



July 2017

Your Parish

Danehill Parish Council Newsletter

Facilities Review

Danehill Parish Council along with Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) will be undertaking a local facilities review this summer. The review will include all local amenities such as village halls, social club etc .

The use of an external professional service will provide an unbiased picture, gathering evidence from users and providers. The first workshop is set for 7:30pm Wed 9th August - venue to be confirmed - either Chelwood Gate Village Hall or Danehill Memorial Hall.

If you are a current or prospective user we would like to hear how facilities meet your needs. On Thursday 14th September we will have a second workshop aimed at those who run our facilities .

This is a really important step for our community and an opportunity for you to take part in shaping the type of facilities available in our parish. We really encourage you to join us. To take part please contact Faustina Bayo of AiRS - Faustina.Bayo@ruralsussex.org.uk More information will be available in due course via the clerk, website or publicised on Facebook.



Key Decisions Made April - June 2017

Agreement was reached on the following:

- Appoint (AiRS) for a review of parish facilities (see above)
- Ask DVMH to provide a quote for repairing floor this will provide in time for the July PC meeting.
- Agreed to continue funding the Youth Worker

Danehill Village Memorial Hall

The Trustees have asked for funding to support the replacement of the wooden floor. £2500 has already been provided (agreed by the last PC). The cost of replacement is expected to be in the region of £14000 - £17000 (DVMH have secured a £5000 grant from Wealden). The PC is fully supportive of DVMH and will ensure that the facilities continue to be available for all to enjoy. However, due diligence means that before committing parishioners' money we should consider less costly alternatives. We therefore asked the Trustees to provide a quote for repair rather than replacement. This is important given that there may be longer-term actions suggested by the Parish Facilities Review (mentioned above) which would render the replacement cost as wasteful. Repair is considered a feasible short-term option and would last 2-3 years. From what we understand, the people using the hall for Badminton and Karate would be happy with a repair. If following the Parish Facilities Review it is decided to refurbish the existing hall then the Council will provide support for a full replacement of the floor.

It is important to note that the last PC agreed to a payment of £2500 and we have honoured that agreement. In addition there was discussion on funding an additional £7500 but this never got further than an outline indication, was never formally discussed by the last PC and as such was never agreed. This appears to have created some confusion but seems clear from all the parish records and minutes.

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eMails

Please register for eMail if you would like to receive a digital copy of the newsletter instead of one through the post - the digital newsletter will usually get to you several days before the printed version. There is a link on the first page of the PC website 'Register for Electronic Updates', click on this link to send a message to the clerk quoting name, first line of address and postcode so we can take you off the distribution list for the printed version.

We will not provide your email address to any other party.

Contact clerk@danehill-pc.org to sign up or visit www.danehill-pc.org



Important Decisions or Proceedings

The most important decisions or proceedings from recent meetings are summarised below. Full details are contained in the meeting minutes which can be accessed via the Danehill PC website www.danehill-pc.org or ask the clerk for a hard copy if you do not have access to the internet.

Facilities Review

As mentioned in the previous newsletter we want to get ideas from parishioners on facilities needed for the future. In order to help this forward-looking review, we considered engaging an independent facilitator to guide us and the Community through a structured process. We are pleased to announce that at the last PC meeting we agreed to appoint AiRS to help us (see P1) - AiRS has a wealth of experience in helping parish councils with similar projects.

Youth Worker

The PC agreed unanimously to continue funding the Youth Worker as agreed by the previous council at a cost of £7500.

Chairman & Vice Chairman Re-Appointed

The PC agreed unanimously to re-appoint Andrew Goodburn as Chairman and Tony Blake as Vice-Chairman

Internal Audit

Internal audit completed by Mrs Rudin and sent to the external auditors. For further details of the accounts please contact the Clerk.

Danehill Village Memorial Hall Repair Quote

The Trustees have asked for funding to replace the wooden floor. £2500 has already been provided. As the cost of replacement is expected to be up to £17000 and we are about to start a review of parish facilities including halls, then it was considered more prudent to first ask for a repair quote. The quotes will be discussed at the July PC meeting.

Chairman's Message

I was invited by Danehill Parish Church Vicar, Paddy McBain, to attend one of the TNT youth group's club nights, early in June, organised by Lee Buck. It was a pleasure to see so many of the youngsters from our parish enjoying themselves on Danehill Recreation Ground as they do every Thursday evening. This is an initiative sponsored by Danehill Church with some financial support from the Parish Council. Lee also organizes similar activities in Hartfield and Horsted Keynes, which is a sensible example of how three neighbouring villages can share the cost of a service for the benefit of a larger community.

