

Neighbourhood Plan Coverage in The Chronicle

The Chronicle parish magazine is published and delivered to households by St Margaret's (West Hoathly) and All Saint's (Highbrook) Churches every other month. There are approximately 705 subscribers (now £5 per annum) mostly within the parish of just over 800 households. The Parish Council contributes a page of news to each edition and occasionally jointly funds an additional colour page.

Summary

October 2011	PC Page - Information, the PC is looking into this topic
February 2012	PC Page - Outline and Appeal for volunteers and public Info session
April 2012	PC Page - First and main item under the Parish Assembly announcement, and FrontRunner award
June 2012	Dedicated page – Initial consultation results, launched logo, appeal for participation and Call for Sites
August 2012	PC Page - Awaiting Housing Needs Survey results and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report described
October 2012	PC Page - Summary of Housing Needs Survey results, announcement of 18 th October first policy definition meeting and project update
December 2012	PC Page - Appeal for writing what we do want to happen rather than what we don't!
February 2013	PC Page - Trailing 22 nd April draft Plan exhibition and launch
April 2013	Dedicated page with summary diagram, PC Page announcing exhibitions
June 2013	PC Page - Urging use of remaining NP Consultation period
August 2013	PC Page – Consultation results summary and next steps
October 2013	PC Page – Post-consultation feedback sessions actions
December 2013	PC Page – Call for Sites II
February 2014	PC Page – Possible housing sites exhibitions Dedicated Page poster re Housing Sites
April 2014	PC Page – Appointment of consultant and update
June 2014	PC Page – Draft Plan consultation starting and launch events
August 2014	PC Page – Draft Plan Consultation closed, responses to be analysed

Detail - All of the pages used are reproduced below verbatim with the NP Project items highlighted in red text..

One Farewell and a Welcome back from the holidays!



As we return from their summer holidays your Parish Council is gearing up for several new initiatives about which we shall keep you informed here and through the Hoathly Hub and the Parish Council website. There you can also see all the agendas of our planned meetings and the minutes of what has been discussed. You can of course also come to any of our meetings and pose questions for the committees or the entire Council – you will be most welcome!

Our thanks to Marion Jones

Marion has been the Parish Council and West Hoathly Village Hall bookkeeper for the last 7 years during which time she has brought a great deal of expertise and order to our financial affairs. She has now decided to stand down from the role and free up more of her time. We would like to thank Marion wholeheartedly for her contribution.

Highways and Traffic

For a long time, issues related to traffic, parking and pedestrian safety have been at the top of residents concerns. During September and October we are engaging the services of a specialist consultancy to re-examine the main issue “hotspots” to advise us. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this work.

2012 Diamond Jubilee

During September we hosted a forum at which all interested parish groups discussed possible plans for the June 2012 Jubilee weekend. The Parish Council is keen to use the occasion to promote activities which involve the whole parish. A specific report is included elsewhere in this Chronicle.

Neighbourhood Plans

You may well have heard or read some coverage about the topic of District or Neighbourhood Plans in the context of the way the local authority planning system is changing and the imminent Localism Act. Your Parish Council has been keeping a very close eye on this topic and two councillors attended a Mid Sussex District Council briefing during the summer.

Thefts and Vandalism

We are very lucky to live in a very low crime area. Unfortunately we have now had three occasions this summer when the allotments in Finche Field have been subjected to vandalism or various thefts which on two occasions also resulted in a significant loss of metered water. We would ask everyone to be alert to any further incidents and anyone with any relevant information to contact the Police or the Parish Clerk..

Parish Council’s relevance to the whole parish

We are keen to ensure that your Parish Council is seen to be relevant and working for ALL parts of the parish. We recently discussed how to improve this after some comments from outlying areas in particular. There has been an active discussion on the Hoathly Hub *Speak Out* facility about the Council name and the logo and if you have any thoughts on the topic please use Speak Out or contact us as below.

Broadband performance

West Sussex CC has some funds to improve rural area’s broadband experience. A local survey is running on the Hoathly Hub’s *Speak Out* section and we would like as many samples as possible to see if we have a case for applying these funds in our area.

