holder. He also became a member of the fund-raising group for the new pavilion. He allowed rooms in the pub to be used for Village meetings following the loss of the scout hut through fire and provided his garden for Village events to be held. For several months, the youth group met in a back room of the pub.

The Village Shops Forum has been set up by Rother District Council recently following work by its Village Shops and Post Offices Working Groups (chaired by Sedlescombe's District Councillor, Tony Ganly). A recent meeting was attended by 80 people. At the meeting a business support scheme run by Ten Sixty-Six Enterprise and funded by Rother District Council was launched.

Local businesses are always ready to help the Village. For example, the local garage carried out repair work at no charge to the metal gate leading to the children's play area on two occasions when it was badly vandalised. Another business is always doing odd jobs such as drain clearance without charge and the same business helps at local events by providing transport for chairs etc. The local architectural technician is always helpful in providing plans quickly when required. Local businesses provide sponsorship for local teams. For example, Sedlescombe Stores purchased kits for the girls football team.

Financial support has been provided by local businesses for the new pavilion and substantial aid has been provided by local businesses by providing the alarm system and electrical goods free of charge.

Raffle prizes are provided by Village businesses as requested.

The Sedlescombe Golf Club (actually just in the parish of Westfield) facilitates charity golf tournaments including one in 2008 in aid of the new Sedlescombe pavilion and another in support of the Battle Community Bus.

For many years, local businesses have financially supported the production of The Sedlescombe Directory. Four years ago, the format of the Directory was changed to include The Sedlescombe Parish Council Annual Report, the Agenda of the forthcoming Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting and the previous year's Minutes and details of village organisations and charities. Last year, the Directory contained a record number of 44 business adverts. For the last two years, the finance raised from local business advertising has completely covered the costs of postage and professional printing of the booklet which now consists of forty pages of useful information. 800 copies are printed and delivered by volunteers to every home in the parish. The booklet is also included in Welcome Packs given to new residents throughout the year.

<http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk/An/BulletinsAnnualReports/AnnualReportDirectory2008.pdf>

Local businesses are, of course, a very important source of employment for people living in the Village. There is shop work, cleaning, cooking, administration, accounting, post office and newsagent work, marketing, professional fund-raising, education, nursing, surveying and architectural work, building and carpentry, bar work, factory work, farming, gardening, caretaking etc. The shop and post office employs one full-time person and twelve part-timers in addition to the husband and wife owners. Their son often works behind the counter.

The Pestalozzi International Village employs about thirty people with a wide range of skills.

Q.2.3 How does the village support and encourage new businesses:-

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ✓ | Businesses under threat have been supported by the local community | ✓ | Help to support each other (joint marketing) |
| ✓ | Local Business Directory | ✓ | Other |

Details:

The Sedlescombe Parish Plan has one of its five main aims “To support and Business and Rural Employment in Sedlescombe”. The action plans include

- Support expansion of local businesses where appropriate
- Protect and support village shop.
- Ensure that our last public house remains an essential centre of village life.
- Encourage opportunities for low key tourism to support local business and benefit residents.
- Support retention of quality postal service.

Since publication of the Plan, the Parish Council has been guided by the actions identified. The possible closure of the local Post Office was opposed not only by the Parish Council but also by a considerable number of local residents. Likewise, in 2008, when our doctors’ surgery was under threat because of the proposed removal of surgery dispensing, the Council and local residents again voiced their opposition. Both were saved (for the time being at least).

The Parish Council has fought to allow the village shop to expand. This proved difficult because it is in a listed building within the Sedlescombe Conservation Area. However, in 2006, planning permission and listed building consent was at last obtained and we have a super refurbished and extended shop and Post Office at a time when many village shops are closing.

The Parish Council has supported reasonable expansion of an industrial estate on the edge of the parish.

The Parish Council has published “Footpath Walks around Sedlescombe” and “A Walk through History in Sedlescombe” as an example of helping low-key tourism.

The Parish Council supports the idea that local businesses such as the hotel and shop should be allowed to advertise on brown signs on the A21. Unfortunately, although supported by Rother District Council, the Highways Agency’s rules do not allow this. A parish councillor is still working to promote the idea.

