

South Heighton Parish Council Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter

Wishing all our residents a Happy Easter



Merry Sing-a-long at Christmas

It seems such a long time ago, despite the recent snow, but we hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. You may remember we asked you if you would like to see an event on the Village Green to celebrate the festivities and raise money for a local charity. We had a very positive response and so in association with the Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA), we organised a sing-a-long on the Village Green with a visit from Father Christmas and his friends to help raise funds for this charity that serves the residents of the parish. It proved a very successful event and a thrill for children meeting

Santa, with around 60+ people attending and joining in singing traditional carols and other Christmas favourites to the live music of Ivor Lawrence.

Thank You

Our thanks to Ivor and to all those that helped on the night and earlier setting up the Council's Christmas tree and lights, particularly Chris Myatt, Paul Norrish and John Klassen.

See you this year ?

We had several requests, both on the night and since, to stage something similar this year, so that's what we aim to do. If you have any ideas to add more sparkle to the event let us know, the Councils' contact details are on the back page and we will put our plans together and publish them in the Autumn/Winter newsletter.



Welcome to our new Parish Clerk

At the end of January the Council appointed a new Parish Clerk Mrs. Stephanie Mills. Stephanie joins us from Broadbridge Heath Parish Council, where she was Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, before moving to Seaford with her husband and two children.

We are very pleased to have Stephanie join our team and with her wider background in IT we are particularly looking forward to the opportunity for her to update and improve our website. If you have any ideas for, or information you would like to see on, the Parish Council's website, please drop Stephanie a line at: parishcouncil@southheighton-pc.org.uk



Planning Applications Update

Asphalt Plant, North Quay, Newhaven - gets the go ahead

The Parish Council objected to the application for a new Asphalt Plant at North Quay Road Newhaven last August, as it believed the proposals would have a detrimental effect on the residents of the parish. Despite ours and many other objections East Sussex County Council (ESCC) officers recommended approval of the application and at its Planning Committee meeting on 15th March, ESCC gave its approval. The application was approved with some conditions, but it still means an additional estimated 33,000 HGV movements along the A26 and the manufacture of and distribution by HGVs, importation of road planings and return loads by HGVs and the import of aggregates by ship being able to operate with unrestricted working hours. Other operations will be time limited to between Mon-Fri 0700 to 1900 Hours and Saturdays 0700 to 1300 Hours, notably the concrete production and distribution operations. The applicant estimates that, with this and Bank, Public and other holiday shutdowns, the Asphalt Plant and other related operations will be in use a maximum equivalent of 275 working days a year. We will have to wait and see what impact these unrestricted hours of operation on these days and the additional HGV movements have on us and our environment.

Aggregate and Concrete Plant, Fisher's Wharf, Newhaven – objections still stand

The applicants for the Aggregate Processing and Concrete Batching Plant have withdrawn phase 4 of their development proposals. However, having considered the revised plans at its meeting on 13th March the Parish Council believed that its original objections to the proposals were still valid and has notified ESCC accordingly.

(Copies of the Parish Council's letters of objection on these applications are available on our website)

Update of Flood Defence Works

You may recall we said in our last newsletter that the building of the flood defence bund from the A26 to the River Ouse was hoped to be completed by Christmas. The majority of the work on the bund has been done, but unfortunately due to the exceptionally wet weather conditions, final work on this has had to be delayed. The Environment Agency (EA) tell us that they now hope to have this completed by the summer. Meanwhile the application for the works to facilitate the temporary barrier across the A26 in the case of a flood has now been submitted and approved. Local residents did express some concerns, but a meeting on site with the EA attended by Parish Councillors managed to alleviate these and the Council made no formal objection.

This year's Parish Precept increase held to 3%

The Parish Council gets its money from two main sources, a grant from Central Government and the precept, collected by the District Council and paid to the Parish Council in two instalments during the year. Again, as part of Central Government's continuing cut backs, the grant to the Parish Council has been reduced further to just £1,510 a year, a reduction of 17.58% from last year.

In recent years the Parish Council has been able to offset these reductions in two ways:

- i) by being more efficient in the way it worked and seeking competitive tenders and
- ii) by utilising its reserve funds to make up the shortfalls,

The opportunity for these types of savings are now very limited.

As a Parish Council there is no formal limit on how much we could increase the precept to meet these financial pressures and the now growing rate of inflation, but although Central Government has indicated that austerity measures may be drawing to a close, the Council is mindful that many residents are still facing financial difficulties. Consequently the Council decided to limit the increase in its

precept this year to 3% to match the increase in the consumer price index (CPI).