Parish Clerk: Helen Schofield - The Parish Office, North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4QG

T: 01342 811301

E: clerk@westhoathly.gov.uk

Website: www.westhoathly.gov.uk

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**"Representing Highbrook, Selsfield,
Sharphorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly"**



Parish Council Precept 2012-13

February 2012

The precept is the money raised to fund the operations of the Parish Council (PC); it forms part of our Council Tax bills.

For the year starting in April 2012 and despite the increases that we all experience in prices, the base budget for running the Parish Council remains virtually the same as last year. Within this in recent years the Parish Council has had to absorb costs previously covered by District (public conveniences) and County (traditional wooden fingerposts); items which now account for approximately 13% of the current base PC budget.

For 2012-13 the Council has decided that there are four important additional project areas that must also be funded from the precept. These are:-

- More facilities for and engagement with our **youth community**
- Starting a fund for the North Lane Recreation ground **Pavilion renovation** which has long been neglected
- Money to allow the Council and the community to press ahead with the **Neighbourhood Planning** process introduced by the 2011 Localism Act
- Support for community celebrations of the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** in June.

Adding these projects means an average increase of approximately 30p per month per Parish household. The Council hopes this will be seen by most people as worthwhile even in the current environment. Full details of the Council Tax applicable to your household will be published by MSDC in March as usual.

Whilst every Parish has a different responsibility profile, the West Hoathly Parish precept continues to be lower than most nearby, similarly-sized rural areas including Ardingly, Turners Hill, Balcombe, Ashhurst Wood and Lindfield Rural

Please note that the Parish Council is funded solely by the local residents (unlike higher tiers of Council); also all the Parish precept raised is spent on this Parish.

A 20-year Plan for our Neighbourhood - get involved!

Thanks to the Localism Act, Parishes can now have a statutory role in the decisions on planning and development affecting their area.

Your Parish Council is seeking volunteers to assist in producing the necessary **Neighbourhood Plan** as we believe that it would be highly beneficial to our community and its future.

Anyone with an interest in how we maintain a vibrant community in the Parish and some time to participate would be very welcome, and if you have relevant knowledge of development or planning, landscape management or other associated topics your contribution could be particularly useful.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will need to cover the local infrastructure, employment, community facilities, landscape and housing so as to create a vision and "road map" for a community which can sustain itself through at least the next 20 years.

If you would like to find out more, do come along to our **open information session on February 8th at 8pm in West Hoathly School**, or contact John Downe (01444-892065).

"Leading by Example" on Speeding

In the aftermath of two recent serious accidents on Top Road / The Hollow the Highways and Transport Committee are keen to encourage all residents to demonstrate to other road users that here we drive sensibly and at appropriate speeds to suit the lanes. If we all do this it will inevitably slow the average pace at which vehicles pass through. This applies equally to our lanes as well as our main through route and, given possible icy conditions, the effect of the low sun on visibility, and the deer hazard must make sense. As well as creating a safer area don't forget that with our narrow or non-existent pavements, speeding vehicles can be frightening for pedestrians too.

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APRIL 2012 WEST HOATHLY PC

2012 Parish Assembly – find out more about Your Parish Council's activities

In May 2011 many residents voted in the Parish Council elections to appoint the 11 volunteer Parish Councillors. On **23rd April in West Hoathly Village Hall at 8pm** the annual Parish Assembly will take place. This is your main yearly opportunity to find out what the Council has been doing and what it is planning to do in a less formal format than the normal Council meetings.

