

# TWINEHAM

## *Parish Council News*

**February 2016**

A belated Happy New Year to all. The newsletter has been slightly delayed as we wanted to await the result of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum 28th January. We managed an excellent turnout of 50.9% which is the highest of any of the parishes in Mid Sussex. This resulted in a total of 109 votes being cast with 102 in favour and 7 against. The Plan will now inform all the planning decisions made by Mid Sussex District Council in the parish and means that we have a real say in what happens locally. Many thanks to all who helped with this very time-consuming exercise, we couldn't have done it without you!

### **Planning**

We would like to make the Parish Council's position absolutely clear. When we either ask for a site visit as a result of a planning application or we are asked to visit a site by a resident who is thinking of putting in an application, we are only looking at the site and this is not confirmation of our approval of a planning application. The application will be considered by the full council at our next meeting.

### **The Queen's Birthday**

Charles and Miranda Worsley will be organising a beacon at Hookers Farm to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday on 21st April. For those of us who were fortunate enough to go to Hookers Farm for the Diamond Jubilee beacon, this was a truly memorable evening with glorious views over to the Downs and the other Sussex beacons. More information to follow.

### **Rampion Wind Farm**

Work has now started although not a great deal is happening at present. Should you have any concerns the Rampion Hotline is 0800 2800 886.

### **St Peter's 500th Anniversary**

Plans are now advancing for the anniversary of the Church as well as events for everyone in the parish: 25th June - Open Garden Scheme and Flower Festival in the Church • 26th June - Special Anniversary Service 10.00 am to open the week's celebrations followed by drinks on the lawn • 29th June - Saint Peter's Day Service led by Bishop Mark of Horsham and launch of the Book of Memories 7.30 pm • 2nd July - Quarter peels ringing all day at the church. Hog roast and live band 6.00 pm on the school field • 3rd July - Service closing the anniversary celebrations.

### **Open Gardens**

With many thanks to residents who have agreed to open their gardens, we will be holding this event on Saturday, 25th June. The funds raised will be shared between the Church Building Fund and St Peter & St James Hospice. The Hospice has a great deal of experience in running these events and is happy to "hold our hand" with the arrangements. We should have about six gardens open on the day with teas and a plant stall also on offer. The Open Gardens are very popular and well attended in other parishes so this should not only be a good day but a successful fundraiser for our causes. Please contact Fanny Jones for further details and offers of help (help will definitely be needed with volunteers on the day, cakes, plants, etc!).

### **Funding for Rural Business**

LEADER grant funding is part of the Rural Development Programme for England. This aims to improve the competitiveness of farming and forestry, support a diverse and successful rural economy and help to develop vibrant and thriving rural communities. Average grant awards will be around £20,000 and can be used for projects that will support:

- increasing farm productivity

- small business growth and farm diversification
- rural tourism
- rural services
- cultural and heritage activity
- increasing forestry productivity

To find out more, visit

[www.businesswestsussex.co.uk/leadergrants](http://www.businesswestsussex.co.uk/leadergrants) or

Telephone 03302 228001.

## Email Addresses

if you get the Newsletter in paper form it means we haven't got an email address for you - please could you let us have one as it would be a big help both financially but also as it enables us to contact residents on other issues that crop up from time to time including ...

## Broadband

Those of you on our email list will already be aware of this so apologies for the repetition.

As you may be only too well aware, Twineham has been told by West Sussex County Council that we are in the last tranche of parishes to get high speed, fibre optic, broadband and that it will therefore be four years before we get the upgrade. BT have announced that they have set up a community scheme and the Parish Council has been in touch with them regarding the possibilities of an upgrade. We have now been told that:

The upgrade is dependent on a 'community' contribution and the cost of this depends on whether:

- There can be an upgrade of the existing fibre equipment (ie the exchange is already upgraded to broadband). The contribution for this would be in the region of £15,000 - £30,000
- It is more complex (ie rearrangement of cables, etc). Apparently this is the more usual case as the local authorities are upgrading the easier to reach communities. The cost of this would be £30,000 - £60,000.

However, there is another problem for Twineham in that the high speed broadband only has a reach of 1.4 km although residents further from the cabinet would see improvements in their speeds. This means that more than one cabinet would be needed.

In order to take this further, BT need to know if residents would be willing to make a financial contribution towards the upgrade.

However, it is possible that there could be some significant funding available to help which could make the upgrade a reality and individual contributions would be either unnecessary or very modest. Unfortunately, BT Community can only manage the information and does not have any direct access to the data held by Openreach. They have therefore asked that those households interested in the upgrade can let the Parish Council have the following information to be passed onto BT: name, house number/name, street, village, postcode, landline telephone number

If you (or your neighbours) are interested, please send us your contact details and we will forward these to BT.

## Highways Matters

Concerns have been raised by residents regarding the considerable number of enormous HGVs that are now using Hickstead Lane and Twineham Lane. Many of these vehicles seem to have overseas registration plates and we assume are using their satellite navigation systems to bypass the A23. Although we are not over hopeful that immediate action will be taken we have asked the County Council to look into the possibility of imposing a weight (or width) restriction to prevent these vehicles being directed down our country lanes.

## Your Parish Council

Just to remind all residents that your Parish Councillors are available to discuss any issues which are of concern, be it planning applications, local issues, etc. The public are welcome to attend our meetings and there is a period set aside for public participation at the start of the meeting. Details of forthcoming meetings are available on our website.

Annie Hirst (Chairman) 881317

[rmhirst@btopenworld.com](mailto:rmhirst@btopenworld.com)

Fanny Jones 881727

[fmtjones@btinternet.com](mailto:fmtjones@btinternet.com)

Caroline Murphy 881329

[dcmurfs@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dcmurfs@tiscali.co.uk)

Jane Veaney 881517

[candj.veaney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:candj.veaney@tiscali.co.uk)

Charles Worsley 881161

[charles@hookersfarm.co.uk](mailto:charles@hookersfarm.co.uk)

Dawn Langston (Clerk) 07909 332605

[Clerk@twineham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@twineham-pc.gov.uk)