It means for a band D household an increase of £2.39 a year, or just under 0.05 pence a week. For the Council it means only an additional £8 in total next year from the grant and precept to keep pace with price increases and to put towards the maintenance and improvements we would like to see in the parish.

Councillors have not claimed and agreed not to claim any personal allowances. All the work you see Councillors doing is unpaid. We give as much of our time as we can to look after the parish and its residents and will continue to raise money and source funding where ever we can to achieve this.

Annual Financial Report

Further information on the Council's spending last year and our budget and projected spending for 2018/19 will be available at the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 23rd May (see back page). Please come along and let us know what you think our priorities should be and, if you have any questions on the Council's spending, Councillors and the Parish Clerk will be there to answer them.

Another grant from Veolia for a new Notice Board

The Parish Council has managed to get another grant from Veolia for a new notice board and this will be used to replace the current notice board at The Hollow, which was vandalised last year. To enable us to make more information available to the residents of Norton that may not have access to the Council's website or Facebook, the notice board from The Hollow will be refurbished and used to replace the smaller one currently at Norton. If you have any ideas where we can use the board from Norton, please let the Parish Clerk know.

Household Waste Recycling Sites – Consultations on proposed changes

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) are proposing changes to the Household Waste Recycling Service which include the introduction of charging at Household Waste Recycling Sites for certain waste types that are not considered "household waste" i.e. rubble, soil, plaster board, tyres and asbestos and reviewing (reducing) site opening times. Parish Councillors have already expressed their concerns that these changes may lead to more incidents of fly tipping in the parish, particularly at The Hollow which is a recognised "hot spot". The Council will be considering its formal response at April's Council meeting.

ESCC would like to hear the views of residents and have set up an online survey on their website www.eastsussex.gov.uk, or you can request the survey in another format, such as a paper copy, by phoning 03456080194.

You have until the 15th May 2018 to express your views



Fly tipping can be reported by contacting Robin Fuller at LDC on 01273 471 600

ESCC reduces cutting grass verges – Parish Council to pick up the costs

East Sussex County Council will be reducing the number of times a year it cuts urban grass verges from 6 to 2 times each year. This is part of ESCC's cost cutting exercise to help maintain other important services such as schools and social care. The 2 cuts per season means they will be managing urban grass verges "for safety reasons only", but they do realise that grass verges in urban centres have "an important aesthetic function for the community". Consequently ESCC have offered the Parish Council the option of taking £150 a year to pay for additional cuts by its own contractors or the Parish Council could pay them in the region of £300 per year to maintain the current standard of 6 cuts a year. The Parish Council has opted to pay the additional £300 to ESCC as the most cost effective way of providing the same level of service to its residents. Unfortunately these changes and options were not given to the Parish Council before our budget and precept were set, so it means we will have to utilise more of our reserves this year and potentially modify our limited budget to cope.

Trouble with your new Recycling Bin or other Bin Collection ?

A number of residents contacted local Parish Councillors after several houses in Heighton Crescent, Portland Terrace and Firle Terrace did not have their new recycle bins emptied on the due date. Following enquiries on their behalf we understand that the refuse truck sent on the first round was too large to negotiate some of the smaller access areas and that this is being rectified by the use of a more appropriate vehicle in future. We believe there have also been other teething problems with the new collection system, but are assured these are being addressed. If you have problems with your bin collections you can report this online at the new Lewes and Eastbourne Councils' combined website www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk, or by contacting Lewes District Council's customer first team on 01273 471 600. Missed collections need to be reported within 48 hours, but if you are struggling to get your bin out due to illness, injury or other difficulties, you can also request an assisted collection service via the above contacts.



Plans for The Hollow Play Area

Following the award of the contract, we have been working with the contractor to finalise the detailed designs for the play area at The Hollow to meet as closely as possible the requirements and ideas you gave us during the consultations last year and to reflect the priorities the children gave us. We have been able to include nearly all of the things on their list, except for the willow hut/tunnel, which the Council was advised would be difficult to grow and maintain. Here are some images of what the play area will look like. Work has already started on constructing a number of elements including the dino and nest features, replacement swings and the new cross scales to replace the old see-saw. The programme of works and start date has yet to be finalised, but with the extensive work involved we are afraid the play area will have to be closed for a period of approximately 6 weeks. To minimise disruption during the busiest times the contractor will not begin work on site till after the Easter holiday break and we aim to have the play area completed and open before the summer holidays start. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience closing the play area and the works may cause, but we hope you agree it will be worth the wait.