After a short presentation of your Council's activities, the main elements of the Assembly will be in the form of an exhibition at which you can browse, ask questions and contribute ideas at stands covering:-

- The **Neighbourhood Plan** Project which has recently started with support from a number of residents. This Parish has just been awarded additional "Fronrunner" funding from Government to support the Project with Mid Sussex District Council. When complete the Neighbourhood Plan will set out a comprehensive plan for the Parish for the next 15-20 years which will have statutory "teeth" in development planning matters.
- The recommendations arising from the **Highways and Traffic** report which was commissioned in 2011.
- The new West Hoathly Parish **Youth Forum** (see their own report on page 18) which it is hoped will enable the Council directly to listen to teenagers concerns and needs and allow specific consultations with them.
- Proposals with West Hoathly Football Club to update and extend the **North Lane Rec Pavilion** to make it more flexible and attractive to a wider set of users.
- The exciting plans for the Parish celebrations of the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** over the long weekend 1st-4th June

There will also be a stand with an update by the **West Hoathly Community Shop** group.

Dog Control Order for North Lane Recreation Ground

Despite many previous initiatives the Parish Council has decided it needs to start the process to implement an enforceable "Dog Control Order" for the entire area of North Lane Rec whereby it will be a legal requirement that all dogs are kept on a lead and that owners are required to clean up dog faeces into the dog bins. The formal process involves an obligatory consultation period in which residents can express their views about the proposal. This will be notified through the local newspapers, notices at the Rec and through the Hoathly Hub. Whilst it is regrettable that such legal provisions are needed, the use of the Rec as a playing field and playground, the potential health hazards and resident concerns about uncontrolled dogs mean that some further action has become necessary.

North Lane Parking

The problems with parking in North Lane and the too frequent impact particularly on the bus service are well known. The Council is anticipating having white lines marked in the two short stretches which cause most problems. It is hoped that the lines at these "pinch points" will reduce the incidence of inconsiderate parking and help the flow of normal traffic.

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Your Parish Council needs some hands-on help from the community!

At the Parish Assembly on 23rd April the Council highlighted the major projects it is pursuing in the current year. Together these projects represent a heavy workload and to progress them quickly some extra helping hands are needed. Would you be able to participate in achieving the significant improvements needed in West Hoathly Village Hall where we need fund-raising and project management help for example? How about in the area of traffic volumes, speeds and weights where the Highways and Transport Committee wants to make progress with the recommendations from the consultant study completed in 2011? Last, but not least the crucial Neighbourhood Plan project (see page 6) really needs some additional on-going support as part of team so that it can be completed by 2013.

Youth Forum started

The first meeting of Parish Youth Forum took place on 30th April with 5 teenagers, 2 Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk. All the Council's current projects and initiatives were discussed and for the Council a very useful perspective was received. A key issue for the forum members is the lack of suitable public transport for them to be able to travel to towns independently. The Forum has started a Facebook page called YouthForum to aid communications and would recommend other Parish teenagers to "Like" it and contribute their ideas.

Attention Land owners

As part of the current Parish Neighbourhood Plan project (see report on the recent consultation elsewhere in this Chronicle), the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone owning land within the Parish area if they might be considering applying for development during the next 10 years or more. Developments of interest could include business premises, homes, recreational or community use. This is needed so that such ideas can be considered for inclusion within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. Any site that is eventually included in the Plan documents will, with the rest of the Plan in its entirety, be subject to a referendum of all registered voters of the Parish in 2013 but may or may not be actually developed subsequently. A majority of votes cast will be required to formally adopt the complete Neighbourhood Plan at that stage. Please contact the Parish Clerk before the end of July should you wish to bring any sites to the Council's attention. Putting a site forward does not guarantee that the Council will support its development in the future. All sites will need to be judged against the needs of the parish and relevant District planning policies. All sites submitted as part of the "call for sites" exercise may be published in due course and cannot be treated confidentially.

Parish Communications

In the 2009 "Parish Futures" study, communications about the Parish Council and in general around the parish were perceived as "only fair or poor". Since then greater efforts have been made by the Council to improve in this area through this page in every issue of the widely circulated Chronicle. Just over two years ago the Council also sponsored the creation of the Hoathly Hub to facilitate wider Parish communications and a completely new Parish Council website with more up-to-date information easily accessible. 460 residents are now sent the Hub weekly news email, over 100 people receive instant news updates through the Hub's Facebook page, and several dozen follow the Hub on Twitter. Well over 60% of Parish households must be receiving local news this way. Has all this helped? If you have any comments or suggestions about this topic we would very much like to hear from you.

