

# The Parish Matters

Volume 2 Issue 1

WINTER 2005/6

## Nutley Village Design Statement **Jock Compson**

Following on from the public exhibition that was held at the back of the Church in November, the Statement was amended in response to people's comments. The document was then sent to both Wealden District Council and the Parish Council for their views and suggestions. These consultations are ongoing, the document is still very much in draft form, so there is still ample opportunity for everyone in the village to express their opinions. You can do this by accessing the document either

through the Parish Council website, [www.maresfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk) or the Nutley Conservation Group website at [www.nutleyconservationgroup.co.uk](http://www.nutleyconservationgroup.co.uk). If you do not

**do you agree with the design guidelines associated with each section?**

have access to a computer, a paper copy can be

read in the Parish Office.

In the Spring, Wealden District Council will be asking local people how they wish to be consulted further.

Please take the time to read the text. Are there any inaccuracies or omissions and do you agree with the design guidelines associated with each section? If you wish to discuss any aspect of this, please contact Jock Compson on 712679 or email [jock-compson@onetel.com](mailto:jock-compson@onetel.com). Why not enter the Village Photographic Competition and if your pictures are chosen they could be included in the final Village Design Statement brochure.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Village Design Statement Councillors' Surgeries Civil Emergency Questionnaire</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Where does all the money go? Calling all Mums and Dads Penalty Notices</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Go on - Treat Yourself Wealden Youth Website What Next on the Planning Front?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Caveat to the Illuminators Have you got a Fire Plan? The Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Plan</b>	<b>4</b>

## Councillors' Surgeries

**Hanno Fry**

The Parish Council needs to listen to and respond to the wishes and concerns of the residents. Do Councillors need to have surgeries like MP's?

We came to the conclusion there was no such need since there is already ample provision for speaking to councillors and for obtaining information.

They can be reached by telephone (all of their numbers are in THE PARISH MATTERS). Meetings with Councillors can be arranged directly or via the Parish Office.

For information, there is a notice board in each of the 3 villages. The Parish

Council office is open - and its telephone is manned - on weekdays. The Parish Council website ([maresfieldparish.org.uk](http://maresfieldparish.org.uk)) has a wealth of information including the agenda of forthcoming council and committee meetings, as well as the minutes of all meetings in draft form even before they have been approved. Residents are free to attend all meetings of the Parish Council and its committees; time for questions from residents is available at the start of each meeting. What do you think?

## CIVIL EMERGENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Council didn't receive a very good response to the Civil Emergency questionnaire distributed with the Autumn Edition of The Parish Matters. If you feel that there may be any kind of service/skill/equipment that you could offer, please contact the Parish Office and we will happily send you another form.

### CAN YOU HELP?

As you may know, the Parish Council is currently reviewing measures to be taken in the event of a Civil Emergency e.g. adverse weather / flooding. It is important that any parishioners who live alone and/or may need assistance under these circum-

**SOME  
USEFUL  
INFORMATION**  
Maresfield Parish Office  
Churchfields, Nutley  
East Sussex TN22 3NA  
Tel: 01825 714555  
Fax: 01825 714614  
Parish Clerk  
Mr Tony Allen  
Assistant Parish Clerk  
Claire Goossens  
E-Mail: [Clerk@Maresfield  
Parish.Org.UK](mailto:Clerk@MaresfieldParish.Org.UK)  
**NEW WEBSITE**  
[www.maresfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk)

stances are catered for. In the event of an emergency, if you live near to someone who may require assistance, we ask that you:-  
A) help the individual yourself if appropriate  
B) alert the Parish Council that further help may be required

# Where Does All the Money Go?

Roger Street

The Parish Council's budget for 2006/7 has now been set. The amount that it is intended to spend (£83,645) represents an increase over last year of 4.75% or £3,800.

