

Sedlescombe Parish Council Bulletin - November 2017

Chairman's Introduction

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has paid off the loan for the MUGA (that's the tennis court for anyone born before 2000) 5 years early. This releases the Council from one of the two debts it took to build or replace facilities in the village. For the last few years the Parish Council has taken a more prudent approach to managing its assets by setting aside money each year to replace assets like play equipment as it wears out rather than taking on debt.

Update on Street Farm

Many residents are already aware that the courts refused Sedlescombe a Judicial Review on the approval by Rother District Council of 16 houses at Street Farm. Sadly, the approval was only able to succeed because Rother District Council has failed to approve enough buildings in the last 3 years (mainly in and around Bexhill). This development will now go ahead against the wishes of a large and significant number of residents and against the Neighbourhood Plan which has been supported by a majority of residents.

However, it should be made clear that the promise of the open space in the centre of Street Farm was **only achieved** because the Parish Council objected to the first application after which the developer offered this land at the first appeal.

The Parish Council has already resolved that should the land come to the Parish Council it will be put into a perpetual trust to protect it for future generations. Rother District Councils' cabinet has been asked for a commitment in principle to transfer this land to Sedlescombe once the developer triggers the condition in their planning agreement.

May I thank those hundreds of residents who have personally contributed to stop this unwanted development. I am sorry the outcome has not been as wished but the Parish Council has done absolutely everything in its power to support the majority of the community.

Community Infrastructure Levy

We conducted a consultation in August and September regarding how the large funds which will come to the Village from future planned development should be used. We received 64 comments in total which was much less than previous consultations but there was one clear message - 55% of all comments, were for traffic calming measure through the village. There were also many other individual suggestions which the Parish Council will determine.

The Parish Council will now be able to consider a viability study with the Highways Authority to determine the costs and possible ways of achieving this. The Highways Authority will only consider new works if it's match funded by the Parish Council. To this end it is really important for our Neighbourhood Plan to get a **YES VOTE** when it goes to referendum which we hope will be very soon.

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

As we go to press we are still waiting on the report from the government examiner who we hope will pass our Neighbourhood Plan to allow it to progress to referendum.

Given the approval of the Street Farm application for 16 houses our Neighbourhood Plan is **now only required to allocate sites for a further 19 houses**. To this end the Parish Council wrote to the examiner and asked him to remove the proposed allocation of housing for 12 houses in the field directly next to the Village Hall (subject to him agreeing the other proposed sites). We will know whether he has accepted this when we receive the report.

Red Barn Field Update

We are grateful to The Hastings Botany Group who visited the Field in the summer and recorded many species of wild flowers and fauna. We were pleasantly surprised when we read the extensive created by the Group which are pinned on the Red Barn Field Notice Boards. The sheep are doing a grand job of grazing in the field at the moment thanks to Farmer Mrs Elizabeth Pritchard.

Our next aim is to acquire two new Notice Boards.

The Red Barn Field Working Group always welcomes extra help, to do what we do even better! If you would like to get involved please contact Cllr. Glew on 870258

Sedlescombe Lift Scheme

If you are having any difficulties getting to the hospital/doctors/dentist please do use the Sedlescombe Lift Scheme. We have a team of drivers who will take you to medical appointments for a small fee. The list of drivers is available from the Surgery in Brede Lane or from Cllr. Pauline Glew on 870 258.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Red Barn Field Working Group and the drivers on the Lift Scheme for all the work they undertake to do. Cllr. Pauline Glew.

2018 Sedlescombe Summer Fayre

ORGANISERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sadly this year the Sedlescombe traditional Summer Fayre on the Sportsfield did not happen. The Sedlescombe and District Garden Society held its Annual Summer Show on the Village Green and there were various attractions from the WI, the Church, the Flower Club and other Sedlescombe Societies.

We have excellent facilities in the Pavilion and the adjoining Sports Field, all we need are villagers to come forward and help organise it. This is our village and community and here is a chance to make it a better place and have some fun along the way.

We are looking for villagers to be part of an organising committee for the 2018 Summer Fayre. No experience is necessary and the previous Committee who ran very successful Summer Fayres in 2015 and 2016 are on hand to show the new folk the basics and details of how they managed the Summer Fayre.

If you fancy having a go and doing something for our Community, then please register your interest by emailing clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk

Please note that the Parish Council does not organise the village Fayres, but we would ask for any residents who can give the time to organising a Summer Fayre next year to come forward ☺

Speed Watch

We have held 8 Speedwatch sessions in Sedlescombe this year, and this has resulted in the Police sending out 165 letters to offending drivers.

The highest speed recorded was 54 mph.

We could hold more sessions if we had more volunteers. The training is straightforward, and more volunteers means more sessions. The small dedicated band of "Speedwatchers" are doing an excellent job, so why not join them?

Plans are underway to update our Parish Council Website

A 'wish list' for the new site has been developed and a tender document has been sent to three local companies for quotes. Our aim is to deliver a user friendly, easy to update secure website with the capacity to adapt and grow with the future needs of the parish.

Sedlescombe Jobs Network Community Facebook Page

Has now been running successfully for 4 years. It was created following a Neighbourhood Plan consultation and a comment from a village employer that no facility was available to promote job vacancies to local people. The Jobs Network can also be used by individuals who are looking for help in the house/garden, local trades people or wish to promote events. Post directly on the page or contact michelle.brister@btinternet.com

How to advertise in the Sedlescombe Directory 2018

Each year, Sedlescombe Parish Council publishes an Annual Report and Directory in the run-up to the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish Meeting which, in 2018 is to be held on **Wednesday 18th April 2018** in Sedlescombe Village Hall. Included with the Report is a Directory of local businesses together with contact details for Village Organisations, Societies, Charities etc. and other useful information.

The Parish Council is grateful to local businesses whose purchase of advertising space has helped pay for the printing of the Annual Report for several years. Annual Reports 2006 to 2017 are available to view online at

www.sedlescombe.org.uk/index/ParishCouncil/BulletinsReports/AR.html

The annual timetable is as follows:

1. During December /January local businesses are invited to submit adverts to the Clerk for inclusion in the Directory. Closing date is 5pm on Friday 26th January 2018.
2. In March the printed booklet is delivered to every household in the Parish of Sedlescombe by a team of volunteers.
3. Wednesday 18th April 2018 is the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting of Sedlescombe. Display tables are available for businesses and organisations to advertise themselves. Tables are free of charge. Please e-mail The Clerk at clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk if you require a space.
4. For the remainder of the year, the Report and Directory is delivered to households recently moved into the Parish. Spare copies are available from The Clerk and also in Sedlescombe Village Hall.

THE 2018 SEDLESCOMBE DIRECTORY: Commercial advertising details:

- ♦ Printed commercial adverts will be 60mm (high) x 55mm (wide) in black and white only.
- ♦ A short category heading will be placed over each advert.
- ♦ The cost for 2018 will be £22 incl. VAT for a printed advert (See pages 17-19 of the 2017 Annual Report & Directory)
- ♦ Payment should be by one of the following methods (receipted invoice will be emailed to you on receipt of the payment):
Cheque made payable to "Sedlescombe Parish Council" and sent to The Parish Clerk, April Cottage, Church Road, Catsfield, Battle TN33 9DP or Direct Transfer / BACS to Barclays Bank Plc A/c Name: Sedlescombe Parish Council. Sort Code: 20-27-91 Acct No: 60700304