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Neighbourhood Plan - Initial Consultation Survey Results - JUNE 2012

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

West Hoathly Parish Council is leading a project for the parish community to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the area – put simply “Our Plan”. The plan, once adopted through a referendum in 2013, will become a formally recognised part of the Mid Sussex District planning policy which will be specific to this Parish. It is therefore a very important initiative that must reflect the opinions and aspirations of the people in this community.



Initial Consultation Survey

During April and May a consultation survey was run using the booklet questionnaires that should have arrived through your letterbox and online via the Hoathly Hub. Below is a very brief summary of the results.

241 people submitted responses which included **710 individual comments**. This probably equates to about a quarter of parish households participating in the consultation.

75% of respondents “Strongly agreed” and 23% “Agreed to some extent” with the overall Vision proposed in the survey.

Thirteen so called “Defining Characteristics” were proposed for the Parish of the future covering aspects such as the countryside, public transport, homes and community. **All of these characteristics received a large majority of “In favour”** ticks with even the lowest (for the “Homes” topic) still being 79% “In favour”. The highest approval was for vision related to the Countryside with 98% “In favour”.

The consultation also sought opinions on life in the Parish today regarding what we most value about living here and what gives us most cause for concerns.

Way out in front of “**what we Value**” is the Countryside followed by the relatively low crime experience. Having the primary school comes next with historic buildings, local communications, community activities soon after.

Among our “Concerns” the biggest emphasis is on traffic volume and speeds, and pedestrian and cyclist safety. The other key topics are the continued viability of schooling for up to primary ages, public transport and facilities for an ageing population.

It is encouraging and reassuring to see that, in general, there is a remarkable level of consensus among local residents about our area as it is now and how we would like it to remain or evolve in the future. Obviously there is in fact a spectrum of attitudes expressed in the survey and the comments which may mean some refinements are needed to the vision and future characteristics. Out of interest, 44 of the responses were on paper and 197 were completed online. 57% were from women. 40% came from each of Sharpthorne and West Hoathly and 10% from Highbrook. Half had lived here more than 20 years. 60% were over 55 years old. Just over a third had young people aged 18 and under in their households

I would like to thank everyone who submitted a response, members of the community who helped create the materials for the consultation and Jill Carter and her firm Abacus Insight who at no charge helped construct, run and analyse the survey.

Next Steps

This initial consultation will now enable the “Our Plan” project to build on this foundation by defining Parish objectives for the plan and the necessary policies to realise them which are consistent with the opinions expressed by residents..

If you would like to participate in the next phase of the “Our Plan” process over the coming months or have any queries about it, please either contact the Parish Clerk or me.

www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan also has further information.

John Downe, 01444-892065, john@burstowcottage.co.uk

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Jubil-tastic!

The Parish Queen's Diamond Jubilee events were an unprecedented achievement and fantastic success for our whole community and the Parish Council congratulates and applauds everyone who organised this spectacular feat and all those who joined in and enjoyed the events.

As the Jubilee weekend approached, some 50 scarecrows sprang up throughout the entire Parish as part of the Parish Council's annual competition. Many were obvious 'royal' scarecrows, some less obvious and one or two decidedly strange (but probably very effective as scarecrows!). Pictures of many of them were displayed in the marquee and then on the Hub with many other weekend photos (www.HoathlyHub.info/Jubilee) – thanks to Bob Trusson for the photos, and, of course, to the judges, David Kemp and Simon McMenemy.

The Council thanks all who took part and congratulates the prize-winners who were:-

- 1st Prize – "Bus Stop" by Lucy Comber, Horsted Lane (who noticed the mounted guardsman peering over the hedge?)
- 2nd Prize – "Queen and Corgi"(again with a watching guardsman) by the Juniors of West Hoathly Primary School
- 3rd prize – "Queen Elizabeth I" by Catherine Nash, Highbrook

North Lane Sports Pavilion

The PC has agreed to support the WH Football Club in their "self help" project to improve the sports pavilion building on West Hoathly North Lane Recreation Ground. At its meeting in June, the Council agreed to provide some funding towards materials and facilitate a summer project to be undertaken by the Club. This will provide suspended ceilings, insulation, improved showers and wall linings as a first phase of improvement prior to building extensions which will, pending planning consent, increase the changing spaces for all teams using the building. The improvements will make the building more useable and by including insulation it should reduce both running costs and the risk of winter maintenance repairs. The Council appreciates the construction work which will be provided by the Football Club members themselves.