Probably more so this year than in previous years, the pressure on the budget from the various committees was intense. The consensus within the Finance Committee was that our budget increase should not exceed 5%. When the initial bids were considered, however, it would have needed an increase in excess of 30% to meet them. So savings had to be made, and the

'it would have needed an increase in excess of 30% to meet them.'

bids for resources compromised. To the credit of those concerned this was achieved and the spending target was set.

The funds will be used to maintain the various services we provide, make grants to institutions and groups that serve our villages, and to try to help with the priorities that have been identified through the various consultative processes. For instance there is £2000 in the budget in support of transport in

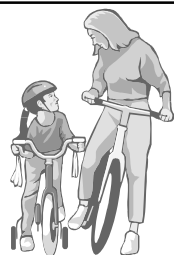
the parish (in particular EasyLink) and £4000 for improving roads and traffic. As with last year £1000 has been earmarked for work with youth.

The cost of maintaining streetlights has risen sharply, and significant amounts have had to be set aside for essential maintenance and safety work at Maresfield and Fords Green Recreation Grounds and the Parklands Play Area.

The necessity for savings, however, has meant that there are some things we will not be able to do this year that we would have wished. But these will not be forgotten and we hope to be able to take them up in subsequent years.

## Calling All Mums and Dads Tim Sparrow

In each village – Nutley, Maresfield and Fairwarp – we have the opportunity of providing more facilities for our youngsters. The Parish Council has carried out surveys, been advised by youth workers, run two pilot "Youth Bus" schemes and there is a clear demand for some more long running activities. We do have good sports clubs but that's not every youngster's cup of tea. So the Parish Council is looking for some volunteer Mums and Dads who can give a bit of time to pull together ap-



propriate projects in each village. We are starting in Nutley by searching for a shed!! We want a suitable, but not posh, building which youngsters and helpers can do up and make their own. We will, of course, need proper qualified supervision before we can proceed but that is less of a problem than finding some enthusiastic adults who will take up the challenge and help our youth help themselves. Please contact the Parish Office and we will then hold an informal evening to develop ideas into actions.

## EasyLink Use it or Lose it

The Parish Council led the way in rescuing this valuable bus service. Details of the service were circulated with the last edition of this newsletter (further copies available from the Parish Office). To help ensure the continued running of this unique service please consider becoming one of its regular users.

## Penalty Notices - What is YOUR View?

Hanno Fry

The Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005 provides power - but not obligation - for Parish Councils to deal with local environmental offences. Such offences relate to Anti-social Behaviour, Noise, Litter, Dogs, etc. Parish Councils have or will have the power to impose fixed penalty notices on persons who commit such offences. Maresfield Parish Council has been considering whether to assume these powers.

Is it what Maresfield Parish Councillors were elected for? The fact is that they have no mandate from the residents for doing or not doing

anything. There was no election since there were not enough candidates; some of the councillors were co-opted by a vote of existing councillors.

However, the Nolan committee on Standards of Conduct in Public Office in 1997 recommended that holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. So, it seems to me that Parish Councillors have to answer the following questions:

- Is it in the interests of our

community to issue penalty notices to offenders?

- Is it worth the required effort to issue such notices?

- Will there be general support for the Parish Council if they decide to assume the powers in the bill?

My own view is that it would be in the interests of the community, that most residents would support the Parish Council if it assumed the powers, and that it would be worth the effort.

What is your view? It matters!



## Go On—Treat Yourself!

## Wealden Youth Website

The villages of Nutley and Fairwarp have an admirable weekly gathering that goes by the name of "Pop-in" – which is not, to me, a very fetching name. Getting on in years, it seems to me associated with "pop-off" or "pop-your-clogs", which is not something which comes to mind at the actual event. Not only the elderly, but any age person with a few minutes to spare on a Wednesday morning may have a cup of tea or coffee (and perhaps a biscuit or other goodie) for a small donation of 20p! There, that won't break the bank, and you will meet a fine selection of people with many views on

the news. Sitting at home watching the idiot's lantern (the TV) it is too easy to imagine our own opinion is that of everyone else, so please make a small effort on Wednesday mornings to experience the very rewarding warmth of the "Pop-in" in your village. Besides, the short walk will do you good and passing the time of day with anyone you meet on the way could open up a new world of friendship.