The local business directory mentioned above, not only helps support the production of the Parish Council Annual Report, but it also helps to advertise local businesses close to where they operate. Local businesses are always keen to be included often giving more than the minimum amount towards their adverts.

The Parish Council publicises the East Sussex Trading Standards Scheme “Buy with Confidence Approved Trader List” and includes details in the Directory.

The Village Shops Forum mentioned in 2.2 above, plans to build on the foundation created by the forum to encourage local shopkeepers to set up their own groups and, with the help of the forum, joint bulk buy and have joint promotions.

The Parish Council has worked closely with the Pestalozzi International Village Trust in their proposed large expansion plans agreed by Rother planners in 2007. Because of the economic situation, this is currently on hold but the Parish Council will continue to do what it can to help the charity/business remain in Sedlescombe.

Theme 3 Sustainability – a better place to live

Q.3.1 What Environmental/Conservation activities do you have in your village?

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Wildlife area | ✓ | Litter Pick-ups |
| ✓ | Re-cycle scheme facilities | ✓ | Local School activities |
| ✓ | Allotments | ✓ | Parish Paths group |
| | Village Pond | ✓ | Walkers maps/leaflets |
| ✓ | Guided Walks | | Community Environment action group |
| | Water Efficiency Schemes | ✓ | Conservation area |
| | Planting schemes | | Community woodland |
| | Community orchard | | Local produce/products directory |
| | Energy efficiency schemes in public buildings or for residents | ✓ | Other |

Details:

Sedlescombe Parish Council owns a small area at the rear of the Village Hall which is managed for the benefit of the environment. It is lightly grazed by some old sheep lent by a local farmer, has a small pond, picnic table and bench seat. It gives a safe and pleasant short cut from housing developments to the east to the Village Hall and is in regular use. Local residents have offered to help with its maintenance in 2009.

Sedlescombe has recycling facilities in the local car park and has kerbside collections arranged by Rother District Council. In 2006, the Parish Council published a “Waste Not” leaflet to alert local people to recycling facilities. Head of Amenities at Rother District Council, Madeline Gorman, spoke on the subject at the 2008 Annual Parish Assembly (attended by 125 people).

Sedlescombe has several private allotments. Although less used in recent years, there has been an upsurge in interest more recently and several plots are once more being readied for production.

The land surrounding the Pestalozzi Village is important as it is an interesting example of parkland. Monthly guided walks take place on the Pestalozzi Estate led by Sedlescombe ecologist Dr Patrick Roper. A local group called “The Friends of the Pestalozzi Estate” have events to keep people interested and informed.

Dr Roper is also very involved with Brede High Woods which was purchased in December 2007 by the Woodland Trust after a very successful national and local fundraising campaign in which several Sedlescombe residents were involved. At 648 acres, it is the biggest Woodland Trust site in England. It is a complex of ancient semi-natural woodland, planted ancient woodland, secondary plantation woodland and open ground. Past uses of the woods can be seen in the extensive earthworks from the excavation of iron ore that underpinned the historic Wealden iron industry. The woods contain a great variety of habitats including open heathland, overstood and in-rotation coppice, ghyll woodland, wet woodland, sphagnum beds, small ponds, springs, streams and acid grassland. This is all within easy walking distance of Sedlescombe. In 2008 Dr Roper produced “An Ecological

Assessment of Brede High Woods". The management plan can be seen on the website <http://www.wt-woods.org.uk/bredehighwoods/manPlan.asp>. Regular walks are being held to highlight the wildlife and the Woods' industrial past.

Dr Roper maintains several websites as follows:

- Brede High Woods <http://bredehighwoods.blogspot.com/>
- Ramblings of a Naturalist <http://ramblingsofanaturalist.blogspot.com/>
- Windowbox Wildlife <http://windowboxwildlife.blogspot.com/>. This is a weblog that follows the natural biodiversity of a windowbox in Sedlescombe from bare soil to wilderness. The project was started with sterile soil in the box in November 2005. This interesting project and the following one were featured on 2007's TV Springwatch and the windowbox has even been transported to Scotland as part of this programme.
- The Square Metre <http://squaremetre1.blogspot.com/>. Since September 2003, Dr Roper has been studying a square metre of rough grassland and the immediate surrounding area in his garden in Sedlescombe. By May 2006, over 700 species of plants and animals had been identified. He keeps detailed notes on the project and puts some "edited highlights" on the webpage. One correspondent from The Friends of Charles Darwin has noted that this is similar to an experiment carried out by Charles Darwin in 1856.
- Dr Roper also writes for the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre where his son Charles is the Biodiversity IT Officer.

