

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It has been a really busy period for the Parish Council. We have been involved with many, many projects apart from all the routine administration and services we provide in the Town.

Christmas Lights:

One of the things we have been supporting this year is a financial contribution to the Christmas Lights which are provided by the Steyning Chamber of Trade and which do so

much to enhance the festive spirit during December. The Chamber of Trade has found it increasingly difficult over the years to raise the amount of money necessary to fund a display. It costs approximately £3,500 every year to put this on. The Parish Council has been approached to pay an increased contribution towards this in 2012 that may amount to as much as £1,000. How do you feel about that?

We would very much like some feedback because the cost of this will go on the Parish Precept. Please let us know. spcclerk@btconnect.com

Council Tax:

And whilst mentioning next year's Council Tax, we hope to be able to budget for only a modest increase in the Parish Precept although the Council Tax is frozen for 2012.

CCTV:

One of the other projects we are currently working on is to put CCTV cameras in Memorial Playing Field to view the children's play area and other areas of the field particularly at night, and secondly to cover the interior of the bus shelter in the High Street.

Unfortunately both have experienced anti-social behaviour and putting in CCTV is one way of minimising and deterring this. We are of course combing this with continuing patrols by our two Wardens and our PCSO and happily we have been able to keep antisocial behaviour to a minimum but it does occur from time to time.

The Garden of Remembrance in Memorial Playing Field:

Congratulations to the British Legion, chaired by Lewis Whittaker for their fantastic efforts in completely remodelling the Garden of Remembrance. This has been done at a cost of £28,000 through Grant Aid, and was opened in September. It is a real credit to everybody who put in such hard work.

Parish Council Website:

We are really proud of our new Parish Council website. This has been the particular "baby" of our Vice Chairman, Tim Lloyd who has put a huge amount of time and effort into getting this up and running. We would like to think that this is a valuable tool in communication. We put our news on it, agendas, minutes, and lots and lots of useful information and contact points.

It is our intention that this will be a very much "live" facility that will be updated all the time. You can also see Steyning weather on it daily so if you want to know what the forecast is for Steyning, do switch on to the website.

Put this as a "favourite" on your computer now, its www.steyningpc.gov.uk



Housing Survey:

A big thank you to those many residents who filled in their forms and sent them back to Action in Rural Sussex. The response was fantastic. AIRS are pleased if they get 10-20% responses from previous surveys of other locations. For Steyning they have achieved at least 25% of responses from local households. All the results are now being analysed and we intend to bring forward the report as soon as we can and to then present this to Saxon Weald Housing Association as a basis for future discussions on the future of Briton's Croft and its site. This is very much an ongoing piece of work for us.

Sunday Bus Service:

Councillor Sue Rogers and myself have had a fruitful meeting with officers of Brighton and Hove Bus Company about the loss of subsidy for the Sunday service 2A. We are pleased to say that they have agreed to run this for a further period from April 2012 (when the subsidy expires) to see what their demand is likely to be and if it can run on a commercial basis. The buses on Sundays will only be in the day time rather than the evenings because the evenings were little used in practice and there is no chance of them becoming commercially self supporting.

The message is really simple. **Use the Sunday service or unfortunately we shall lose it.** This is something the Parish Council doesn't want to see.

With best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas.

DAVID BURLING - Chairman, Steyning Parish Council

STEYNING SHOWCASE 2012

A really important date for you to put in your diary is **Saturday 25th February 2012** when the Parish Council will again be holding "**Steyning Showcase**" at the Steyning Centre. This was hugely popular in 2010 when approximately 1000 local residents came through the doors over the course of the day to visit the fifty plus stands showcasing the work of the many organisations and clubs in Steyning.

This was so successful that we have decided to run it again as a two yearly event and we have already booked up virtually all of the stands. As before, there will be a café running throughout the day serving light refreshments and exhibitions and demonstrations.

Put this date in your diary now! We look forward to seeing you there.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The CAB is now operating its outreach service at The Steyning Centre every two weeks from the New Year thanks to a decision by Steyning Parish Council, Upper Beeding Parish Council and Bramber Council to fund one extra day per month. It is held on a Wednesday from 10am to 12.30pm. Please note that an appointment system operates and **appointments can be made by phoning the CAB Helpline on 0844 477 1171 or the Steyning Centre on 01903 812042.**

STREET LIGHTS

West Sussex County Council maintains all streetlights in Steyning. To report a fault dial **0845 7581622**. It is useful if you have to hand the number of the light in question.

CIVIC AMENITY SERVICE

The Mobile Waste collection service will be started again in Fletchers Croft car park in April 2012, dates to be confirmed. The Landfill waste collection will be in the car park on December 10th 2011

BLOOD DONORS

The next blood donors sessions to be held at:

The Steyning Centre, Fletcher's Croft will be on:

- Wednesday 28th December 2011
- Monday 20th February 2012.

Sessions are from 2.00 – 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 – 8.00 p.m.

MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Finance & General Purposes	6 th Dec* 11	3 rd Jan 12	7 th Feb 12*	6 th March 12*
Full Parish Council	12 th Dec 11	9 th Jan 12	13 th Feb 12	12 th March 12
Highways & Lighting	24 th Jan 12*	28 th Feb 12		
Playing Fields	20 th Dec* 11*	31 st Jan 12	20 th March 12*	
Steyning Centre	21 st Feb 12*			

*Planning will be held on these evenings at 7.00 pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings which are held at The Steyning Centre.

