

**Maresfield
Parish
Council**

The Parish Matters

Volume 1, Issue 2

SPRING 2005

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Quality Parish Council Tony Allen

Welcome to the Spring 2005 edition of Parish Matters.

As you may have heard, Claire Goossens joined the Parish Office as part-time Assistant Clerk on the 4 April. Claire, who is a resident of Maresfield, brings much needed additional resources to the Parish Council which allows us to give our Parishioners a more pro-active and improved service.

The Parish Annual Assembly will take place on Friday 20 May at the Memorial Hall, Nutley, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Our theme this year will be the "Quality Parish Council", where we will let you know what we have been doing in the past year, what issues are currently active, what we plan for the future, and most importantly to seek your views on what you expect from your Parish Council.

**Parish Annual Assembly on
Friday 20 May in Nutley
Memorial Hall @ 7.30pm**

This is not a Parish Council meeting, it is a meeting for the Parish to come together to reflect on the past year and discuss issues of concern to all, and how we deal with them. It is a time for all clubs, societies, groups, schools and other organisations to report on their activities over the past year, so please send me input for the Parish Annual Report (by 6th May please).

And we will also be seeking your assistance. We currently

have many non-Councillors working with us in Committees and Sub-Committees, but as we develop more projects to address the needs of the Parish, we will require more help from our Parishioners to ensure that good ideas are realised in

...where great improvements are needed namely traffic, youth and business ..

good time. For example we are actively working on three important areas from the Parish

Plan where great improvements are needed, namely traffic, youth and business. So, if you can spare some time to become involved please let

us know. Community issues need community ownership and community action.

Finally, Stage 1 of the Parish Council's web site has been com-

pleted, so take a look and let us know what you think - www.maresfieldparish.org.uk.

Police Authority & The Police Hanno Fry

William King and I have been charged by the Parish Council with representing our interests with these two bodies.

The Sussex Police Authority approves the Sussex Policing Plan which - under the law - governs the actions and priorities of the police. It is revised yearly. We have been concerned that this Plan does not adequately represent the interests of rural communities, especially ours. In particular we consider that road crimes such as speeding were not being given sufficient importance in the Plan or indeed by the police. We failed to make any headway with our initial written representations to the Police Authority: our letters were sidelined and meetings with policemen put forward by the Authority were fruitless. However, with persistence and the discreet help of our county councillor Tony

Reid a meeting with the clerk of the Authority Dr John Godfrey came to pass in February. The head of road policing in Sussex Superintendent Nick Wilkinson and the manager for road safety at East Sussex County Council Colin Clark also attended and took part.

It was too late to affect this year's Policing Plan. But, the Authority's clerk accepted the substance of our concern and agreed that we would be consulted again before the formulation of next year's Policing Plan later in the year. We were also offered co-operation by the police in a speed monitoring/control scheme using speed guns. Volunteers from the community are needed for this. Please get in touch with our Parish Clerk about it. Detailed discussions with the police about the scheme have not yet taken place.

Lack of local policing has been another of our concerns. We met

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**SOME
USEFUL**

INFORMATION

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East Sussex TN22 3NA

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Fax: 01825 714614

Parish Clerk

Mr Tony Allen

E-Mail: [Clerk@Maresfield](mailto:Clerk@MaresfieldParish.Org.UK)

Parish.Org.UK

NEW WEBSITE

www.maresfieldparish.org.uk

Chief Inspector Rex Matthews, the district commander of Wealden police, in this connection on March 14. He made constructive suggestions and promised to initiate detailed arrangements with us. No arrangements have yet been made. We are continuing our efforts.

A Plea from your Tree/Hedgerow Wardens



Make sure our Parish hedgerows are treated with the respect they deserve as, along with the landscape trees, they are our inheritance.

The need to draw attention to the obvious ecological benefits of hedges comes about each time we see another stark close-board fence erected as a replacement, particularly by our roadsides.

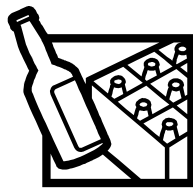
Over the years, and in conjunction with Highways' ruling, the Parish Council has instructed over-hanging-the pavement-hedge -owners to cut them back. One fears, sometimes, for an over-reaction from the owner, having mislaid saw and

swat hook, deciding to grub out the hedge altogether. Let such thoughts concerning hedgerow maintenance perish. Consider the benefits of the hedge.

