

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

Issue 1

August 2016

Dates for your diary 2016

Family Funfair Recreation Ground	19th- 21st Aug
Planning Committee Youth Centre	1st Sep
<i>Deadline for Applications for Parish Councillor</i>	<i>4th Sep</i>
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	19th Sep
Planning Committee Youth Centre	6th Oct
Planning Committee Youth Centre	3rd Nov
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	21st Nov

Full Parish Council Meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. Planning Committee meetings are held monthly, generally on the first Thursday, if applications have been received.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm and a period of up to 15 minutes is allowed at the start of the meeting for public comment or questions if required.

Agendas for meetings are posted on the parish notice boards and website at least 3 days before the meeting - planning applications are on the Rother District Council web site - www.rother.gov.uk and comments on planning applications can be submitted on-line.

The Parish Council is looking for a new member..

Make a Difference - Contribute to Your Community

One of our Councillors has recently left and we need to choose another resident (age 18 or over) to join the team until the next elections in 2019. No experience is needed, just an interest in the social, economic & environmental well-being of the community, some time to spare and a willingness to get involved in local matters and decisions.

The Parish Council is responsible for: **the Recreation Ground, Pocket Park, Jubilee Garden, Bishops Meadow, Playgrounds** and **the Cemetery**. Also the parish **benches, bus shelters** and **streetlights** ... and more...

Preferably the new councillor will be interested in **local Planning Applications**, which are discussed and considered every month, and also prepared to take an active interest in provision for **the Youth of the village**.

Parish Councillors will choose someone, from all candidates who applied by 4th Sept, at the meeting on Monday 19th September

Could it be you?

Interested? Write a brief profile of yourself and say why you'd like to join the Parish Council. Send or email it to the Clerk: Karen Ripley **by 4th September**

UPDATE ON OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Since the last parish newsletter we have made great progress towards the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. We have been gathering evidence to support what we will be proposing in the Plan, building on the unprecedented huge response we had to the Village Questionnaire last September, for which we are so very, very grateful.

We have been able to draft documents covering: appraisal of the physical character of the village; an analysis of the statistics of the village, and its concerns, needs and constraints; an analysis of all the policies which control the possible planning environment for the village; and a snapshot of the historic built environment of the parish. All these are essential, if we are to do the Neighbourhood Plan properly.

Our meetings are open to the public. In February we agreed our overall vision and objectives, which will of course be at the head of the Plan, and produced the first draft of our scoring analysis of the sites that might accommodate the minimum of 155 dwellings we have to provide. We presented both to the public in an exhibition at the Youth Centre on 27th February; over 100 people came to view our initial proposals for sites and gave us some thoughtful and valuable feedback.

In March and April we started to put together our thoughts for the Plan in the areas of the local environment, infrastructure, education, leisure and economic needs, as well as housing sites, to see what principles would support the specific policies we wish to bring forward in our first draft. In June and July we have been addressing the specific policies we will need in the Plan to cover all the aspects of life in the parish that can fall within the remit of neighbourhood planning.

From now into early autumn we will be embarking on a vigorous round of consultation meetings and discussions with as many people as possible in our parish. So please take every opportunity to contribute and help us to refine the plan policies; all contributions will be most welcome. This will be in addition to consulting the necessary official bodies, to ensure that our Plan is approved by them all and, just as importantly, captures the spirit of our community.



ROBERTSBRIDGE HALL KITCHEN:

Robertsbridge Hall has recently undergone extensive refurbishment - a change in layout and location of the toilets has permitted the kitchen to be considerably extended. This has had a complete refit, to superb modern standards, and no doubt will be a pleasure to use, both for private hirers and regular groups alike.





RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENT WORKS....

We hope you will have noticed the extensive improvement works carried out recently to the main walkway through the play area to the football field. This area has been boggy and

wet for some years, only really drying up in the middle of the summer. The old and composted soil has been removed, drains installed, and new soil with protective matting overlaid to protect the ground from becoming so churned up when maintenance (and bonfire building) vehicles have to cross it. It is definitely draining away much better after heavy rain and has mostly started to green up nicely again – some more grass seed will be put down when the weather is not too dry.

We are very grateful to the Darvell Community who contributed very generously towards these works.

New gates (below right) have been installed at the access to the Pocket Park from the football field. This is to ensure that dog walkers coming from the Pocket Park side and / or using the path alongside the cricket field can have their dogs off lead without them straying on to the Recreation Ground (which is covered by an order requiring them to be on a lead at all times). The large gate is only required for maintenance vehicles, so will be kept locked, but the pedestrian gate will of course be accessible at all times.