We have two very important issues to be discussed over the next few months that affect all members of the community - The Parish Facilities Review (detailed on the Page 1) and a Strategy to Reduce Speeding (see survey results Page 3) - In both cases it is crucial that your views be heard. Apart from checking the Parish Council Website I would encourage you to attend our meetings where more information will be available. The meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month and start with an open forum for the public to voice their views and concerns.

We have the chance, in both cases, to make a significant improvement to life in the parish and to benefit the whole community, please let us know your views either at the meetings or via email.

Finally, many of the great things that happen in our community are down to the dedicated people who volunteer their time and expertise. Sadly after many years providing support to local organisations, Sylvia has moved away from our Parish to be closer to her family in Suffolk. The council thanks Sylvia for her great contribution to the community and wishes her the best in the future.

Sylvia is standing down as secretary of Danehill Village Memorial Hall. If you are interested in being part of this valuable resource then please contact Keith Banbury (keith@kbanbury.com).

Andrew Goodburn

Church Lane - Double Yellow Lines

We advised in the last newsletter that East Sussex Highways (ESH) had carried out an initial consultation exercise (SCH-072) amongst residents closest to Church Lane (frontagers). The area under discussion is shown opposite (full details on the PC website). A local letter drop exercise took place w/c 12/6/17 advising residents that a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) consultation would take place from 15 June.

Notices were posted in the vicinity of the proposed waiting restriction with details on how to express support or object to the proposals.

Any objections which cannot be resolved will be reported to the next appropriate planning committee of the East Sussex County Council for a decision.



New Housing vs Ashdown Forest

The current draft Wealden District Council Local Plan together with recent planning appeals have reinforced the overall position that no new houses will be approved in the Parish. This is largely due to the proximity of the Ashdown Forest and its status as a European Site of Nature Conservation Importance and is subject to statutory protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations). Wealden DC is responsible for assessing the effects of new developments on the Ashdown Forest habitats in accordance with the statutory provisions.

There appear to be two significant causes of concern. Recent studies have been undertaken by Wealden DC to assess levels of nitrogen deposition on the Forest area. The draft report has highlighted this to be a major problem and as such Wealden DC have proposed a significant reduction in overall new housing and decided to concentrate most new housing around Hailsham, Uckfield and Crowborough to minimise additional traffic and further nitrogen deposits on the Forest area. The other main concern relates to domestic pets, particularly cats, which are considered a specific threat to protected birds such as the Dartford Warbler and the Nightjar. Wealden DC will therefore refuse all new housing within 400m of the Ashdown Forest on this policy alone and this is being supported on planning appeals.

The Draft Local Plan for Wealden, which is yet to be adopted, has determined that Danehill and Chelwood Gate is a rural community but is not a sustainable small village.

Whilst many of us support such policies, they do have serious implications for our community. Virtually all of the planning applications we see are to extend existing properties, which over time results in an imbalance in our housing stock, with a shortage of smaller homes for young families and older parishioners wishing to downsize. In recent years we have already seen all of our shops disappear and our primary school is struggling to maintain a buoyant intake of children. Whilst we have no answers to this problem we would be interested in hearing the views of parishioners.

Parish Council Grant Requests

The PC receives a number of requests for funding during the year in varying formats and levels of detail. It is crucial that we address these in a structured and transparent manner in order to do justice to the requests as being able to plan and execute precepts/budgets correctly. To this end we have adopted a new request form - please contact the clerk or visit www.danehill-pc.org

All Saints Church Danehill

The weekend of 1st - 2nd July marked the 125th anniversary of All Saints Danehill, in the church and its grounds. This included a series of attractions such as a bouncy castle with games, ye olde fancy dress with prizes for children and live music. There was also an open day with a photo exhibition and information about different church and village groups. On the 2nd July day, there was a joint service with the Bishop of Lewes speaking, the school singing and a bring and share picnic.



Footpath Group

The PC made a donation of £50 to a group of hard working volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our environment 'ship-shape.' The Footpath Group are very busy mending stiles, bridges and trying to keep the paths clear of nettles, brambles and bracken, all of which will take over given half a chance.

Conservators of Ashdown Forest

The Conservators of the Ashdown Forest will be presenting at the September PC meeting, covering the "way forward" with regard to Governance, Funding and Interaction with local Parishes. It is a privilege to live in such an amazing environment, so please come along and listen to the potential impact of any proposals.



Tennis Courts Update

Tennis courts have been cleaned and painted. New nets have also been purchased. Hopefully, with the (so far) great weather holding, the courts could end up being busy this summer.

Jubilee Green

The BMX track is seeing a lot of use at the moment, which is great to see. I would like to ask that anybody looking to do any modifications to the track, to please get in touch with me. We have seen some unauthorised changes being done which could lead to the track being left in a dangerous state. Note: Anyone riding on the track does so at their own risk.



Also - just a reminder that the grass surface will be off-limits for about 3 months from September as we level and re-seed the surface.