Hedges filter a well recognised proportion of PM₁₀, the cancer causing particulate emissions of diesel engines and much of the road noise of cars moving at up to 40 mph which is the major constituent of traffic noise. Hedges provide habitats for numerous bird and small mammals. In addition they are easy to maintain, self renewing and the traditional Sussex hedge of mixed plant species is anti-criminal and, of course, an exciting and attrac-

Guy Hardy

tive backdrop to garden and roadside. Don't let us lose these and many more benefits by erecting the visually intrusive suburban friendly, board fences. They are no good for filtering pollution nor providing a wildlife habitat. We don't think much of leylandii as a hedging plant, too many of us have gone wrong here. On the other hand for a single species hedge that creates an effective privacy screen, much is to be said for Beech, which generally holds much of its leaf right through the winter.



WDC Take Over Licensing Jim Hollins

The new Licensing Act 2003 came into force early in 2005. These new licensing rules replaced the current system completely. Current liquor, public entertainment, theatre, cinema and late night refreshment licences will all disappear to be replaced by a single system.

This will consist of two main types of licence; a premises licence and a personal licence. Local councils became the Licensing Authorities, and the courts no longer administer liquor licensing. The new rules also abolish fixed licensing hours.

Commencing 7 February 2005 all licences needed to be converted into a premises licence. Anyone wishing to change their existing licence terms (such as changes to their opening hours), will need to apply for

both a conversion of their existing licence as well as a variation to their licence.

Health and Safety is a key component of the new Act and a number of responsible authorities, such as police, fire, child protection authorities etc, will be able to make representations regarding licence applications in relation to four licensing objectives. These objectives are: prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; protection of children from harm and prevention of public nuisance.

For instance, a responsible authority may request that all exit doors are unlocked and do not need the use of a key, card code or similar, or that no temporary electrical installations are provided without prior notification to

the licensing authority/inspection by a suitably qualified electrician.

Current liquor licence holders

Do you currently hold a licence and want to find out how to apply?

Single events

Are you planning a concert or festival?

Restaurants & late night refreshments

New licensing rules for restaurants, cafes, garages, takeaways, mobile vans & supermarkets.

Village Halls

Information for village & community halls and churches.

For any of the above please contact: John Gallop, WDC, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX, (01323) 443322.

(newly appointed Chairman of Wealden LSP)

LSP—What's That? Tim Sparrow

LSP stands for Local Strategic Partnership. Every District, County and Unitary authority has to have one (2000 Local Government Act). So we have one for the Wealden District. It exists to try and get a more co-ordinated approach from all the statutory and voluntary organisations that operate in the Wealden area. So that means not only the District Council, but the County Council (responsible for social services, education and transport), the Primary Care Trusts (responsible for local surgeries, hospitals and health services), the Police, the Fire Brigade, the Environment Agency, representatives of local business, of local voluntary agencies and so on.

To give them all a single direction the LSP first consulted the community as to what

were the main issues, the main things that needed improving. Inevitably a very big list was produced. This has been broken down into eight theme areas:

Health, Safety, Learning, Prosperity, Housing, Leisure, Access (including transport) and Environment and was published towards the end of 2000 - Wealden Voices Wealden Choices.

Progress has been painfully slow. Separate organisations jealously guard both their budgets and autonomy and it has taken a long time to get them to start considering their own plans in relation to the agreed LSP objectives for Wealden and, further, to work with each other to

..try to get a more co-ordinated approach from all the statutory and voluntary organisations ..

achieve those objectives. But, there are now encouraging signs. The organisations are working together better. The Police have, through the Safety theme, developed a new, more local way of consulting with, indeed working with, the Parishes in Wealden. A new website for the youth of Wealden has been constructed to provide youngsters with speedier access to the issues they want help with. The District Council has reorganised its grant giving rules to fit the eight themes. The Safety theme group has also developed local schemes to support communities and tackle anti-social behaviour. However, the more significant objectives are still being worked on and much remains to be done to really achieve positive collaboration between the organisations. That's the task that now confronts the LSP.

Local Planning Issues & Results Ken Ogden

In March a court overturned Wealden District Council's (WDC) decision to produce a non-statutory Local Plan. WDC have decided to appeal and in the meantime continue work on this Plan. A decision on the appeal is expected in June/July of this year.