**Village "Pop-in": Every Wednesday:  
Nutley: Church Hall 11.15-12.15  
Fairwarp: The Foresters 11.00 - 12.00**

Why don't you encourage your children to have a look at the Wealden Youth Website [www.w4y.co.uk](http://www.w4y.co.uk) The content of the site is divided up into three age bandings, 10 to 12 years, 13-15 years and 16-19 years. The main content of the site falls under one of five subject tabs as follows:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Building a future

In addition there are four common links: a search facility; your life experiences; your views; and useful links.

## Where Next on the Planning Front?

**Tim Sparrow**

We felt that a single update on what's happening in our area about longer term planning might be helpful. Wealden, along with every other District Council in the country is starting to prepare the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will be the new local plan for the Wealden district. It will encompass wider issues than just potential location of housing and other development. It will take much more fully into account the need for affordable housing, the environment and the infrastructure, not just roads and sewers, but also public services like schools and surgeries. The LDF, unlike the earlier Local Plan, will be made up of a series of documents covering all these various aspects including a core strategy and supplementary planning documents. Each will be consulted upon and the overall LDF may well not be ready for submission to the Secretary of State for a couple of years. This more flexible construction also means that some aspects can be changed, over time, without having to re-examine the whole LDF, but the general intention is that each aspect, once agreed will be in place for at least five years and probably longer. We, as a Parish, are already ahead of the game having started our own local LDF exercise with consultation in all three villages towards the end of last year. That work will be finalised this Spring and the report

presented in the Parish for further discussion prior to being submitted to Wealden for inclusion with the main LDF as a Supplementary Planning Document (thus giving the Parish a greater say in future planning decisions). Also included in the Parish LDF will be the relevant elements of the Nutley Design Statement (and any similar fully researched and consulted statement from the other villages).

On the wider front, the South East



Regional Plan is now with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This plan, which provides for the broad allocation of housing and other developments across the South East region up to the year 2026, was fully discussed across the region last Autumn with East Sussex County Council acting as the co-ordinator for our county. The final result, as far as housing is concerned, is an allocation of 170 houses per annum in North Wealden and 230 houses per annum in South Wealden. This is actually below the current annual increase. Indeed some have argued that the current SE regional plan does not allow for enough small and/or affordable houses to be built. We await the Government's response which will then be, again, put out

for public consultation later this year. Finally, to wrap up a note full of initials, the LAA (Local Area Agreement) is also currently with the Government, though this time in GOSE (Government Office of the South East). The LAA is not directly linked to planning but contains some aspects which relate to infrastructure and also to the work of Parish Councils. The LAA is a special agreement between the county and the Government which includes objectives to achieve a limited range of things. If these are achieved, the county gets some extra cash. One aspect is having Parish Councils that are better able to serve their communities by carrying out village plans/appraisals, by achieving Quality Council status and by providing local services that the community needs. This Council was a pathfinder on Parish Plans, is now well on the way to achieving Quality Council status and therefore should be well placed to handle any future changes in the higher levels of local authority organisations. What it will mean is that on the one hand the Parish will be regarded as suitable to do more on behalf of its parishioners and on the other (but don't hold your breath) to have access to additional funding to do those things.

## Caveat to the Illuminators

By Guy Hardy

Parishioners all take heed there is no NEED

Your manse to light for half the NIGHT

With WATTS galore they are a BORE to

Neighbours near and MORE distant than you'd think;

What's more there is a law that says "don't do it, there'll be a stink!"

Polluting the day in an AONB  
With all sorts of litter is a rotten sight

But worse it is to spoil the night  
In the Darkness of an AONB

## Have You Got a Fire Plan?

We mentioned in a previous issue that the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service will provide you with a free smoke alarm which has a ten year battery. If you haven't followed this up do (call the Parish Office) because you get far more than a smoke alarm.



