

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

BULLETIN



JULY 2011

www.sedlescombe.org.uk

ISSUE 40

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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TENNIS COURTS

The tennis courts were installed in 1955 and since then their use has waxed and waned depending on local circumstances. Currently, as well as free public use, the Sedlescombe Netball Club uses them for its practice sessions and, recently, held a successful tournament there. Tennis continues to be played on a regular basis and it is used as a general kickabout area. Sometimes, dog training even takes place. Once again, the time has come round for decisions to be made on the future of the courts with the ever-increasing cost of maintaining the surface. Public consultation is expected to take place in the autumn to find out what uses local people would like to see made of the area.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

After functioning with just seven people for a few months, the Parish Council is back to its full quota of nine councillors following the elections. Because of various other pressures, John Marland stepped down in May and Roy Chapman, Julian Heap and John Reynolds joined us.

Roy has lived in and been associated with Sedlescombe and its surrounding areas for more than 40 years and runs his own building business here. He is a member of Battle & Villages Lions Club and is on the Committee of the Sedlescombe & District Garden Society. His interests include photography, the arts and conservation.

Julian moved to Sedlescombe just over ten years ago and runs his own Home Entertainments/Multimedia business. He is a keen motorsport fan and is a member of the Tunbridge Wells Motor Club. He would support the re-introduction of the Pestalozzi Hill Climb.

When John first came to Sedlescombe in 2004, he built himself and family a new house in Hurst Lane. He has been involved in work for Great Ormond Street Hospital via his involvement with the Masonic lodges and supports several other charities. John has served on the Parish Council's Emergency Committee in the past. He is passionate about the countryside and its well being and likes walking, fishing and gardening.

Valerie Wright remains the Chairman of the Council with Jonathan Vine-Hall taking over as Vice-Chairman and also Chairman of the Planning Committee. Jonathan is a relatively new member of the Council having been co-opted in 2010 but has previously served on the Council's Emergency Committee. For several years, he has been actively involved in maintenance of the parish footpaths. Since 2003, he has farmed Hurst Estate which runs between Brede Lane and Cripps Corner. He competes in Western Riding in both the UK and Europe and has four rescue dogs.

Pauline Glew remains Chairman of the Finance Committee and Pat Martin of the Emergency Committee.

HELICOPTER USE OF LAND RELIES ON 28-DAY PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS. Rother DC has reminded the operator of the Spilstead Airstrip that helicopters cannot land within the confines of the Spilstead Farm land. However, outside this land, helicopters can land for a period of 28 days in a year without planning permission.

COACH AND HORSES BUS STOP? It certainly was a surprise to see several new bus stop signs erected in Sedlescombe as well, of course, as across the county. The Parish Council was immediately aware that the sign in Brede Lane near the entrance to the Queen's Head had been incorrectly sited and a request was made for it to be moved. At the time of going to press, we are still waiting for this to be done.

WHAT HAVE SEDLESCOMBE RESIDENTS SAID ABOUT THE VILLAGE THIS YEAR?

Early in 2011, the Parish Council carried out a survey to find the three key issues that residents believe should be tackled. Issues highlighted by the majority of people were:

1. The activities of the Budget Car Company. (See below)
2. Parking problems in the Village. (Some action taken by local PCSO)
3. Speed of traffic through the Village. (Traffic speed checks undertaken by local PCSO)

Some of the other subjects raised were road surfaces, street lighting, overgrown hedges, too much development, need for additional footways, litter problem, junction A21 and B2244, dog fouling problems, recycling (particularly the existing position of the bins) and the lack of youth facilities

At the well-attended Annual Parish Assembly at the end of April some of the issues raised by local residents were as follows:

- Concern about a planning application to remove the personal and temporary conditions relating to flying from Spilstead Airstrip. Despite opposition from the Parish Council and our District Councillor, this application was recently approved by Rother District Council.
- Concern that the Youth Club may not be able to continue following the end of funding.
- The importance of retaining the public conveniences in Brede Lane. It is possible that the Parish Council will be asked to take them over from Rother District Council if Rother is forced to find additional savings.
- A request for greater subsidisation of public transport rather than more car parks and road improvements. However, the County Council plans to spend £25 million on road improvements in the county.
- The need for faster broadband particularly so that businesses will be encouraged to the county.
- The need to do something about the ever-expanding Budget Car Company.
- A plea for yellow lines to be introduced to stop inappropriate parking.

In May, the Netball Club raised concerns about the surface of the tennis courts where they regularly practise. See item on front page.

In June, local residents made representation to the Parish Council concerning noise nuisance emanating from Pestalozzi's use of its land and the need to restrict the number of events taking place on the Estate.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO BUDGET CAR COMPANY ISSUES?

This year, the Parish Council has continued to press other bodies to ensure that the Budget Car Company keeps to its lawful obligations in the following ways:

- It has opposed four planning appeals regarding additional parking and the storm shelter which were all eventually refused by the Planning Inspectorate at the beginning of June. It has continued to press Rother DC to ensure Budget's compliance.
- It has objected to the removal of trees in the Conservation Area without permission and has obtained Rother's agreement to serve a tree replacement notice.
- It has pressurised the County Council into ensuring that the cars on the site are back from the grass verge.
- It has obtained the agreement of the County Council to install posts along the grass verge in front of the business to stop dangerous access to the highway. The Parish Council continues to press the County Council.
- It has asked for the removal of the "waving balloon man". After measuring it, Rother DC found this pushed the amount of advertising on the site over the allowance.
- It has continued to oppose the sale of more than one car within 500 metres on the highway in contravention of the Environmental Protection Act 2003.
- It has informed the Environment Agency and Southern Water Authority about car washing on the site which might lead to pollution particularly of the river. The Environment Agency will continue to monitor the site to ensure proper practices are adhered to although no pollution has been found.