The proposed developments of housing at Park Farm in Maresfield

Village, and the proposed siting of Affordable Housing on land adjacent to Hillmead in Nutley Village, were discussed at the WDC Local Plan Special Review Committee meeting on 4 April.

After a lot of hard work by the Parish Council and the Maresfield Conservation Group, and with a lot of support from our District Councillors, the Special Review Committee agreed to enlarge the 'green' area that we have been fighting for, in order to protect the centre of the Village. However, our

..agreed to enlarge the 'green' area that we have been fighting for ..

proposal for the deferral of development at Park Farm into the new Local Development Framework planning system was not accepted.

For the proposed siting of Affordable Housing on land adjacent to Hillmead in Nutley, the Special Review Committee agreed with Officers recommendations that this site is not taken forward into the non-statutory Local Plan and that it should be subject to further consultation with the Parish Council and others locally, along with any new sites.

Realising Affordable Housing is harder to achieve in the Parish than it might seem, but the Parish Council is continuing to look at all possibilities. It has been quoted that the birth and death rate are currently about equal. However, it is the birth rate of around

20 years ago that is relevant now. The problem is on our doorstep now and we have to make up for the failure by the higher tiers of Government to address this issue in an area where housing costs are among the highest in the Country. We need to look after our local people and ensure that those that want to stay and/or work in the Parish can do so, otherwise life in our Villages will lose its community spirit.

The decision on the application by Onyx Aurora for a waste facility at the Maresfield Camp now rests with the County Council. The Parish Council, the Maresfield Conservation Group and many other groups and individuals have put up a strong case against this proposal, and on 5 April a petition of 1200 signatures was delivered to the County Council. Wealden District Council has also raised strong objections to this application, mainly relating to the detrimental effect that it would have on the proposed business park at the same site.

Youth in the Parish Tony Allen

Following the success of the Uckfield Youth Services 'bus' stationed at fords Green at the end of last year, the Parish Council are keen to keep the momentum going.

A follow-up Youth event is being planned for Nutley which will partly be used by the Parish Council to help in its planning for more permanent Youth facilities in the Village.

However, we need help and are therefore looking for a few 'experienced' parents to get involved

in this project.

If you can spare a little of your time for this, please let the Clerk, Tony Allen, know—(01825) 714555.



We are currently arranging for the Uckfield Youth Services 'bus' to be stationed in Maresfield Village this Spring—details will be available soon.

And don't worry, we have not forgotten Fairwarp, we are talking to parents regarding a possible event in the Village Hall.

Meanwhile, ideas, comments, sugges-

Meet Our New Councillor

At the meeting of Maresfield Parish Council held on 15 February 2005, Andrew Wallace was co-opted to the Parish Council as the replacement for Robert Woodgate who resigned at the end of last year.

Andrew, 36, was born on the Isle of Wight and lived in Fareham, Hampshire as a child. Educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, he went on to Surrey University to gain an Honours Degree in Microbiology.

Andrew's career is based in financial services and after 15 years in the City working for stock broking firms and a spell working in France, he set up his own financial marketing and product design business that he now runs from home.

He married Zahida in the Autumn of

2000 and they have lived in Maresfield for three years where they are currently refurbishing a 1930's house and garden.

The house is shared by two Siamese cats and the garden is ruled by four chickens! Andrew's interests include gardening, property refurbishment, painting and drawing.

There is an excellent, valuable and, these days, rare community spirit within Maresfield Parish and Andrew feels that he can contribute to that spirit as a Parish Councillor. Prior to his co-option, Andrew had already been a member of the Parish Council's Strategy Sub-committee where he is still involved in designing the new Parish website:

www.maresfieldparish.org.uk

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

FAIRWARP

Guy Hardy 712647
Steve Leany 712115
Roger Street 713227

MARESFIELD

Ray Tester 712519
John Gutteridge 764781
Ken Ogden 761433
Sandra Weekes 712691
Andrew Wallace 762900

NUTLEY

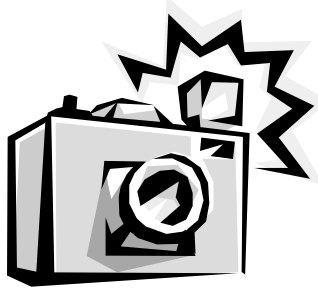
William King 713798
(Chairman)
Chris Stephens 712464
Hanno Fry 712410
Tim Sparrow 713460
Peter Tester 712117
Mairede Thomas thro' 714555

Going to London?