Dr Roper gives talks to local organisations.

Butterfly Conservation. Sedlescombe has been included in a three-year project to improve habitats for butterflies. Various events are being held. Sedlescombe's Tree Warden (and parish councillor), Pat Martin, is currently coppicing some of his woodland in order to provide an improved habitat as part of the project.

The ancient sweet chestnut trees outside the Parish Church have been registered with The Ancient Tree Hunt <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/>.

The Parish Council maintains a webpage containing links to environmental sites <http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk/An/Website%20pages/EnvironmentLinks.html>.

In 2008, the Clerk to the Parish Council led a local history walk to look at the built environment in the centre of the Village.

For several years, Sedlescombe has identified nearly thirty local residents who have agreed to pick up litter in areas of the parish. They have an uphill struggle but collect bags and bags of rubbish, much dropped from passing cars. The Parish Council is currently considering ways it can "Stop the Drop". Current ideas are a children's poster competition (similar to the 2008 wildlife one), a recycle rubbish bus at the July Fayre (also at the 2008 event) and attempts to recycle the rubbish collected at the Fayre.

Sedlescombe has a small group of volunteers who have been working in co-operation with the County Council to make an "easy-access" footpath walk. About twenty stiles have been replaced (with the landowners' agreement) by gates. The Parish Council lobbies the County Council to sort out rights of way problems including replacement of bridges.

In 2002, the Parish Council, working with the County Council, published a walks leaflet "Footpath Walks around Sedlescombe". Despite the passage of time, this is still popular and sells in the local Village shop.

There are several sites of Nature Conservation Interest in Sedlescombe.

The Parish Council worked with the Rother Conservation Officer to draw up a plan for a Conservation Area in Sedlescombe.

In 2008, the Parish Council became aware that the River Brede contains American Signal Crayfish. Following an article in its Bulletin, several people became interested in catching them for the table. After discussions with the Environment Agency, the Parish Council has adopted a Fishing for Crayfish Policy which explains what must be done if people are to fish for these creatures in our River

<http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk/An/Policies/a081111CrayfishingPolicy.html>.

Q.3.2 What strategies for community safety do you have in your village?

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| ✓ | Police Liaison meetings | ✓ | Road Safety Project(s) |
| ✓ | Police Surgery | | Good Neighbour Scheme |
| ✓ | Community Support Officers/BLOG | ? | Walking School Bus or walk to school scheme |
| ✓ | Neighbourhood Watch Schemes | | Prevention Schemes |
| ✓ | Other | | |

Details:

Sedlescombe Parish Council has had close liaison with the Sussex Police. It was the first parish in East Sussex to pay, using its own funds and grant aid, for its own Police Community Support Officer. A legal agreement was drawn up with Sussex Police Authority. After two years, grant aid dried up and, at the same time, Police Community Support Officer cover improved considerably in this area. This episode was followed by an unsatisfactory period where the PCSO was not doing the work required in the Village. Strong representation was made to the Chief Inspector and, since 2008, Sedlescombe has had an excellent PCSO who works tirelessly for the Village. PCSO reports are received each month and these are published on the website <http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk/An/PCSO/PCSOReports.html> and posted on the Council's noticeboard.

Since the PCSO was employed by Sedlescombe, a Crime and Safety Committee of the Parish Council has liaised regularly with the Police, the Fire Authorities and Housing Associations. Not only parish councillors are on the committee but also members of the Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch. Between meetings, the PCSO keeps in contact with members of the committee and the Clerk.

Police Surgeries are held from time to time by the Police and PCSO in the Village usually on the Village Green. District Ward Neighbourhood Panels have been set up in order to identify policing priorities.