As soon as we have any news on the timetable for the work we will publicise this on our notice boards, on our Facebook page and on the Council's website to give residents as much notice as possible



Coming Local Events

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 23rd May, Denton Hall, Forward Close

The Annual Parish meeting is again being held at the **Guinness Trust Denton Hall, Forward Close** in the centre of South Heighton. Although organised by the Parish Council this is your chance to tell us what is important to you, what you think the Council's priorities should be and what you want to see done. It will **start at 6.30pm** in order for residents to view the various exhibitions that will be there showing what the Council's plans are, what we have done and intend to do over the next year. As well as these the Council also aims to invite guest speakers, but we need to know what you want to hear about. If you have any issues you wish to raise, or things you want to know about, please let us know by either contacting one of the Parish Councillors (see below) or emailing the Parish Clerk at parishcouncil@southheighton-pc.org.uk.

When we have your feedback an agenda and further details will be circulated to all households in the parish.



Denton Challenge 2018 Saturday 9th June

This year the **Denton Challenge** local community event, raising money for local charities, will take place on **Saturday 9th June** at the **Avis Road Recreation Ground**. All the details can be found on their website www.dentonchallenge.co.uk

Meet us at the Challenge

The Parish Council will have a stall at the Challenge, so please come and meet us have a chat and let us know your views and ideas for South Heighton and Norton.

South Heighton Summer Fete – Saturday 7th July

The annual **South Heighton Village Summer Fete**, organised by the South Heighton Village Hall Management Committee (SHVHMC), will be held this year on **Saturday 7th July at The Hollow**. The SHVHMC also organise other events throughout the year at the Village Hall. Further information is available on their website www.southheighton.org/villagehall and you can also check their notice board outside The Hampden Arms Public House.

Join us at the Summer Fete

The Parish Council will again have a stall at the South Heighton Summer Fete and we hope to be raising funds to continue to maintain and enhance The Hollow as a Park for Tomorrow, following on from the improvements to the play ground. So please join us, meet the Councillors and let us know your views and ideas.



DaSHJFC Mini Soccer Tournament - Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July

Denton & South Heighton Junior Football Club (DaSHJFC), based at The Hollow Recreation Ground, was founded back in the 1970's to provide football facilities for the children of the two villages. The Club now covers a much larger catchment area, offering football opportunities to children aged from 4 to 16 and they currently have over 100 children involved. As well as home matches at The Hollow on a Sunday the Club also organise a number of tournaments including their Mini Soccer Tournament which this year will be held on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July, when it is hoped around 500 keen players and supporters from local teams will attend over the weekend. The Club is run solely by volunteers and a helping hand is always appreciated, so if you, or your child, would like to join or get involved please contact them. Unfortunately the containers the Club currently use as their "club house" are in urgent need of replacement and they are desperately raising funds to do this. Any contribution or support you can give them would be very welcome. All contact details are on their website: www.dashjfc.com

Parish Council Meetings

Our meetings are **on a Tuesday and start at 7.00pm at the Village Hall**. Meetings are open to everyone and there is a slot at the beginning for you to raise any issues/concerns relating to the parish, or to comment on any item on the agenda. These, along with the reports and the Minutes of the meetings are available on our website with the latest agendas and Minutes posted in the notice boards. The dates for 2018 are Tuesdays:

April 17th, Annual Council Meeting May 15th,

June 19th, July 24th, September 11th, October 16th and November 20th.

If you would like to raise an item please let the Parish Clerk know at least a week in advance by phoning or emailing them via the contact details below.

We still have one vacancy on the Council. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk

Parish Council Contact Details

Parish Clerk – Stephanie Mills

10 Bromley Rd, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3ES
tel: 07432478248

You can also contact the Parish Council by email:
parishcouncil@southheighton-pc.org.uk

Or visit our website:

www.southheighton-pc.org.uk

Or find us on Facebook at:

[South Heighton Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/SouthHeightonParishCouncil)

Councillors:

Chris Bradshaw 07810538886

Chairman

Paul Julian 01273 512046

Vice Chairman

Gerry Hazell 07733250887

Shane Lo Fan Hin 07708560897

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