

TWINEHAM

Parish Council News

Spring 2017



Welcome to our Spring/Early Summer Newsletter. It has been a busy time for the Parish Council and hopefully the following will give an indication of what we have been up to. For more info on any of the items, please contact any of your Parish Councillors. Also, a request, if you are still receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, could you please consider letting us have your email/emails? We now have nearly 80% of the Parish on email and this is not only a great saving in time and cost but also enables us to contact residents quickly as and when the need arises.

The Parish Council

Meetings were held in May, June, July, September and November 2016, and in January, March and April 2017. Both our County Councillor, Peter Griffiths, and our District Councillor, John Allen, have retired from their posts and we are extremely grateful to them for all the help and support they have given us. We welcome our West Sussex County Councillor, Joy Dennis and our Mid Sussex District Councillor, Judy Llewellyn-Burke. We are sure we will have a long and productive association with them both. The Parish Council has set a precept of £7,500 for the current financial year as compared to £6,400 the previous year. Full details of the accounts can be found on our website www.twinehamparishcouncil.co.uk

Rampion Off Shore Windfarm

Many of you will have been affected by the construction of the substation for the off-shore windfarm and the works along the cable route. Members of the Local Liaison Group (LLG) met with representatives of Rampion and the managers of the substation construction site and cable route on 10th May. We were informed that 16 of the 116 turbines have been erected off shore.. We discussed a wide range of matters

which are of concern, including the traffic in Wineham Lane and the damage to the grass verges. We tried to get specific dates regarding the end of the works, but they would not commit themselves. Hopefully the work on the cable route will be completed by the end of this year. Apparently most of the work on the substation should be completed by the end of the summer, followed by commissioning work. We hope that the lay down area adjacent to the new substation to the north of Bob Lane will be returned to agricultural land by the end of this year.

We had some very lively (and that's putting it politely!) conversations about weekend working. Having had assurances from Rampion in our lengthy discussions prior to construction commencing that the only weekend working would be the delivery of the transformers on two Sundays, we are very dismayed that permission has been granted by West Sussex County Council for work to take place on the substation site seven days a week until the end of July, Bank Holidays included. And an hour before the meeting started we received an email from West Sussex County Council granting permission for working hours of 07.00 until the end of daylight Monday-Friday (but no later than 21.20) and 08.00-17.00 on Saturdays/Sundays/Public Holidays during the period 13th May - 30th June 2017 on the cable route. We try our hardest, but this is a very big infrastructure project.

Highways

We are aware of potholes, etc., which are in need of repair and are frequently in touch with WSCC regarding these matters. These can be reported direct to the County Council website (with a photo if possible) at www.lovestsussex.gov.uk

Mid Sussex District Plan Examination

This will continue after the General Election as the examiner is currently not allowed to communicate by election rules. It is hoped that the District Plan will finally be recommended for approval by the Examiner later this year. Some representatives from the Parish have attended the Examination. Once the Plan is finally adopted this should result in a much more ordered level of development and reduce the threat to our local countryside. The District Plan situation is still fluid, and until the examination is concluded we wouldn't want to make any guarantees as to longer term housing numbers!

Neighbourhood Plan

Many of you will be aware that since the adoption of our Neighbourhood Plan, we have had several applications for new dwellings in the Parish. The Plan made an allocation of 20 houses over a 17 year period and we now have 8 new houses that have been given approval with several more in the pipeline. Mid Sussex District Council have confirmed that the front loading of this housing will not have any significant impact on future housing numbers, but the overall numbers may require to be reviewed in time for a general review of the District Plan proposed for 2022.

Twineham School

We are very pleased to introduce Scott Reece, headteacher at Twineham School, who has given us the following report:

"We are a thriving school with a diverse catchment area; children travel to Twineham from nearby villages and towns further afield such as Burgess Hill, Henfield and beyond. We take pride in our family atmosphere and parents often comment on how they feel valued at our small church school (this was highlighted in our 'Good' Ofsted inspection in January this year). Our published admissions number (PAN) is 15, which means that 15 pupils can start in Reception each year, subject to appeals.

"I am very grateful for the warm welcome I received from our neighbours when I took post in September and we are keen to maintain positive relationships with all residents who are, of course, a huge part of why Twineham is a special place. I

am also aware of the problems caused by traffic in the lane; like all schools we have 'peak' times when a high number of people access school at drop-off and pick-up times. Certain measures alleviate the stress; for example, we offer a 'staggered' start to the day where parents can drop children off at 8:30am where we supervise them on the playground. Our gates to the building then open at 8:45am and we register 10 minutes after - this is a fairly large window of opportunity rather than all parents having to arrive at one exact time. Our after school programme offers a great range of clubs and sports; parents have remarked how much easier access to school is with pupils finishing at different times.

"I am very keen to reduce problems in the lane by introducing further measures. Later this term we are launching a car-sharing strategy to encourage more pupils to travel together. We would be very pleased with sympathetic improvements to the lane itself such as a widened 'passing place' with no kerb. Access to school is difficult and any development that can aid the existing traffic flow would be greatly welcomed - out of respect for our wonderful neighbours, to ease the stress for parents and to ensure the safety of our pupils."

Scott Reece, Headteacher

And finally...

Just to remind all residents that all 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.

Our next meeting will be held at 7 pm at Twineham School on Monday, 10th July. Details of other meetings are available on our website.

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