

Parish Council NEXT MEETING

7.00PM

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2018

VILLAGE HALL EAST HOATHLY

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

VACANCY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
THE PARISH CLERK OR SPEAK TO ANY OF
YOUR COUNCILLORS; CONTACT DETAILS ON
THE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

A VISION FOR OUR PARISH

The Neighbourhood Plan for East Hoathly and Halland has made good progress since the last Parish Newsletter. With the help of our Consultant, Richard Eastham and his team at Feria, we have held two consultative events in the Parish. The Visioning event in February and the Design Forum in March provided an opportunity for residents to express their ideas and hopes for the future of our villages.

Suggestions were numerous (better playing fields, a new community centre, improved infrastructure, enhanced broadband and mobile phone facilities etc) but the overriding concern was that our woodland and green spaces should be protected from development. There is no appetite for large scale development, in either East Hoathly or Halland.

The embargo which had been placed on development to counter the effect of vehicle emissions in Ashdown Forest has prevented development in the villages for the present, however we understand that our villages must expect and plan for changes to occur over the next 10 - 20 years. The Steering Group therefore looked at several suggestions which could allow for some development in the villages which would enhance our pleasant rural environment.

The Interim Report from Feria based on the two events was published in June and can now be read on the Parish Council website. Please remember that the Interim Report is full of ideas NOT firm proposals of where development might occur. It is also important to remember that the ideas (if they are accepted) would not occur at once, but will be spaced over at least 15 years.

The Draft Wealden Local Plan has now been published and has gone a long way towards clarifying the housing numbers we might expect within the Parish over the next 10 – 15 years. Housing numbers are given as 48 homes in East Hoathly (from Windfall Allowance) and 30 homes in Halland within its core area.

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GET INVOLVED - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We urgently need
volunteers for the
Neighbourhood Plan
Working Parties.

If you'd like to help
please email
ehwhnp@gmail.com
contact a member of the
Steering Group.

For bookings for the Pavilion/Playing Fields call Derek Keeley on 01825 840478

Pavillion News

The guttering at the Pavilion has been repaired.

We have also installed security lighting at the Pavilion to improve safety in the area and to light the path to the car park for people using the facilities in the evening.

We are still looking at options for the ladies toilets in the Pavillion. We are aware that these are in poor condition and want to upgrade these as soon as funds are available.

We have reinstated the football goal at the Pavillion end of the football pitch on the field - it's now possible to have a game of football on the pitch.

If there are any other Parish facilities that need repair please let us know.

Contact details on back page.

A Vision For Our Parish cont/- from page 1

There are still many questions to be answered such as the fate of the Hesmonds Stud, Hop Garden and Bramblebank applications which are still with Wealden District Council. Should permission be granted for these developments this would be contrary to the policies set out in the Draft Local Plan.

The Steering Group will actively seek clarification on these issues, and others, at meetings with Wealden District Council over the coming months.

The Draft Local Plan has given more robust support to Neighbourhood Plans which now can have some control on small developments outside of the development boundary or core area. Previously this important control was denied to the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group of the Neighbourhood Plan is now embarking on a very important phase of the progress towards submitting a draft document for consultation. We are once more engaging the services of Feria and during the autumn and New Year there will be two public consultative events so that hopefully by spring 2019 the first full draft of the Neighbourhood Plan will emerge.

To assist with developing policy themes and to engage public opinion the Steering Group have formed Working Parties who will discuss, consider and draft policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council,
Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
(ehwhnp@gmail.com)

Your Dog Poo Belongs to You

A polite reminder to dog walkers to please consider others when using the footpaths and pavements around the villages and, in particular, our wonderful recreation ground.

Please ensure that you clean up after your dog. There are a number of special bins located around the villages (there are two in the park in East Hoathly). Please make use of these.

Parish Pavements

The Parish Council has been in contact with East Sussex Highways about improving the pavement in front of Lydfords care home. We've also looked at the pavement between Susan's Close and the Tennis Club.

In Halland the pavements along the Lewes and Eastbourne Roads are in a parlous state and other areas, such as Knowle Lane, are without pedestrian walkways. To make matters worse the road surface where there are no pavements is poor which makes it difficult for pedestrians to navigate safely.

Now it's your turn. Most of us try to keep the pavement outside our homes free from overhanging hedges and plants, but plants and trees grow quickly in good weather.

Have a look outside your house - can a person in a wheelchair or a mum with a pushchair pass easily and safely by? What can you do to make our Parish a better place for everyone? Remember it's your Parish and we all want to be proud of where we live.

Thank you for your help!

East Hoathly Calling

The telephone box close to the King's Head has now been painted and we are now looking to find a good use to put it to.

We've had a few suggestions for example another defibrillator, a mini library/book exchange, village information kiosk.