Rhodri Lewis

Volunteer Call

We will be forming another Working Party to tackle the Jubilee Green Pump house area, and another to maintain the hedge at the Rec car park.

The scheduled dates are:

Rec: 8th July between 10.00 - 12.00

Jubilee Green: 15th July between 10.00 - 12.00

These dates and any changes will also be posted on the Danehill and Chelwood Gate Community Alert Facebook page and the PC website.

Rhodri Lewis

Traffic Speed Survey

The results of the recent speed survey in Danehill & Chelwood Gate have been posted on the PC website (under community Information). Members of the PC and Councillor Roy Galley have met with ESCC Highways department this month and are reviewing proposals based on this data.

Highways Proposals

Following discussions with ESCC (see website for further information), the PC approved a £500 feasibility study for School Lane. The PC will consider purchasing a mobile speed indicator device under license from ESCC at a cost up to £3500.00 - Locations to be confirmed. The decision on possible siting of white gateways was postponed but would request the other highways measures ESCC have confirmed they can do - i.e. introduction of two yellow backed signs opposite the existing terminal signs at the start of the 30mph speed limit, funding the new 30mph repeater signs and roundels and relocating the repeater sign near the Police House further to the south so it is nearer to Beech Cottage and Oak Cottage.

Village Market PC Surgeries

Come and talk to a Parish Councillor. Chat about what you are happy/unhappy with in the Parish.

Next dates are: Sat 23rd September 10am-2pm CGVH Sat 18th November 10am-2pm DVMH.

Emergency Plan Update

This is being uploaded to the Danehill PC website and posted outside both village halls. The plan provides important information on what to do, assembly points, communication updates and the most important telephone numbers in the event of a major incident.

Danehill Parish Council Office

Chelwood Gate Village Hall
Beaconsfield Road
Chelwood Gate
E. Sussex RH17 7LF
Emma Fulham
Parish Clerk & RFO
clerk@danehill-pc.org
www.danehill-pc.org
Tel: 01342 822404

Councillors

Andrew Goodburn
Dee Birchall
Tony Blake
Catherine Crouch
Rhodri Lewis
Neil Macleod
Adrian Martorana
Emma Mills
Andrew Pattison

Responsibilities

Chairman & Burial Ground & Memorial
Chelwood Gate Village Hall
Chairman of Planning Committee
Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Panel,
Emergency Planning & Wealdlink
Danehill Rec & Jubilee Green (including
Chelwood Gate Village Green)
Highways & Footpaths
Communications
Danehill Village Hall & Primary School
Chairman of Finance Committee

Defibrillator Siting



We have two:

1. Outside Danehill Village Memorial Hall Main Entrance
2. On the side of Chelwood Gate Village Hall (currently car park side - shortly to be moved to Church Entrance side)

What Does The Parish Council Do?

County Council, District Council, Parish Council? Here's a simple guide to what responsibilities the various councils hold. (source: www.gov.uk)

County Council

Responsible for services across the whole of a county:

- education
- transport
- planning
- fire and public safety
- social care
- libraries
- waste management
- trading standards

District Council

Covers a smaller area than County. Usually responsible for:

- rubbish collection
- recycling
- Council Tax collections
- housing
- planning applications
- environmental health including noise pollution

Parish Council

Below District & County. They help on local issues such as:

- allotments, trees on parish grounds
- bus shelters
- burial grounds
- community centres
- play areas and play equipment
- grants to help local organisations
- consultation on neighbourhood planning

**POWER CUT?
CALL 105**



Power Cut?

One of the drawbacks of living in a rural area is the number of power cuts. Contact UK Power Networks free and they will keep you updated on progress in repairing the fault, likely time to fix the problem etc.

- Call 105, or 0800 31 63 105
- Text POWER & your postcode to 80876

Anti-Social Driving
& Abandoned Vehicles

Operation Crackdown



Fed Up With Anti-Social Driving?

Report it online at www.operationcrackdown.org
It takes 5-10 minutes to complete the form and is anonymous. You can even follow up and see what action was taken.

**POST
OFFICE**

Services are available every Friday

Chelwood Gate Village Hall:
10.00 - 12.00 (10am to Noon)

Danehill Social Club:
14.30 - 16.30 (2.30pm to 4.30pm)

Useful Contact Details

WEALDLINK PASSENGER SERVICE
01892 771332
PARISH BOOKINGS
Chelwood Gate Village Hall
01825 740562
Danehill Village Hall
01825 790797
Recreation Ground
01825 740731

Calendar

20th July 2017	PC Meeting 7.30pm DS
28th Sep 2017	PC Meeting 7.30pm CGVH
19th Oct 2017	PC Meeting 7.30pmDS

DS=Danehill School CGVH = Chelwood Gate Village Hall