"Our Plan" – West Hoathly Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Another key formal step has been completed with the District's approval of our plan area which is the complete West Hoathly Parish. We now await the analysis of the Housing Needs Survey sent to households in June.

An essential part of the plan process is to set out the Parish's objectives for the plan's policies. These local policies will form the "meat" of the eventual Neighbourhood Plan. The objectives are contained in the so called "Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report" which the Council will evaluate for approval at the end of July. Once approved it will go for consultation with the necessary bodies (such as Natural England, MSDC and the water companies). The plan objectives, a flowchart illustrating the project's progress and other information can be found at www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan .

Dog Control on North Lane recreation ground

Following reports of dog problems on NLR your Parish Council has been evaluating the possible use of legal restrictions such as mandating the use of leads and fines for not picking up dog faeces. On balance it has been decided that, for now, putting a formal Dog Control Order into force is not warranted due to the restrictions that it would place on even the most responsible dog owners. Also the likely costs and administrative load of enforcement could not be justified. The Council asks all dog owners who use NLR in particular to ensure their dogs are under control and ensure that faeces are bagged and put in the provided bins.

Parish office opening through August

During August the Parish office will be open on **Thursday mornings only**.

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Community Shop Consultation Survey – please participate

As you may be aware a group of West Hoathly village residents have been pursuing the goal of re-establishing a shop to replace Hilltop Stores. They are now running a survey to ascertain the support and viability of the project. Your Parish Council is also very interested in the results of the survey so that a decision can be reached on whether to allow the proposed shop/cafe to be built on part of the Parish-owned North Lane Recreation ground. The Council would like to encourage residents from all parts of the Parish to express their views in the survey. It is being hand delivered and will also available through the Hoathly Hub to complete online which is the preferred method if possible.

Heavy Goods Vehicles through traffic (HGVs) – What you can do to help

During October your Council's Highways and Transport Committee wish to conduct a road survey of the number of HGVs using the Selsfield to Sharpthorne road as a through route. The data is needed as part of an initiative to address what is widely believed to be an increasingly major concern, disturbance and potential danger on a road just not built for significant numbers of these vehicles. ***Can you volunteer a couple of hours to be part of this research?*** If so please contact the Parish Clerk as below.

"Housing Needs" Survey – June 2012

Thank you to the 241 households who completed the "Housing Needs Survey". The results are now back and provide another important set of evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan project. The response rate was about average for a Parish such as ours. The key points it shows are the continued need for and widespread support for more "affordable" homes in the Parish for people and families with local connections and a modest demand for smaller open market homes. Of older residents (50yrs+), 1 in 11 identified their need to move to smaller, more manageable homes locally.

NeighbOURhood Plan – Next Steps – Public meeting

During the coming autumn and winter the Parish Neighbourhood Plan which will map out how our Parish should develop over the next 10-20 years will be in a phase where we take all the evidence gathered so far and define the local Policies which would become part of the Mid-Sussex District Council planning system. **On 18th October at 8pm in Sharpthorne Church Hall** there will be a public meeting summarising where we are up to with the plan project and how the policy definition work will be carried out. Whilst your Parish Council is taking the lead on this it should be stressed that this is a Community-owned plan and really needs your participation to make sure it is robustly representing what we as a community want. It would be helpful if you could let the Parish Clerk know if you plan to come.

Hello....Is there anybody out there?