Sedlescombe has a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with Co-ordinators identified throughout the Village. A small committee meets from time to time and members give help to local people regarding obtaining free smoke alarms, Lifeline etc. as well as the security goods' installation as mentioned elsewhere. Members will set light timers, change light bulbs etc. A Neighbourhood Watch by e-mail scheme also provides e-mailed information on crimes to registered people.

In 2007, Sedlescombe ran several speed checks in the Village using borrowed County Council equipment. A volunteer list was arranged by a parish councillor. This resulted in a request for improvements to the County Council. Interactive signs and 30mph painted on

the road surface have been implemented. Speeds are to be looked at further by the County Council in 2009-10.

At the Parish Council's suggestion, a walking bus project was started at Sedlescombe Primary School and ran for some time. The Local Housing Association provided fluorescent jackets for participants.

Q.3.3 What initiatives/strategies have you developed or introduced to deal with climate change and carbon footprint issues?

In 2007, the Parish Council adopted a Biodiversity Strategy <http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk/An/Policies/a2007biodiversitystrategyAmended.htm>.

This includes:

- having regard to conserving biodiversity of its land,
- taking care with its use of energy, water and chemicals,
- not increasing air, noise or light pollution,
- minimizing the amount of waste it produces and the amount of green waste it sends to landfill,
- minimizing paper waste by using e-mail communication with its members and others,
- encouraging people not to print e-mails,
- trying to buy plastic street furniture or if not available using timber from sustainably-managed forests,
- conserving the Rivers Brede and Line and their banks and keeping them free of invasive weeds (this has meant paying for a three-year project to rid the parish of Giant Hogweed from the riverbanks),
- supporting protection of the floodplains in the parish and resisting of development in them,
- raising public awareness of biodiversity through education,
- working with the School to encourage knowledge and care for trees,
- protecting sensitive habitats from development,
- encouraging appropriate management of road verge habitats especially where special flora is identified (the Parish Council has published a leaflet about maintenance of an estate grass verge where there are interesting plants growing).

Theme 4: Communications – being in contact

Q.4.1 What ways of communicating to local people and businesses does your village have?

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 4 ✓ | Noticeboards, how many, who provides | | Councillors' surgeries |
| ✓ | Village Newsletter(s) frequency | | Information centre |
| ✓ | Business Directory | | Church Newsletter(s) |
| ✓ | Website | | Other |

Details:

There are three noticeboards in Sedlescombe. A large one in three sections is provided by the Parish Council on the wall of the shop. It is used not only for Parish Council news but also for local events. These extend outside the parish if there is room. There is a noticeboard outside the School giving School news. There is a small noticeboard outside the Village Hall and several larger boards in the foyer of the Hall along with a display of leaflets.

The Sedlescombe News is published every week by a small committee of local residents. This is a four page A5 leaflet. Anyone can insert an item free of charge. The News is printed by the Village Shop and sold for 20p. Although its circulation is not huge, it provides a very important way of disseminating information to and from local organizations and bodies.

Business Directory. Details of the Annual Directory have been detailed previously on this form.

Following is a list of some of the websites used by local people to communicate:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Crazy Lane Tourist Caravan Park | www.crazylane.co.uk |
| Brickwall Hotel | www.brickwallhotel.com |
| Pumphouse Designs | www.pumphousedesigns.co.uk |
| Little Orchard Beauty Studio | www.emmamonk.co.uk |
| Conquest Cleaning Services Ltd. | www.conquestcleaning.co.uk |
| Dr Stern & Partners | www.drsternandptnrs.co.uk |
| Ecoflo Garden Irrigation Ltd. | www.ecoflo-irrigation.co.uk |
| Sedlescombe Organic Vineyard | www.EnglishOrganicWine.co.uk |
| Sedlescombe Primary School | www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk |
| Pestalozzi International Village | www.pestalozzi.org.uk |
| Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club | www.sedlescomberangersifc.co.uk |
| Sedlescombe Parish Council | www.sedlescombe.org.uk |
| Country Ways Oak Furniture | www.countrywaysoak.co.uk |

The Parish Council publishes a Bulletin three years a year and a detailed Annual Report annually in time for the Annual Parish Assembly. These are delivered to every home in the parish by a team of eighteen volunteers.

Q.4.2 What activities/events does your village hold during the year to encourage people to join in community life?