Then remember our local station Buxted. There is now a new hourly service DIRECT to London Mondays to Saturdays with trains returning late in the evening. The trains themselves are also new and after the inevitable teething troubles are now providing a much more reliable service than the old thumpers. Car parking at Buxted is getting tight as the value of the new service is appreciated (it's cheaper on the Uckfield line than on other southern lines to London) so efforts are now being made by the Community Rail Partnership to get Network Rail to release more land to enlarge the car park AND, perhaps if the villages demand it, changes can be made in bus services to better link villages and stations along the line.

Calling All Budding Artists and Photographers!!

Andrew Wallace



details (name, address and telephone number), so we can return the original to you. Please make sure your entry is no bigger than A4 size otherwise we will not be able to scan it into the website. The winning picture will speak a thousand words.

Don't forget the website address is:
www.maresfieldparish.org.uk



The Parish Council is putting together the final touches for the Parish website and **we need your help.**

We want to reflect the 'flavour' of the Parish in the pictures and photographs that appear on the website, so we are running a competition to find great material. The winning pictures will form the theme for the website.

The theme of the competition is 'People and Places'. Entries can be photographs, drawings or paintings and there are no restrictions on who can enter.

If you would like to meet the challenge, please submit your entries **by 14 May to the Parish Office.** Make sure you mark your work with your

Finance News Roger Street

The Council has agreed with the Finance Committee's recommendation to restrict our spending plans to an increase of 4.5% over the 2004/5 budget. This is despite creating a part time post for an Assistant Parish Clerk so that we can implement more of our initiatives for Maresfield, Nutley and Fairwarp as we push on towards achieving the 'Quality Council' designation. We also had to take into account the salary increase for the existing Parish Clerk, the result of a recent national agreement on clerks' pay. The clerk, Tony Allen, by the way has recently passed the anniversary of his appointment last year and in the Councillors' view is to be commended on the efficiency and organisation he has brought to the role. Not only that, he has passed the first stage in his ambition to become highly qualified for his position. He has been awarded the appropriate certificate from Gloucester University.

Spotlight on Local Business

'The heart of a community is the village pub' - sadly this was not true of Nutley until Nick Dimopoulos, bought the old William IV pub and proceeded to completely refurbish this tired building and inject life, good food, and a great atmosphere into the Nutley Arms.

The outside area has been transformed and, during the Summer, a large, well-lit decking area is the resting place for many walkers, families and hungry locals. Inside the new décor creates a clean, comfortable atmosphere for anyone to enjoy a quick drink or a celebratory meal.

Recently, a new introduction to the menu is a fixed price two-course or three course meal, which at £11.95 and £14.95 is a very reasonable price for a well-cooked substantial meal.

Each day there are 'Specials' on the board to complement the varied menu and, if you want a smaller snack, check out the Bar Menu. Club sandwiches served with salad and chips, 'mini' meals for smaller appetites are offered, together with jacket



THE NUTLEY ARMS
Restaurant - Pub

potatoes and a choice of ploughmans. And, the weekly Sunday Roast has become so popular it is difficult to find a table. Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea are also available and with opening hours every day from 11am until 10pm there really is something for everyone.

But, that is not the whole story. Nick has made it a feature of the pub to be involved in village events. The last Tuesday in the month sees the 'Village Pub Quiz'. The Nutley Arms is now a popular venue for village meetings. Every year at 'Village Day', the Nutley Arms provides

the 'Pub on the Green'. And at each village party Nick has generously donated prizes and beer. Special occasions see special menus: Valentines Day; Christmas; New Year and even, Barbecues in the Summer.

A pub which was tired, run down and not the choice of many has been transformed. By changing the interior, bringing in friendly helpful staff and introducing varied, quality food the Nutley Arms really has become the 'Heart of the Commu-

The Parish Matters

This newsletter is about YOUR Parish. Let us know what you think; what council matters you want to know about; what articles interest you most. Just call Tony Allen on 714555.