Please tell us what you think - tell a Parish Councillor or email the Parish Clerk with your ideas - easthoathlywithhallandpc@gmail.com

Notice Board - East Hoathly

The new Parish notice board is now in situ in East Hoathly village.

Bus Stops

We have been negotiating with East Sussex County Council in an effort to improve the Bus Shelters in Halland.

We have received agreement to replace the shelter outside the Forge, and the licence has been issued so we are now able to replace this.

We have had to re-tender for the work and we are pleased to report that a provider has been chosen to do the work.

NFF are a Wealden based company who have built wooden bus shelters in other parishes as well as providing specialist wooden buildings for a number of other public spaces in Sussex such as Drusillas and Tilgate Park.

The deposit payment has been made and work should start in the next few weeks.

We have also received permission to instal an information kiosk with roof and seating at Sandhill Lane, at the roundabout on the plinth where the old bus shelter was situated and to replace the notice board in Eastbourne Road with a new board with roof and a seat.

Licences have been posted and NFF will also be making and installing these structures as soon as the relevant permission is received from East Sussex to start the groundworks.

We hope to have all of the work done before the bad weather sets in this year - fingers crossed!

Parish Recreation Ground and Play Equipment

We are very lucky to have a beautiful park in East Hoathly, however keeping it in good condition is one of the most significant areas of expense to the Parish. A lot of time at Parish Council meetings is devoted to talking about how we can improve and enhance the facilities in order to benefit as many people in the Parish as possible.

Last year the play equipment was damaged by vandalism and we also had some problems with bits of equipment that had rotted away. Some of the repair work was carried out under guarantee by the original suppliers, however repairing the vandalism was paid for out of Parish funds. As a result the money we'd hoped to spend on buying equipment last year was used before we had a chance to allocate it to new projects.

This year we have again considered plans for extra equipment and made attempts to understand what the children and young people of the villages would like to have in the future. We felt that younger children were reasonably well served, but there was a lack of more adventurous equipment for older children (and also facilities for adults with outdoor gym type equipment).

All this leaves the Council with a set of difficult choices, as there are limitations on funding and the space for locating new features and of course we still need to leave an adequate margin for the cricket pitch and football pitches.

Investigations so far have focused on a zip wire with some research on adult outdoor gym equipment. There is much to think about including giving serious consideration to applying for grants to increase the amount of funding available. To apply for grants, we have to have firm costed plans in place that also demonstrate we have consulted the whole parish adequately.

We are aware that some projects, like a zip wire, have noise implications that might upset some residents living close to the recreation ground. We are therefore actively seeking feedback from residents about this. **Please review the plan here with the possible additional features and locations and send us your comments by 20th September 2018 to easthoathlywithhallandpc@gmail.com**

Playground Survey

A survey that was taken by children of their peers at the East Hoathly school last year told us that the majority of children would like a zip wire, with gym equipment coming in second. Previously, a survey of parent's opinions had shown that the preferences were (in order of most popular to least) were:-

- 1) Multi age swings
- 2) Improved family seating
- 3) Zip wire/Fencing for the very young play area – equal third
- 4) More interesting climbing apparatus
- 5) Adult exercise equipment
- 6) Climbing wall

Interestingly 4 out of 10 respondents said that they used the current play area at least twice a week and nearly 9 out of 10 said they would use it more with improvements.

Most parents said they would make additional use of the facilities if they were made more family friendly.

New! The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the improved and updated website is now up and running. www.easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk

Football Pitch - Landraise Warning - Controversial Issue

Let's start by being brutally honest. The families with young children (boys & girls) want their football pitch back. The Parish Council has put the goal posts back up, but that's only part of the solution. The fact is that the pitch is unfit for purpose for most of the playing season.

There are families who came to this Parish because it had a football pitch, but have grown up and left the village having never been able to play a competitive game of football; worse still parents are now using their cars unnecessarily to drive their children to towns and villages where they can play a proper game of football.

As a Parish Council, we are custodians of the recreation ground and over the years a lot of time and money has been spent on different drainage and aeration schemes. Great things have been promised, but sadly nothing has worked. The fact is that the pitch is on low lying ground, there is an underground stream and the site is underlain by thick clay. In its current condition it is never going to be usable. The only solution, if we want as a community to have a resource that is viable in the longer term, is to raise the level of the playing surface.

The Parish Council has been in dialogue with Penfold Verrall who are undertaking the landraise project at Ringmer Gliding Club. We have taken the opportunity to visit the club and see the work in progress.

Initial impressions are very good. Penfold Verrall are doing a very professional job and they have certainly delighted the club.

Landraise in this context is NOT something to be scared of. It has no connection with landfill and the material used for projects like ours is tightly controlled, both the source and nature of the materials that are used, a significant amount of which will be chalk based.

