

The Catsfield Flyer...

WELCOME TO CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL'S
Newsletter 2016 - Issue 15



Parish Councillor Vacancies

Parish Council has 2 vacancies for members of the public to become a Parish Councillor.

If you feel you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community, local issues + make a significant contribution to the area in which you live or work, then this is the position for you!

Do you have an interest in your local environment, local transport, local government finances, amenities, planning and housing issues, community events, anti-social behaviour and policing, and want to make a difference then please apply!

Further details are available from The Clerk either by

Email: clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk or Tel: 01424 893526

Press release from Sussex Police... **New PCSO role introduced to proactively problem solve and tackle local issues**

PCSOs equipped with enhanced powers and skills, started their new role on Monday, 4th July 2016.

With new skills and powers to deal with a wide range of local problems, they can act to resolve issues such as alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour from their very first day in the new role.

Assistant Chief Constable Laurence Taylor said: "The PCSO role has evolved since it was introduced 13 years ago with the specific aim to be visible in the community; and they will continue to conduct patrols. However, these patrols will be targeted to areas where they know they can make a difference. They will be helping prevent crimes such as burglary and anti-social behaviour and complete tasks in ways that are proven to reduce crime and keep people safe."

They will be an integral part of larger teams solving local problems, carrying out basic investigations, working alongside partners and directly with witnesses and victims to respond to community issues. Making use of mobile technology, PCSOs will access information whilst out in the community.

The flexible nature of their new role means they can work when and where they are needed, logging on remotely, as well as working from police and shared premises.

"Accessibility is important to me," said ACC Taylor. "It's important that communities can speak to their PCSOs and police officers when they need them or if they have information to pass on. Now they will have a team to access rather than one individual. Every area within Sussex will have a team to contact – by phone, email or via the web.

"Should there be a need, supervisory officers will have autonomy to move PCSOs to the places where they are needed most. These are in addition to our 999 response and investigations teams. This means all areas in Sussex will have access to a full range of force, regional and national policing services.

"Whilst our newly recruited PCSOs complete their training, teams will be supported by constables within local teams and, in some areas, new police constables who will be out training in the community.

ACC Taylor said: "The new role of the PCSO has been specifically developed in line with changing demands in policing and reshaping our service to make it as effective as possible to meet the needs of the local community.

"Sussex Police faces the challenge of operating with new demands against a shrinking budget, however, the force is determined to make policing services more effective, rather than less so.

"PCSOs, who are supported by constables with enforcement capabilities, are one of a number of layers of policing that work to prevent, respond to and investigate crime.

"The new policing model for Sussex is focused on protecting vulnerable people and catching criminals. We will always be there when people need us."

Sussex Police - Serving Sussex

Catsfield Community Speedwatch.....

Parish Council is looking for volunteers to restart regular Speed Watch sessions in Catsfield.

If you are concerned about road safety and excess speed within the village, and would like to find out more about volunteering, please contact The Clerk

An update from East Sussex Highways

A new Highway Maintenance contract was awarded to a joint venture organisation Costain Ch2m. This new seven-year contract started on 1st May 2016, replacing previous arrangements with Kier, Colas and Siemens.

We have launched a new website for customers to use which replaces 'Fix My Street'. If you wish to report a problem this can now be done at..... <http://www.eastsussexhighways.com>

Hedges - Public

We are responsible for maintaining a number of hedges on the highway. All cuttings are removed from the footway and/or road after cutting. The maintenance of hedges that front the public highway are the responsibility of the owner of the land abutting the highway. This may be a private householder, a company or the Council. Overgrown hedges cause safety problems to highway users, obstructing sight lines and causing potentially hazardous obstructions. Most roadside hedges are the responsibility of the landowner. If we notice overhanging hedges during a routine inspection, or receive a report of the issue, we will ask the landowner to cut them back.

Frequently Asked Questions.....

There is an overgrown hedge obstructing the footway / carriageway

The local Highways Steward will inspect the area and if this is a safety issue will try to contact the owner and request that they cut this back. If we cannot get hold of the owner directly, we will write to them and ask them to advise us within 14 days of their action.

The Steward will re-inspect the hedge after 14 days to see whether it has been cut. If not, and we haven't heard from the owner or they refuse to cut it back, then this will be passed to our enforcement team for investigation.

If the owner still refuses following enforcement notice, then we will arrange for cutting ourselves and recharge the owner.

I have received a hedge-cutting notice. How much do I need to cut?

Any vegetation should be a minimum of 50cm from the edge of the carriageway / footway.

I have received a hedge-cutting notice but the hedge does not belong to me

It can sometimes be difficult for us to identify the owner of any overgrowth at times. If it does not belong to you, please let us know and advise if you may know who the owner is. This will help us to address it with them directly.

I have received a hedge-cutting notice but there are birds nesting in it.

Bird-nesting season runs from the beginning of March until end of August. If you know your hedge grows out over a footway or the road, please ensure that you arrange to cut it back around the bird nesting times.

If the hedge is causing a safety issue, we may still request that you cut back during these times taking care not to disturb the nest. This is because within the Highways Act it prioritises safety of the public over nesting birds.

What is Rother Seniors Forum About?

The Rother Seniors' Forum (RSF) is an independent organisation which gives a collective voice to the over fifties of Rother District, helping them to influence decision-makers on issues which impact their everyday lives.

RSF is strictly non party-political, and will work with anybody, including members of political parties, to the benefit of all Rother Seniors and to further the aims and objectives of the members.

Forums are run by older people for older people, all members are volunteers. All people over fifty are welcome to join regardless of ethnic backgrounds, disability and sexuality, religious, cultural or political beliefs.

What is it for? Rother Seniors' Forum decides its own agenda and takes up issues at local level as well as working with other seniors' forums in East Sussex, promoting an 'older voice' at regional and national levels.

Its aim is to encourage older people to share their views and raise concerns so that their voice will be heard in the planning and provision of services and facilities locally, regionally and nationally.

How does it work? The Forum is valuable to the residents of Rother District because as it grows in membership, it will influence the local authority and others. This enables the Forum to get involved in planning and reviewing matters, thus setting up a two-way flow of information, thus benefiting the community.

What else? Forums look to develop friendships and relationships that help break down social isolation. It also provides older people with an avenue to continue to use their skills and encourage them to develop further. A forum is also very useful for circulating information more widely.

What concerns you? The main aim of Rother Seniors' Forum is to enable the collective local voice of the over 50s to influence issues that affect them and know that through RSF they will be heard.

How much does it cost? Membership of Rother Seniors Forum is free to anyone aged fifty plus who lives or works in Rother District.

Will you join us? To join and become a member of Rother Seniors' Forum, go to www.rotherseniorsforum.org.uk/membership.html and click on the "Membership" button at the top of this page and follow the instructions.

ESCC Mobile Library Service

The mobile library makes its rounds every three weeks. It has books for adults and children, DVDs, audiobooks and reference materials. It has a wheelchair lift so that everyone can use it.

The Mobile Library will be outside Catsfield Village Hall on the following Fridays' between 11:55 – 12:30

Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
12 th	2 nd / 23 rd	14 th	4 th / 25 th	16 th

Calling all Snooker Players.....

Did you know that Catsfield Village Hall has a snooker room equipped with a full sized snooker table?

Available to hire 7 days a week for £5 an hour.

For table availability and reservations please contact Carol on 893526 or call-in at April Cottage, Church Road



Correspondence to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs. Carol Hodgson

Tel: 01424 893526. Email: clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk

Address: Catsfield Parish Council. The Village Hall, Church Road, Catsfield, East Sussex. TN33 9DP.