Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

September 2020

As I write this in mid-August the Country has further relaxed the lockdown restrictions and businesses and many amenities have reopened. There is optimism that some semblance of normality is returning as the Pandemic subsides. I do hope that all Maresfield parishioners are safe and well but should you need assistance of a non-medical nature please ring the Parish Office on 714555 or contact the Wealden District Council Community Hub on 01342 443322.

Does your Organisation need a Grant?

Requests for Parish Council grants and donations from organisations within or pertaining to the Parish for the financial year 2021/22 should be submitted to the Parish Office by no later than 25th September 2020 please. A copy of the Parish Council’s revised Grants Policy and the relevant application forms are available from the Parish Office (01825 714555).

.The Number One Issue in the Parish

When I ask parishioners if they have any concerns or issues which the Parish Council might help with the response I hear most frequently is “Speeding”. It could be on the Straight Half Mile in Maresfield, the A22 or the Crowborough Road in Nutley, or the B2026 approaching Fairwarp. The Police are unable to enforce the speed limits but an effective Community Speedwatch can make a difference. Comprised of volunteers who can give say three hours a month who, armed with a radar speed gun, note details of speeding cars and then input them into a police data base. Warning letters are sent by the police and persistent offenders face a visit from police officers and possibly further action against them. Post Covid we have resumed Speedwatch and are getting some concerning Speedwatch results from all our locations but particularly on the B2026 near Fairwarp where two separate one hour sessions accumulated over 30 offenders per session - some going at nearly twice the speed limit!

We need more volunteers from all three villages, please. Contact the Parish Office on 01825 714555.

Are your hedges or trees overhanging the footpath?

If so, please cut them back now as the bird nesting season is over. Hedge growth has been very prolific this year and overhanging hedges particularly affect mothers with prams, the elderly and those using disability scooters. As the landowner it is your responsibility to keep your hedges and trees trimmed back so please cooperate. If the Highways Authority is forced to intervene and cut back your hedge and tree growth, they will send you the bill!

Parish Councilors wanted !

Following the recent resignation of Les Wilcox we are down to only nine Parish Councilors and our quota is fourteen. I have often appealed in this newsletter for volunteers for co-option to the Parish Council but sadly very few parishioners have come forward. The Parish Council is non-party political and strives to work in the best interests of the whole Parish – all three villages. If you feel you have a few hours a month to spare and wish to make a meaningful contribution to our local community please contact the Parish Office for more information and we can arrange a “socially distanced” meeting to discuss how it all works and what would be expected of you.

**Be informed !**

To keep up to date about local matters the internet and social media are invaluable resources.

Useful links are:

<https://my.wealden.gov.uk/> <http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/> <https://www.ashdownforest.org/>

And you can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Martin Craddock – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council