There are downsides to a landraise project. It will take a number of months to complete. It will be disruptive at times and parts of the recreation ground will be put beyond use for at least one season. We also need to time the works so as to ensure that our wonderful fireworks celebrations are unaffected. We have however spoken to clubs and societies that use the field and they understand the need and are supportive of the project.

Let's have a constructive and honest debate about landraise. It's the most likely solution if we want to have a viable playing surface at the centre of our community.

This project will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting on 24th September 2018 - please come along. **We would welcome your views by email in advance to arrive by 20th September 2018 to easthoathlywithhallandpc@gmail.com.**

Safety Inspections

We are required to organise regular inspections of the play equipment in the park, primarily to ensure that the equipment is safe and fit for purpose. These inspections also point out where maintenance and repairs are needed.

Most of the structural components are timber based and everyone in the area will be aware of the toll that our climate takes on outdoor woodwork. This summer, the safety surface of wood chippings has been replaced – these are gradually lost to compaction, rot and dispersion.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

What is it? What are its aims? Who is leading it?

Are you willing to contribute ideas and help to create a vision for the future of our villages?

Neighbourhood Plans were created by the Localism Act of 2011 to give local communities a say in how their neighbourhoods will develop. They are usually initiated by the Parish Council who create a Steering Group which then drives the Neighbourhood Plan forward.

The process of creating the Neighbourhood Plan is complicated and involves several public consultations and a referendum. It works in tandem with and supports the Local Authorities Local Plan. The entire process of creating a neighbourhood plan normally takes 3 - 4 years. The Parish Council retains ultimate control of the process and the Steering Group report to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

In January 2017 East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council initiated the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan (sometimes known as a Neighbourhood Development Order) for our Parish and the Steering Group was formed. The Steering Group is made up of 14 members of whom 5 are serving Parish Councillors. The remainder of the team are local residents. The Chair of the Steering Group is appointed by the Parish Council.

Working Parties have also been formed. These consist of small groups led by a member of the Steering Group which meet to discuss various policies that are central to the community interests and develop the themes and demands and needs of the local residents so that these can be properly accounted for and included within the Neighbourhood Plan.

There is a Working Party for each of the following policies: Employment and Business, Health and Wellbeing, Infrastructure and Sustainability, Environment and the Countryside, Leisure, Sports and the Arts and Development. Membership of Working Parties is open to all residents and we are actively looking for more volunteers to get involved. We hope that many more people will be prepared to join in and help.

Joining a Working Party enables you to contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan and ensures that it will reflect the aspirations of the Community. If you are interested in joining one of the Working Parties please contact ehwhnp@gmail.com giving your name, contact details and the name of the Working Party which interests you.

We welcome interest and participation from people of all ages, but we'd particularly like to hear from some younger people - the plan covers the development of our community for the next fifteen to twenty years so if you are aged 20 to 40 or you are concerned about how developments will affect your children, it's important that you get involved.

Current Steering Group Members are: Cllr. Diane Knill (Chair), Cllr. S. Cole, Cllr T. Pope, Cllr J. Ritchie, Cllr Chris Magness, Peter Brooke, Peter Chapman, Victoria Crick, Gina Cuthbertson, Gill Kennedy, Richard Partridge and Jonathan Walker.

New! Check out the new and improved and Parish Council website:-
www.easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk

Projects For Halland

A sum of money has been set aside in the budget to spend on creating a safe place to play in Halland. We are now looking for some land to buy or lease so we can make a start.

We're open to ideas and it would be nice to have something a bit different to the facilities in East Hoathly so the Parish children have a choice of activities - perhaps a woodland trail with seating and places for folk to walk.

If you have some land that you'd be prepared to let us use please get in touch.

Keeping in Touch

As a Parish Council we have to make decisions about the things that will be done in and for the Parish. We want to hear from you so we know what you would like us to do.

How would you like to us to communicate with you and what's the easiest way for you to tell us what you think? Please let us know!

To tell us what you think or to discuss any of the matters in this newsletter you'll find our contact details below, as well as the Parish Council email address

EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL - PARISH COUNCILLORS

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DAVID VAUGHAN (CHAIR)	(07956) 281601	jndvaughan@aol.com

Malcolm Ramsden, Parish Clerk email: easthoathlywithhallandpc@gmail.com

NEW! Improved and updated website: easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk

PC "SURGERIES"

If you have any questions that you would like to discuss informally please come along to a PC surgery.

East Hoathly: Kings Head, East Hoathly from 8 to 8.30pm. Ask for Cllr Jonathan Ritchie or Cllr Tony Pope. Second Thursday of each month.

Halland: Halland Forge 7pm, Third Monday of each month.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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