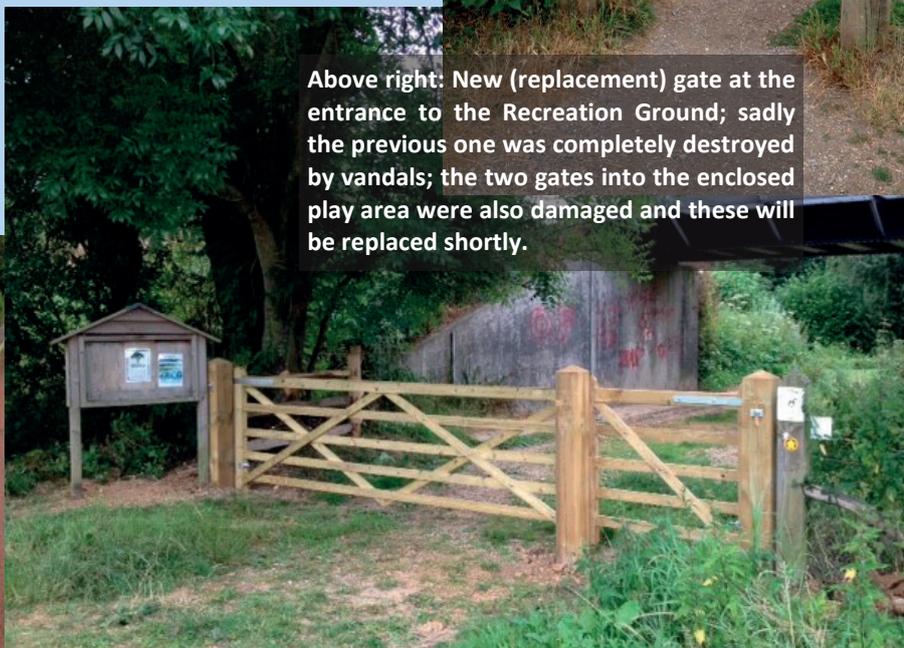
Other works in the pipeline include repairs and refurbishments at the pavilion and toilets and refurbishments and some replacement parts (toddler swings for example) on the play equipment.



Above right: New (replacement) gate at the entrance to the Recreation Ground; sadly the previous one was completely destroyed by vandals; the two gates into the enclosed play area were also damaged and these will be replaced shortly.



New (replacement) fencing at the Clappers boundary of the Recreation Ground car park.



SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Karen Ripley
Assistant Clerk: Mrs Angie Goodwin

The Parish Office:
Robertsbridge Youth Centre
The Grove, George Hill
Robertsbridge TN32 5AP

Phone: 01580 882066

Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk

Web address:
www.salehurst-pc.org.uk or
www.robertsbridge-pc.org.uk

The Parish Office is open to the public at the following times:

Tuesday	2pm to 4pm
Thursday	2pm to 4pm

Parish Councillors **Tel:**

CLLr Nick Greenfield (Chairman) 880998
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East Sussex County Councillor

CLLr Angharad Davies 831969
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Rother District Councillors

CLLr Graham Browne 860118
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Rother District Council

Web address: www.rother.gov.uk

REPORTING A CRIME OR ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Unfortunately police resources have been cut and we no longer have a regular PCSO presence in the village. Resources and responses will be more targeted, so it is **more important than ever** that we report non-emergency crimes and pass on information, as soon as possible - it really helps Sussex Police to prioritise, spot patterns or clusters of incidents and it increases the chance of culprits being caught.

Call 101 to report (non-emergency) matters. 101 has replaced individual forces' local numbers. A call to 101 costs just 15p no matter how long your call is. Alternatively, you can report online at: **www.sussex.police.uk**

Call 999 only for genuine emergencies: if you or someone else is in immediate danger, if a crime is in progress, or there is a traffic collision involving injury or danger to other road users.

You can also contact **Crimestoppers** to report a crime anonymously on **0800 555 111** or **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**. They will pass the information about the crime to the police.

There is (thankfully) no evidence of any specific terrorism threat around here, but vigilance is always sensible wherever you are: Report any suspicious activity or behaviour to the **confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321**.

HIGHWAYS:

East Sussex has a new contractor (Costain Ch2m) responsible for maintaining the highway network (including roads, pavements, gullies and ditches, traffic lights, highway bridges and structures, gritting).

Use their new website to find information and to report and track problems (instead of Fix My Street):

www.eastsussexhighways.com or call: **0345 60 80 193**.

Highway news and updates: Twitter page **@escroads**

Facebook page: **East Sussex Highways**.

FAMILY FUNFAIR:

Showtime Amusements will be with us again at the Recreation Ground in August, arriving and setting up from Monday 15th, they will be open on Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st August.

SCOUTS GROUP:

Our local Scouts Group are looking for adults to become Leaders - contact Sheila Rogers on 01580 880312 if you are interested

Sadly, we said goodbye to one of our dedicated and hard-working Councillors in June. Ross McNay had only been with us for just over a year, but had been very active on planning, finance, amenities and youth liaison. He will be greatly missed but we wish him well and hope he enjoys some extra time for other interests.