



Hadlow Down Parish Council Newslette

Chairman's Statement

As this is the first newsletter of the New Year may I start by wishing you and your families a Happy New Year.

The last 12 months seem to have passed by in a flash but I am pleased with the progress on various projects that the Council has been involved in during this time. It is sometimes the case that we fail to recognise that things are happening as a result of our efforts and to concentrate on the things which have not happened.

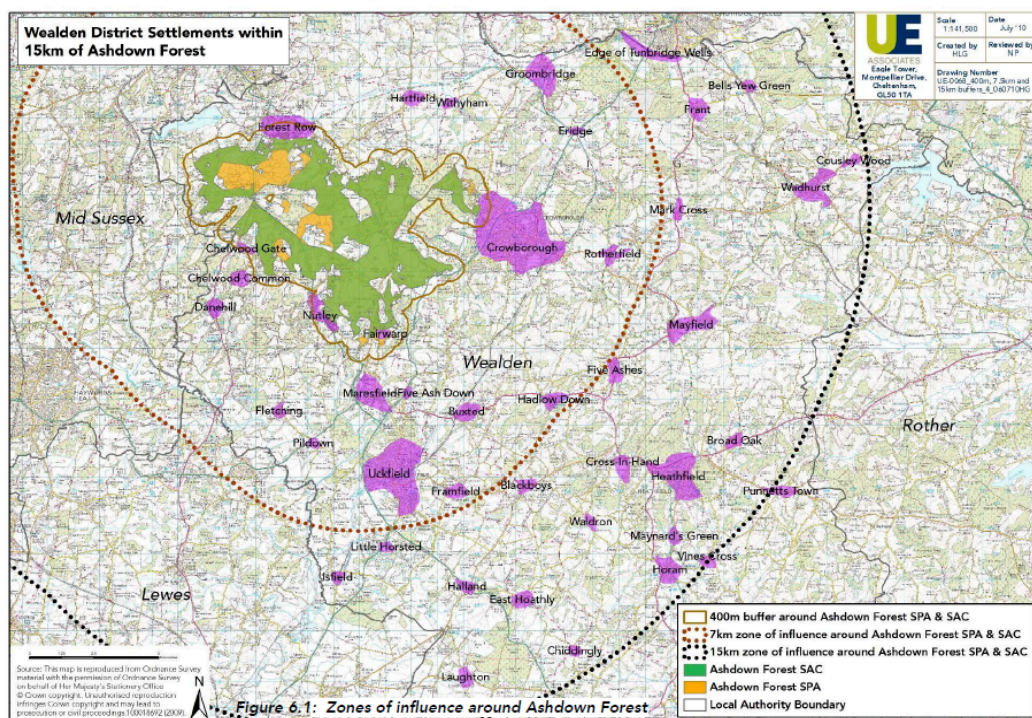
Since the last newsletter we have two, new co-opted Councillors – Claire Emsden and Nathan James. We are particularly pleased that Nathan has come on board as his knowledge of the young people in the Village and their needs is very helpful to us. Claire brings us a wealth of knowledge and experience to draw upon.

We are due to hold the Annual Parish Assembly in April which we hope you will attend. As well as reports given by the councillors, we have an extremely interesting speaker lined up to give a short talk. Please come and join us if you can.

**Sandra Richards
Chairman**

Ashdown Forest 7 km limit

You may have heard about this and wondered what on earth it was all about, particularly as it seems to affect planning decisions. This is your short guide to the topic. Below is a map showing the Ashdown Forest and the scope of the 7 and 15 kilometre distances. As you can see, much of Hadlow Down is in the 7 km zone and all is in the 15km zone



So, why is there a limit around the Forest and what does it mean for us? The Ashdown Forest is a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area and a Site of Special Scientific Interest and this means it is particularly important to manage the Forest properly and to try and preserve its unique habitat as much as possible. Apart from our local desire that the Forest is kept as an asset for ourselves and future generations, the EU also insist that we consider habitat when planning our future.