This regular page in the Chronicle tries to answer the criticism seen in the 2009 Parish Futures Study regarding a lack of Parish Council communications. Is it useful, informative, interesting or would you like to see something different here? I would welcome your candid feedback (John Downe, john@burstowcottage.co.uk or 01444-892065). Better still come along to the Neighbourhood Plan meeting in October and/or help with the HGV survey above and we'll know there is somebody out there!

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Let's WRITE the FUTURE and CREATE the RIGHT FUTURE!

We all do it; it must be human nature. All too often when it comes to local planning we find it very easy to see and be motivated by things we DON'T want to happen, whilst finding it harder to energise ourselves to work out what we DO want. The Parish Neighbourhood Plan project is a rare opportunity to define what we DO want as a Parish and then have it enshrined in the statutory local planning policies so that the countryside is protected, local services are sustained and issues such as traffic can be reduced. By November 2013 there should be a referendum on the parish's plan. Before then please get yourself involved in....

Writing the RIGHT Future for us!

Contact the Parish Clerk as below or John Downe, Parish Council Chairman 01444-892065. You can also keep up-to-date on the plan at www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan

Moving the Goal Posts – Youth Forum Success!

Your Council initiated the Youth Forum (YF) earlier this year to open a dialogue with teenagers. At the September 24th 2012 YF meeting, issues with the state of the football kick-around area of the Sharpthorne playground were highlighted. The problems were that the goal mouths were far too small, the encroaching brambles regularly punctured balls and a gap in the fencing allowed balls to run a long way downhill from the playground. The Council raised the problems with Mid Sussex DC, the land owner, and all the problems have already been addressed! The Youth Forum meets at 18:45 every 2-3 months. Free pizzas and drinks are provided. See Facebook "YouthForum" or contact the Clerk for more details.

Being an "older person" in West Hoathly Parish

What would make life easier here as we get older? For many people, once they start living here, they don't want to move anywhere else. However, being a small community in a rural area can present some challenges as one gets older. In connection with the Neighbourhood Plan work, it would be very helpful to hear from you to let us know what challenges you experience or feel you may come to experience and, if possible, what could be done ease them. Again please contact the Clerk or call John Downe with anything you can tell us.

Heavy Goods Vehicles traffic survey – Thank you!

On two rather unpleasant weather days in October 20+ residents each spent a couple of hours counting lorries going past Vinols Cross. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. The data will be used to support our highways requests to West Sussex CC.

Community Shop Consultation Survey

At its October 29th meeting, the Parish Council considered the results of and all the comments made in the Community Shop's survey. Whilst there were a number of responses not in favour of the project going ahead on North Lane Recreation ground, a significant majority supported it; this support was from throughout the Parish as well as in West Hoathly village specifically. As a result it was agreed that the West Hoathly Community Shop Independent Provident Society (IPS) can now make a formal planning application to Mid Sussex District Council and the Parish Council will enter into negotiations with the IPS regarding the terms of a leasehold tenancy on an area of the Rec.

Are you getting it once a week? If you are registered on the Hoathly Hub you should be getting a news email every Friday afternoon. If not, please check your spam settings or contact WebMaster@HoathlyHub.info .

Running an Event in West Hoathly Village? – Please give your visitors our new **Car Park map** to avoid traffic congestion. Download it from the "Where is..." button on the Hoathly Hub.

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The C319 – aka Selsfield Road/Chapel Row/The Hollow/Top Road/Sharpthorne Rd

In January, members of your Council's Highways and Transport Committee invited the relevant officers of WSCC Highways to review in detail the priorities of the Parish mainly relating to the C319 road which is increasingly adversely affecting life in the West Hoathly and Sharpthorne villages. It is hoped that a significant improvement to the safety of the preferred crossing point near the Vinols Cross can now be achieved within the next 12 months. It is also hoped that in March the County North Mid Sussex Local Committee will be able to support starting the process for a road traffic order to restrict the increasing through-HGV traffic. The data collected by Parish volunteers in October 2012 will help with the justification of this case.

