



SPRING 2010

Cuckfield

REVIEW

Too often one hears the comment "what are *they* doing about ...".

I am so heartened that in Cuckfield it is the *community* that give their time and expertise to improving the quality of life for all.

Our current Parish Plan was revised and updated by one such group and now more of you have come forward to get involved with the Village Design Statement under the Chairmanship of Marie Dormer.

As Cuckfield comes under more and more pressure from the developers, with money for public projects getting tighter and tighter, it is important to have a document that maps out how the community will develop in terms of housing, economic development, leisure and transport links. If this document is then 'adopted' by Mid Sussex District Council, it will become a 'Supplementary Planning Document' which will have due weight in the planning process. Sincere thanks to those who are undertaking this work; it is a great example of how a statutory body, such as the Parish Council, can work effectively alongside volunteers to the overall benefit of the community.

Another great community initiative is 'Cuckfield Local'. Truly inspiring that, after years of trying to get the commercial market organisers interested in a street market in Cuckfield, a group have got on with it and produced such an amazing shopping experience. Truly great community effort.

Robert Salisbury, Chairman



Courtesy of Joe Heyman

DIARY DATE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday, 22nd April 2010
Queen's Hall 8 pm

Matt Pitts will speak about his work in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Annual Parish Meeting is the public's opportunity to come and question the Parish Council on what has happened over the past year and what is planned for the future. All are welcome.

We are locally-based RIBA Chartered Architects specialising in residential development and alterations, conservation and bespoke homes with a focus upon sustainable design.

www.dwellarchitecture.com 01444 831800

dwell
architecture + design

RIBA 
Chartered Practice

Car Park Access

There is much bewilderment over the reason for the closure of the access from the High Street. Effectively it comes down to litigation! Mid Sussex District Council have had a number of complaints from individuals seeking compensation after incidents when using this access. Investigation revealed that, at the time of building the car park, the owners of the Clock House had agreed a 'licence' with MSDC to allow pedestrian access. Unfortunately, that licence has now expired. Whilst it does mean that the access is now only from Broad Street, the upside will be refurbishment of the courtyard which should add to the town centre.

Street Cleaning

Since the changes MSDC have negotiated with the contractors, we have seen a marked deterioration in cleaning standards on the streets - your views were evident in the comments made at the Open Morning. The Parish Council have met with MSDC to discuss how to improve the performance. In the meantime, if you spot litter piling up, please contact Frances in the Parish Office. We are aware that litter that has blown onto adjacent land - as with some of the twittens - will not be picked up and either concerned individuals or community 'clear up days' will deal with such.

Tentercroft on Broad Street

West Sussex County Council still own this building after the abortive efforts of Pegasus Homes to knock down the building for 26 flats. To ensure a smoother sale, WSCC have applied for planning permission for 6 flats in the main building and four semi-detached houses to the rear. The Parish Council, whilst happy with the conversion of the main building, have objected to the style and scale of the proposed buildings to the rear. A single storey 'courtyard' style development being the preference.

There is also an access issue. The proposed access will require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to place double yellow lines outside the property to give sufficient 'sight lines' for vehicles emerging from Tentercroft. The Parish Council are insisting that the seven parking spaces lost are replaced elsewhere near the town centre. Clearly an almost impossible task, but to lose more parking ... need we say more!!

Roads, Pavements and Drains

The new roundabout at the top of London Lane at the junction with London Road will be built this summer. This is ongoing work following the development at the 'Copse'. It will be an important change as it will affect the priorities of the junction. Traffic

turning right out of London Lane will have priority over the northbound London Road traffic which should relieve the queuing and may also slow traffic Northbound up High Street/ London Road.

Following the severe winter we are all well aware of the issues on the roads. London Lane has now been resurfaced, but there are still potholes in other areas and we are working on 'influencing' highways to deal with them; resource being the major issue.

Drains have been problematic. Getting blockages cleared has been an ongoing fight but we are getting somewhere. The bottom of London Lane and Broad Street has been particularly bad all winter, though that is now being addressed. The top of London Lane outside Percy Cottages is now in the sights and highways are seeking a solution.

There are complaints about the condition of the pavements but here there cannot be a resolution in the short term. The funding is simply not available. Highways budget is already stretched to the limit and capital programmes have to be prioritised. Clearly if something is dangerous we will seek to get it fixed but we have to be pragmatic and the 'cosmetic' resurfacing that we would like to some of the brick pavers is many, many years away.