The fireman goes through a complete fire safety check with you and it's surprising what you don't know. As well as all the hints and tips to make your home safer, he also outlines what you should do if, heaven preserve us, you do have a fire -- your fire plan. So, do get a free smoke alarm and safety check. And if your youngsters are really lucky you don't just get one fireman but a complete crew AND the fire engine.

## 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.

## MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### FAIRWARP

<b>Guy Hardy</b>	<b>712647</b>
<b>Steve Leany</b>	<b>712115</b>
<b>Chris Stephens</b>	<b>712464</b>
<b>Roger Street</b>	<b>713227</b>

### MARESFIELD

<b>John Gutteridge</b>	<b>764781</b>
<b>Ken Ogden</b>	<b>761433</b>
<b>Ray Tester</b>	<b>712519</b>
<b>Sandra Weekes</b>	<b>712691</b>

### NUTLEY

<b>William King (Chairman)</b>	<b>713798</b>
<b>Hanno Fry</b>	<b>712410</b>
<b>Tim Sparrow</b>	<b>713460</b>
<b>Peter Tester</b>	<b>712117</b>

## The Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership

Ashdown Forest is one of the 'jewels in the crown' of East Sussex. In the middle of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, protected for its wildlife by both UK and EU designations, it comprises the largest public access area in the Southeast. Its evocation of wilderness by heathland and the freely roaming livestock between Nutley and Duddleswell, its fine views, and the feelings of space, peace and tranquillity are huge assets that are appreciated by residents and visitors alike. However, speeding traffic makes it a dangerous environment for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, livestock and deer.

Recognising the amenity and wildlife importance of the Forest, ESCC installed a mandatory 40 mph limit on all minor roads crossing the Forest in April 1997. Chestnut post-and-rail gates were erected by the required signs on or (usually) near the Forest boundaries. Additionally, in order to reduce visual impact on the Forest environment, special dispensation was obtained to use speed roundels painted on the roads rather than repeater signs.

Traffic speed has been monitored since over a number of sites. Ample hard evidence such as this, as well as plenty of anecdotal tales, suggest that there is still far too much speeding on the Forest,

much of it by local people. Speeding traffic has serious consequences for both people and wildlife. According to ESCC records, between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2004 there were 47 crashes on roads crossing the Forest, eight crashes resulting in 'serious' injuries and 39 crashes in 'slight' injuries. Apart from the A22, with two 'serious' and 13 'slight' crashes, the worst road has been the B2188/2026 with four 'serious' and 11 'slight' crashes.

Some sheep are killed each year on the C3 but the greatest animal casualties on the roads are Fallow Deer. Forest staff have been dealing with an increasing number over the last five years: 83 in 2000; 107, 2001; 108, 2002; 185, 2003 and 214, 2004.

In order to provide a common framework for tackling the issue of speeding drivers and motorcyclists on the

Forest, and in recognition of the Forest's special qualities, the Ashdown Forest Villages Road Safety Partnership was set up in 2005 under the guidance of the Principal Road Safety Officer of ESCC, Keith Sinden. Other representatives come from the six parishes that cover the Forest (Buxted, Danehill, Forest Row, Hartfield, Maresfield, Withyham) and from the Conservators.

According to Keith Sinden, society's awareness of the impact of speeding traffic is comparable to what it was 20 years ago for drink-driving. The Partnership aims to

raise awareness of the dangers of speeding not only to drivers and their passengers, but to all road users, particularly walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It will also encourage drivers to make a personal commitment to slow down and drive at safe and appropriate speeds within the speed limits.

The campaign will be part of a long-term strategy to reduce the danger caused by speeding drivers and motorcyclists to all road users and deer. The impact of speed on Ashdown Forest will therefore have to take a long-term view – but the sooner we start, the sooner we will get there!

The Partnership is seeking support for its plans to reduce traffic speed on the Forest and to make the area a safer and more pleasant one for today and for those who follow us. The plans include the deployment of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in various locations in 2006 and to continue the monitoring of speeds and casualties.