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Village Fete | | Village Hall Open Day |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Village Fair | | Other |
| | Volunteers Day | | |

Details:

The Sedlescombe Societies Association is made up of representatives from Village Organisations. They organise an annual Fayre. In 2009, it will also include the Garden Society Summer Show for the first time in ten years, all on the sportsfield. It is usual for this event to make a profit which is then ploughed back into Village organisations. Any organisation is free to apply for grant aid in the autumn of each year. This Association has contributed £1,000 to the pavilion project in each of the last two years.

The Parish Church holds a biennial Fayre on the Village Green.

In 2008, the Pavilion Fund-raising Group held a May Fayre in the pub garden. This year, it will be held on the Village Green and run by the Parish Council. The Parish Council has run two Autumn Fayres on the Village Green for the last two years, raising funds for the new pavilion.

The School holds an annual Strawberry Fayre and other events in the school grounds.

**Q.4.3 Does your village have a website/s? If no, please go to Q. 5.
If yes, please write the website/s address below and answer questions 4.4 & 4.5**

Yes

Website address: www.sedlescombe.org.uk

(The judges will be looking at the website)

Q.4.4 How often is your website updated?

Daily Weekly Monthly Yearly Other

Details: The Parish Council has had a website since 2003. It has been improved on several occasions. The current site was built by a local resident and relaunched in March 2008.

Q.4.5 What is your website/s like? Does it have...

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local Pictures | | Village diary/events listings |
| | Graphics representing the village | | BLOG |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Village News | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Village History |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local Business Adverts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Village map/directions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Contact details | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Telephone Directory |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local attractions/things to do | | Local Transport information |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Links to wider information | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Details:

The website is full of information which is updated every day by the Clerk to the Parish Council. It includes links to all the documents that the Parish Council has to have available under the Freedom of Information Act, Planning links, loads of local information, details of businesses advertising in the Sedlescombe Directory and articles on the History of the parish. There are also links to many other relevant sites. For example, the activities webpage <http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk/An/Website%20pages/Activities.html> gives links to other sites giving information about 1066 Country, activities and clubs in the wider area, how to find a good book, where to get entertainment, where to find a nice picnic spot and a very good site which lists events for Rother together with the facility of allowing members to the public to add their own events.

Visitors to the site can quickly find Sedlescombe's location through a Google Map and information about the parish, its elected representatives, local news and weather, frequently asked questions, East Sussex in figures, a Recycling Calendar, a quiz about the parish and a series of photo galleries.

Contact details and telephone numbers are supplied.

Q.4.6 How does your village support access to computers and Information Communication Technology (ICT)?

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| | Fixed/mobile resource with computer access | | Drop in/Computer Club Internet Café |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Education Centre/courses on IT in the village or local school | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other free access to computers |
| | Local businesses who allow public access to ICT equipment | | Home computer tuition/support within the village |
| | Other | | |

Details:

Sedlescombe School has a modern ICT suite which is available to the local community. Courses can be run in the evening on application to the School.

Residents have to go to Battle Library (3 miles away) for free computer access.

Q.4.7 Are there any other benefits Information Communication Technology has for your village? (e.g.SMS alerts, Webcams or speed display systems)

Since 2008, Sedlescombe has had two speed display systems working at either end of the Village.

IT is important to the Parish Council. The Clerk attaches briefing notes to all Council Agendas and councillors and the public are encouraged to look at them. Several Powerpoint presentations have been produced by the Parish Clerk for presentation to the public (during the 2007 Speed Campaign) and also for in-house training for parish councillors. The Council owns a digital projector purchased through a Quality Council grant in 2005.

Well Done!

you have completed this application

Please remember to fill out your contact details at the beginning of this application

Completed applications should be returned to:

Dawn Brock
Administration Team Manager

Action in rural Sussex
Village of the Year Competition
Sussex House
212 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 2NH

Tel : 01273 473422

Or email form and supporting materials to

www.voy@ruralsussex.org.uk

**Closing Date for applications : ~~9 March 2009~~ Revised date now
Monday 16 March**

Further copies of this form are available from the Action in rural Sussex
web site – www.ruralsussex.org.uk