P & S Gallagher

Patrick Gallagher M.B.I.E. Dip FD. (Formerly of Cuckfield)
Paul Masson Dip FD. Mrs Mikki Taylor Dip FD

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

Fraser House, Triangle Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4HW

01444 451166 (24 Hour service)

www.pandsgallagher.co.uk



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

A local, privately owned family business offering a personal and caring service.

Cottage Flowers Flower School Floral Inspiration Course

*Would you like to be inspired?
Come and join us at:*

Cottage Flowers
The Corner House
High Street
Cuckfield RH17 5JX
01444 454 290
info@cottageflowers.eu

www.cottageflowers.eu

Cuckfield Accident Repair Specialist

Professional Paint & Body Repairs

- ★ Low Bake Oven
- ★ Chassis Jig
- ★ Insurance Approved Estimates
- ★ Loan car available

Sparks Lane, Brook Street, Cuckfield, W. Sussex RH17 5JP

Tel/Fax 01444 458700

DIARY DATE

THEATRE IN THE PARK

The Importance of Being Ernest*By Oscar Wilde***Friday, 6th August 2010
Cuckfield Recreation Ground**

Tickets £12, £10 concessions, £6 children. Grounds open at 6 pm for picnics. Please bring your own seating

Cuckfield Play Meadow

Residents may be aware of a proposal from Mid Sussex District Council to sell the land adjacent to the Courtmead Road allotments for one large dwelling. This open space has been used by many people in the community, including Next Step Nursery, the Brownies and the Youth Group.

The Parish Council is looking into the possibility of having the land declared an Open Space. This is a formal designation that will ensure this area continues to be of benefit to the whole community. We are asking for witnesses who are prepared to come forward to make a statement regarding their personal use of the land over the past 20 years and beyond.

If you or your family has used this field and are willing to make a statement, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Village Design Statement

The residents of both Cuckfield and the hamlet of Brook Street are involved in producing a document that will give local people a recognised opportunity to influence the character of future planned development within our community.

This document, a Village Design Statement (VDS), unlike many other local initiatives, is the recognised route whereby a community can influence the operation of the statutory planning system and will provide the context for new development based on local character and sense of place. A VDS is designed to help manage change, at whatever scale this change occurs, from minor alterations to small-scale housing development. The basic argument about whether development should take place at all is outside the remit of the VDS as this is covered by the adoption of the District Council local plan and core strategy. However, a VDS does allow the community to have a say in how planned development should be carried out to ensure that it remains in harmony with its setting and that it makes a positive contribution to the local environment.

In order to produce a successful document that will be adopted by Mid Sussex District Council, it is essential that the VDS must be developed,

researched, written and edited by local people. It must represent the views of the community as a whole by involving as wide a cross-section of local people as possible. The VDS will describe the visual character of Cuckfield and Brook Street and will demonstrate how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development. It must be compatible with the statutory planning system and with the local planning context and with the help of Mid Sussex District Council be suitable for approval as a supplementary guidance document.

There is an opportunity for the whole community to become involved through workshops, consultation meetings, village research, photography or by writing the actual Village Design Statement. If you care about your community and would like to have your say in ensuring that any future development enhances, not detracts, from the essential character of Cuckfield and Brook Street then please consider how you could help. For more information on the VDS and associated forthcoming events please visit www.cuckfield.org or see the information on the notice board in the entrance of the Queen's Hall. Alternatively, email the project co-ordinator, Marie Dormer, at dorjo27@btinternet.com

Selling or Letting your home?



What lies ahead for you in 2010.....



Less Stress...

www.marcusgrimes.co.uk

The LiveWire School of Dance

STRICTLY DANCING Classes For You!

