



Update of the Neighbourhood Plan

Our community's Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Rother District Council in July. Following this, the Plan underwent the second required formal consultation in September. Just under 400 responses were received from residents and stakeholders. Thank you to all those residents who took the time to fill in the consultation form.

89% were in support of the Plan.

Three quarters of the small percentage of non supporters were residents or representatives of Gregory Walk. The Parish Council acknowledges that the residents of Gregory Walk object to the development on the 'Sunningdale' site. However, the Parish Council has been successful in reducing the proposed development from 10 houses down to 6 houses and in removing the proposed pelican crossing and play area suggested by the developer as community benefits which the residents objected to. It is important to understand that a significant part of the site is already within the development boundary and not including it at all would mean the Plan would fail at examination as it would be contrary to both National and District planning policies. Whilst the goal of our Plan was to satisfy everyone in our community, the Parish Council regrets that we have not been able to achieve this for the residents affected by the inclusion of this site.

Ultimately the Plan is decided by referendum and a significant majority have supported the Plan.

The Plan is now with a Government Inspector who will make a recommendation to the District Council to either pass the Plan, with or without modifications, and then it will go to referendum. Conversely, the Inspector could, of course, fail the Plan. let us hope that after all our work this does not happen. It should also be made clear that the District Council does not agree with a number of parts of our Plan and these differences appear un-resolvable. For four months the Parish Council asked for a meeting with the leader of the District Council to mediate between the Parish and the Council's officers but a meeting was refused. The Inspector will decide how best to address these differences.

We can be pleased that Sedlescombe is first again in the District to act. Several other Parishes are now considering doing a Neighbourhood Plan as they have recognised the reality of the large developments planned for their villages over the next few years.

We ask you to continue to support our community's Neighbourhood Plan.

Jonathan Vine-Hall
Chairman

We extend a very warm welcome... to Nicholas and Joanna Johnson who have moved into the Village Shop and Post Office. It isn't easy to take on an enterprise such as this with two small children...Victor and Alexander.

We wish them every success and happiness as they start a new phase in their lives.

Brilliance runs in our PCSO's family

Most residents have met or know our PCSO Demi Georghiou. We are truly very lucky to have such a committed and effective PCSO in our community.

It turns out that talent runs in his family. His daughter Gina who is just 24 has recently co-written and acted in a musical called 'The Dreamers' which focuses on the life of an officer from Kent and his tragic story at Gallipoli in WW1. It has recently been shown at the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall and was so well received it is now moving to the West End.

If you missed it in Tunbridge Wells then watch out for dates in London.

Casual Vacancy Sedlescombe Parish Council

A vacancy has occurred on the Parish Council following the resignation of John Reynolds. As no poll has been demanded, the Parish Council is now inviting written applications from qualified persons who would like to fill a vacancy. The term expires in May 2015.

If you would like to apply to fill the above vacancy an application form can be obtained by:-

- Contacting The Parish Clerk,
April Cottage, Church Road, Catsfield,
East Sussex. TN33 9DP
Tel: 075 310 654 69
Email: sedlescombe@freezone.co.uk
- Visiting our website.....
www.sedlescombe.org.uk

Pauline Raymond History Cup

During almost 40 years as Sedlescombe Parish Clerk, Pauline Raymond was interested in the History of Sedlescombe. She carried out a lot of research, wrote historical booklets and articles and maintained the Council's archives. To mark Pauline's retirement, the Parish Council has agreed it would be appropriate to instigate a new history competition in the village and present a cup as the prize. The purpose of the competition will be to encourage interest in carrying out research into aspects of Sedlescombe's history and documentation of the results. If you are interested please go to the Parish Council website where you will find all the rules to enter this interesting competition.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION 2015

1. Eligibility to enter

No restrictions. Anyone of any age can enter whether they live in Sedlescombe or not.

2. Details

Presentation of the results of research or local knowledge in a written and/or artistic form. The project should not exceed 10 pages of A4 sized paper including half a page summarising sources of information.

3. The project

Can be based on:

- an event/series of events that took place in Sedlescombe in the past;
- the history of a property or place in Sedlescombe;
- the description of the life of a person or several people who have been connected with Sedlescombe;
- or a fictional account based on any of the above.

4. Judging

Pauline Raymond will judge the entries and her decision on the choice of winner will be final. The judge reserves the right to exclude any project that does not meet these rules.

5. Closing date

For entries to reach Pauline Raymond is **5th April 2015**.

6. Presentation of the Cup

At the annual 2015 Sedlescombe Parish Assembly, the winner will be presented with the cup which they will hold for a year. The cup should be returned to the Parish Council by 1st April 2016.

7. Return of entries

Entries will be returned to the author after the Assembly unless the author is willing to allow the entry or a copy to be retained in the Sedlescombe Historical Archives and, if appropriate, passed to the East Sussex County Record Office.

Update on the Street Farm Development Appeal

A public inquiry was held over three days in the first week of November to determine the appeal for 18 houses to be built on the greenfield site at Street Farm, Brede Lane. The Parish was represented at the appeal by myself and supported by Councillor Fraser. The Parish Council fielded three witnesses including one resident, Dr Patrick Roper, who gave evidence regarding the ecology of the site and Graham Fifield, a professional planning consultant who worked at the District Council as a senior planner for twenty years and gave evidence to support us regarding the planning issues. The appellant (the developer) was represented by a senior Queens Council. The District Council was represented by a barrister who also made their case against the development. The Government Inspector was well balanced and gave all parties a fair hearing. A number of residents also spoke from the public gallery and their willingness to answer questions meant their comments were given more weight by the Inspector.

Ultimately, because the community has a Neighbourhood Plan at an advanced stage, the outcome will be decided by the Secretary of State not the Inspector. It is unlikely that we will hear a result for several months.

I would like to thank all those residents who made the effort to come to the inquiry as just their presence was enough to send a clear message to the Inspector regarding the strong feelings against the development of this site by a very large number of residents.

Jonathan Vine-Hall
Chairman

THE FETE RETURNS!

Saturday 18th July 2015
Sports Ground, Sedlescombe.

LET'S PUT THE FUN BACK INTO FUNDRAISING.

An ideal opportunity for local organisations and charities to raise funds and YOU keep what YOU raise!

For it to happen **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.**
For further details please phone
Peter Anson 01424 870862.

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCILLORS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|
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