Meetings are at 7.30pm except Planning marked* which is at 7.00 p.m.

All agendas are displayed on the Public Notice Board at the High Street car park. Contact: 01903 812042.

Email: spcclerk@btconnect.com or steyningcentre@btconnect.com

All meeting dates and agendas are now published on the Parish Council website: www.steyningpc.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING

KEEP STEYNING TIDY

As part of the Parish Council's on-going campaign to keep Steyning a safe place to live and work, the Highways & Lighting Committee is hoping, subject to funding approval, to install a new CCTV camera system in the High Street bus shelter to deter anti-social behaviour, graffiti and litter. Volunteers met on Sunday 9th October to 'weed' the High Street which is now looking fantastic. We will be doing another weeding session in November to complete the task and we could do with more volunteers, so if you would like to help out please contact Sue Booth at spcclerk@btconnect.com

The Committee is linking with Steyning in Bloom to have a 'Best Kept Shopfront' competition.

Following a very successful speed survey about the A283 by-pass, at the farmers' market, we have had good feedback on your thoughts about how the by-pass can be made safer and, easier to access from Horsham Road and Canons Way.

75% of those surveyed, wanted a lower speed restriction and 59% wanted this to be 50mph. 67% wanted acceleration and deceleration lanes at Horsham Road and Canons Way, with 69% believing that better signage would improve speeding and accidents. Other comments were made with 35% wanting spotchecks on speeding motorcyclists on Saturdays and Sundays.

Following on from the survey the Parish Council met

with Tracey Webb - Principal Highways and Community Manager, WSCC to discuss speeding traffic on the A283 Steyning by-pass and access to Canons Way and the Horsham Road. The priority list from the survey was put to Tracey Webb to see what could be done. She was very helpful and explained in detail why some suggestions to calm speeding, such as mini and large roundabouts and acceleration/deceleration lanes, would not work. Traffic lights were an option but these cause delays and are expensive to install.

The suggestions that she took away to look at in more detail were:

- Highlighting the crossing points thus giving a reason to slow down;
- Possible solar powered flashing lights at the crossings;
- Changing the physical layout at the major junctions by putting in white line 'pinch points';
- Better signage to warn drivers of the approaching junctions and,
- Rumble strips on the junction approaches (if approved these could not be installed until after April 2012).

Lastly, the Committee is working with our District Councillors to have the waste pods in Fletchers Croft car park moved to reduce the offensive smell that affects local residents.

Tim Lloyd: Chairman Highways & Lighting Committee

PLAYING FIELDS REPORT

In my last report I appealed to everyone to be particularly vigilant in clearing up dog mess. It may seem we are obsessed with this problem, however there is good reason for this apart from it being unpleasant there is a very definite health hazard, especially to young children. It has now been drawn to our attention that this problem is becoming more prevalent on the Children's play area on the Memorial playing field. Please, **Please pick up after your dog.**

It has been suggested that we put a fence around this area – as in the children's area in Fletchers Croft. This may not cure the problem totally if parents take their dogs into the area and they will have to watch them carefully. The committee has agreed in principle to investigate this matter. If you have any suggestions or ideas we would be pleased to hear them.

Gill Ness-Collins – Chair of Playing Fields Committee.

NEW COMMUNITY YOUNG CARERS AWARD

Do you know of any young carer's in our community?

There are many young people today who provide ongoing and vital support to a family member on either a permanent or temporary basis. This could be to a parent or sibling. Often the hard work and support they offer goes largely unnoticed by the community.

The parish council is hoping to recognise this contribution by way of a Young Carer's award, to be formally presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

If you know of someone who you think should be nominated then please let us know. Contact the parish clerk on spcclerk@btconnect.com. Entries by 31st January 2012.

STEYNING LIBRARY

The public meeting held in early October in support of Steyning Library clearly demonstrated just how much the residents of Steyning and its surrounding district value Steyning Library and its staff. There were many questions directed at Lesley Sim and her colleagues from West Sussex Library Service, and many suggestions were made, both at the meeting and afterwards, on possible ways to raise revenue or cut costs. These will be looked at in more detail over the coming months.

WSCC Library Service has completed the first stage of its review process and we will continue to work together to produce a satisfactory outcome for Steyning Library.

ASHURST PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Thursday 5th January 2012.

Meetings start at 8pm at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings.

Housing Needs Survey in Ashurst - September 2011.

The Housing needs survey was sent out to all residents in Ashurst in September. The results are awaited and I hope to be able to give more information on this in the next newsletter.

Ashurst Recreation Ground Trust

The AGM of the recreation ground Trust was held on 6th October. Several members of the public complained about the dog fouling on the recreation ground. This is becoming an increasing problem and is very dangerous for the Primary School children playing on the field on a daily basis. **Dogwalkers, please make sure you pick up after your dog. Precept 2012/13.**

The budget for 2012/13 was discussed at the November Parish Council meeting and it is proposed that there will be no increase to the precept for the coming year.

Ashurst Parish Councillors and the Clerk wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Parish Councillors

Alan Griffiths (Chairman)	01403 711544
Nick Hedley (Vice- Chairman)	01403 711373
Chris Jesse	01903 815089
Roy Powel	01403 710419
Chas Hammond	01903 816299
George Stevens	01403 710232
Linda Thornton	01403 713123

Clerk

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