BALLROOM, LATIN & SALSA
For ADULTS (BEGINNERS & IMPROVERS) (partners required)
WED EVE – OAKMEEDS SCH, BURGESS HILL
THUR EVE – THE QUEEN'S HALL, CUCKFIELD
For OLDER CHILDREN & TEENAGERS (no partners required)
TUE EVE – OAKMEEDS SCH, BURGESS HILL

SOLO DANCING
For ADULTS (BEGINNERS TO INTERMEDIATES+)
TUES EVE – OAKMEEDS SCH, BURGESS HILL
WED AFT – THE QUEEN'S HALL, CUCKFIELD

DISCO/STREET/JAZZ
For 3.5 YEARS TO TEENAGERS
WED EVE – OAKMEEDS SCH, BURGESS HILL

01273 562996
sarah@livewireschoolofdance.co.uk
www.livewireschoolofdance.co.uk

Cuckfield Speedwatch Group

Speeding is a contributory factor in a significant number of road accidents and accidents occurring at a higher speed are more likely to result in serious or fatal injuries to those involved. Seven out of ten drivers admit to speeding and driving at least 40mph in a 30mph zone is seen by many as more acceptable than dropping litter. Speeding through parts of Cuckfield can be excessive and seems to be ingrained with drivers.

However, the public perception of a speeding hot-spot often doesn't match those areas identified as needing action. Roads targeted for traffic calming measures have to demonstrate a high level of accidents over a set period of time. Unfortunately (or fortunately) the roads of Cuckfield don't fall into this category. So what can we do to ensure that the traffic slows before serious accidents do start happening ... maybe to your friend, neighbour or family?

Well, we are adding an additional arm to the successful Speedwatch group in Brook Street. This will cover Whiteman's Green and collectively be known as the Cuckfield Speedwatch Group. The Speedwatch scheme allows local residents to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through our neighbourhood. It is about

educating motorists about the law in relation to speeding and about monitoring any speeding trends. Volunteers are trained to use speed indicator devices. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter from their local neighbourhood policing team, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community.

In conjunction with the Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Team we have started recruiting a team of volunteers willing to give up a few minutes of their week to promote the aims of the Cuckfield Speedwatch Group – namely to reduce the speed of traffic through our village by educating drivers that speeding in Cuckfield is **NOT** acceptable. The response has been very positive with a shocking number of our volunteers having been at the receiving end of speed or road rage incidents along Whitemans Green and so particularly keen to make a difference. The amount of time a volunteer will give varies according to their circumstances.

At the moment we are trying to recruit as many people as possible as everyone knows that many hands make light work. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Helen or Steve Monteiro on Helen@planetmonty.com or call 01444 412876.

Printed by Dijiset 01444 882476.



Cuckfield Parish Council
The Queen's Hall
High Street, Cuckfield
West Sussex RH17 5EL
Telephone: 01444 451610
cuckfieldpc@btconnect.com
www.cuckfield.gov.uk

The Parish Council Office in the Queen's Hall is open from 10am–4pm each Monday, Wednesday and Friday

CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Robert Salisbury: 417779
robert@ladywell.uk.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Ken Gregory: 457547
ken.gregory47@btinternet.com

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Stephen Blanch: 415725
steveblanch@btinternet.com

Sue Burgess: 454104
sueburgess@freezingbreeze.com

Pat Gallagher: 459800
pat@pandsgallagher.co.uk

Stuart Gilboy: 452178
stuartgilboy@talktalk.net

Andrea King: 413172
kingmytten@btinternet.com

Ruth Macintyre: 458294
macintyre.cuckfield@virgin.net

Colin Mercer: 414995
colmercer2003@yahoo.co.uk

Jane Revell: 451454
andyrevell@msn.com

PARISH CLERK

Frances Jones: 451610
cuckfieldpc@btconnect.com

This newsletter is published by Cuckfield Parish Council. The Parish Council and printers do not guarantee or endorse any of the services or products advertised in this publication.

BROOK STREET GARAGE Ltd.

- MOT Vehicle Testing Station
- Diesel Testing
- Servicing
- Vehicle Recovery
- All types of vehicles maintained and repaired

Forgeworks, Sparks Lane,
Brook Street, Cuckfield,
West Sussex RH17 5JJ
Tel: 01444 452510

AirCon
Service
Centre



VOSA

Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

MSG

Cuckfield Post Office



High Street – RH17 5JU
Telephone: 01444 454001

DIJSET DIGITAL PRINT

is delighted to print this Newsletter for Cuckfield Parish Council.

Design and Print Services and we will run your Mac & PC files. Specialising in short run, low cost, B/W and 4-Colour A4 + A3 print.

Ring Dave Jones on 01444 882476
e-mail: dijiset@aol.com