

Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

September 2022

Does your Organisation need a Grant?

Applications for Parish Council grants and donations from organisations within or pertaining to the Parish for the financial year 2023/24 should be submitted to the Parish Office by no later than 30th September 2022 please. A copy of the Parish Council's Grants Policy and the relevant application forms are available from the Parish Office (714555).

Still 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". We now have twelve volunteers who carry out regular Speedwatch sessions in all three villages. There were 108 sessions in the period 1st January this year to 4th August which resulted in Sussex Police writing 940 letters to drivers warning them about their speeding with 146 cases still to be processed. The highest speeds recorded in these sessions were 58mph in a "30" limit and 69mph in a "40" limit. The Police are unable to enforce the speed limits but an effective Community Speedwatch can make a difference. Community Speedwatch is comprised of volunteers who can give say three hours a month and, 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. Our Speedwatch exercises take place at Straight Half Mile, Maresfield, on the B2026 approaching Fairwarp Village, on the A22 approaching Nutley and also near to Nutley School as well as on the Crowborough Road in Nutley.

We need more volunteers from all three villages, please. Contact the Parish Office on 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 hugely prolific this year and overhanging hedges particularly affect people pushing 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!

Dog Fouling

It's no wonder dog fouling is such a problem – there are estimated to be more than 8 million dogs producing more than 1,000 tonnes of mess every day in the UK alone. While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets. Regrettably some of these are dog owners in our Parish.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

So, Parish dog owners, please carry poo bags, pick up your dog's poo and either put it in a bin where provided or take it home for disposal.

Assistant Parish Clerk

We have recently appointed a new Assistant Parish clerk, Ms Rosie Barnes, and wish her luck in her new role. Our Parish Clerk, Nancy O'Hanlon, and Rosie are always happy to see parishioners and assist wherever possible and be contacted on 01825 714555.

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