One of the factors which destroys a habitat like the Ashdown Forest is the deposit of nitrogen. Nitrogen comes from the burning of fuels and in this area cars and aircraft are responsible for the majority of nitrogen which goes onto the Forest. The aircraft we can do little about but we can try and slow the deterioration caused by vehicle emissions.

Clearly, the more dwellings that are built the greater the number of vehicle movements likely to be generated. Therefore, as part of its agreed Plan, Wealden have restricted building within the area most likely to adversely affect the Forest. This means that it is unlikely that any building which is likely to introduce additional vehicle movements will be allowed within the 7km zone – and that means the majority of all new building. A like for like replacement is probably okay but these will be rare.

New shelter at the Playing Field

The Hadlow Down Parish Council is hoping to erect a shelter for the whole village to use. It will be close to the play area at the Playing Field. The hope is that the youth of Hadlow down will have somewhere safe to relax after using the playing field and to catch up to chat after school. We also hope it will be used by mums and dads, who can sit down and watch their children play safely nearby. It is designed to be used all year round to shelter from the rain and sun alike. The shelter will be approximately 10ft x 10ft (3m x 3m). The design of the shelter will blend in with the surroundings and be built using sweet chestnut poles and second hand marquee canvas to keep costs down. It will look similar to the shelters at Wilderness Wood.

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Emergency Planning, Youth

Public rights of way - Bridleways and

Claire Emsden is our new Councillor with responsibilities for these in the Parish. She says:-

"As a Parish Council we are keen to promote the use by parishioners of both bridleways and footpaths in the Parish.

However, we are aware some paths are more popular than others and there is a finite source of funding for maintenance.

We would be interested in hearing from parishioners about your favourite routes. If you have the path number so much the better but a description of the start and finish points, including the Grid Reference if possible should allow us to identify it.

We are also considering where we can identify "circular" routes for which there may be additional funding and other organisations that want to work with us on this. Any ideas you have would also be gratefully received.

Historical knowledge of the paths is also needed, as there are changes and inconsistencies on the definitive maps over the years. Use of a path does give rights.

Please contact me preferably by e-mail: hadlowdownpc@btconnect.com One of my new year's resolutions is to complete the walking of all the Parish paths. Three done on New Year's Day so getting there!"

Deer

All Hadlow Down residents will be well aware that there are numerous deer paths through the Village, particularly crossing the A272 in various places. There have been a number of accidents involving deer and apart from the distress to the injured animal, extensive vehicle damage and personal injury can occur. Please be vigilant at night and remember that if one deer crosses in front of you there will be more following as they rarely travel alone. If you do know of any incident or are involved please let our clerk, Helen, know about it.

Drainage at the Village Hall

Every user of the Village Hall will have seen the extent of the wetness and corrosion of Hut Lane and the area around the Village Hall. It is caused by the failure of the drainage piping at the side of Hut Lane and will only get worse. Although our intention is to build a new Hall, in the meantime we have to maintain the existing one and the amount of water now coming down to the Hall is both deterring users and potentially damaging the Hall. The Council have agreed to pay for the repair of the damaged drain and at the same time a new, below-ground electricity supply will be installed for the Hall. This later item is essential to maintain a safe electricity supply.

Local policing – PCSO David Davies



As many of you may be aware, we have a local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who is responsible for looking after our area and, if required, act as a liaison between local residents and the responsible people in the police. A new PCSO has just been appointed for our area and he is called David Davies and he can be contacted on his mobile telephone 07787 685767 or by email david.davies@sussex.pnn.police.uk or by calling the non-emergency number 101. As he is new to the area, he will be patrolling on a regular basis on a bike!! as well as attending local Community Events such as Parish Council meetings etc. He will also be holding local street meetings to hear any issues from yourselves which need to be addressed – the time and location of these are publicised on the Hadlow down website.

The Precept

It is that time again when the Parish Council has to set its budget for the coming year, and although the PC is having to spend more money on community projects and village maintenance, it was agreed by the members of the Parish Council NOT to increase the council tax for local residents. This was achieved by strict financial management of existing funds and the surrender of Parish Councillors' expenses.