Youth Forum – Making it easier for young people to find local jobs

One of the topics raised at the Council's Youth Forum is the difficulty of finding casual, temporary or work experience openings locally. To try to help, the online "**JobHub**" will soon be launched as part of the Hoathly Hub. Using the JobHub, local potential employers or individuals will be able to announce suitable openings (www.hoathlyhub.info/jobhub). If you run a business in or near West Hoathly Parish, or would like to offer some employment as an individual, and have any questions please contact the Parish Clerk as below.

2013-2014 Precept – part of your Council Tax bills

Your Parish Council has agreed the budget needed to carry out their responsibilities for the next fiscal year plus the funds needed to progress other Parish community projects. The Council's responsibilities include the buildings and land owned by the Council (North Lane Rec and Pavilion, the public toilets, Finche Field and Sharpthorne Old Playground). The community projects planned include building up a fund to improve the pavilion and playground equipment, highways safety, improving the drainage of the Finche Field footpath and completing the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. From April 2013 the Parish component of the Council Tax bill will increase by approximately 33 pence per month for a Band D household. The Council Tax bills will be sent out by Mid Sussex District Council during March.

New Public Right of Way – Sandy Lane to Finche Field

The process to formalise this popular pedestrian route as a public right of way (in other words a formal Public Footpath) is now complete. This ensures the future of the path and supports your Parish Council's efforts to encourage the use of the off-street public parking spaces such as the area in Finche Field.

2013 Parish Assembly & Drinks Reception on Monday 22nd April

8pm in West Hoathly Village Hall

Something **new** at the Parish Assembly this year! After a brief review of the Parish Council's activities over the last year, there will be the launch and first exhibition of the **Draft Neighbourhood Plan** so come and browse the plan and discuss it over a glass of **wine**! Over the last year many residents have participated either in focus group workshops or surveys about how they want West Hoathly Parish to evolve in the future. This information is now all being used as the foundations for the Parish Neighbourhood Plan itself. Further consultation exhibitions will take place in Sharpthorne and Highbrook following the Assembly. In the meantime we welcome any further input you may have - see www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan for more details.

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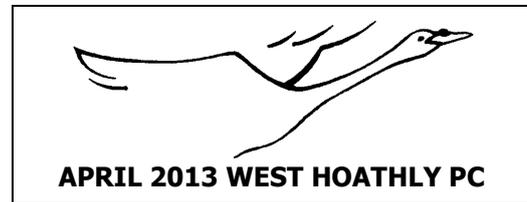
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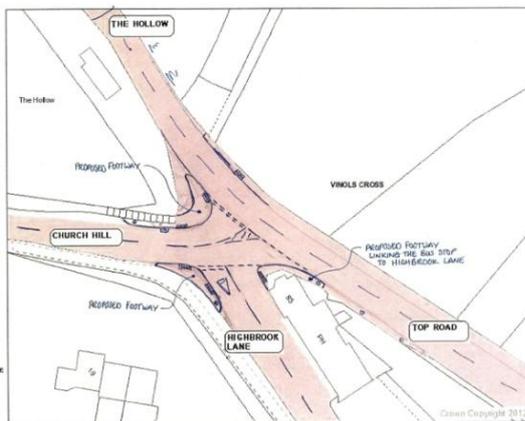


Parish Neighbourhood Plan

April will see the publication of the result of the work that has been going on over the last year on Our Plan. Many residents have contributed to this process by participating in the initial survey last spring, the Housing Needs Survey last summer and a series of focus group workshops run throughout the year. Overleaf there is a summary of what **Our Plan** is all about, plus details of the resident consultation process and events. A copy of the Plan will arrive through your letterbox in April. You will be invited to comment on it before we go through the steps towards a parish referendum later this year. The first area in the country has just overwhelmingly approved their plan in Cumberland with a 90% "yes" vote.



C319 JUNCTION WITH CHURCH HILL, WEST HOATHLY



Design work in progress on the Vinols junction safety improvements

Update on Selsfield Road/Chapel Row/The Hollow/Top Road/Sharpthorne Rd

Your council continues its work with WSCC Highways to secure further improvements to the safety of the preferred main crossing point at Vinols Cross and the bus stop on the Northbound route below the Vinols Cross Inn. WSCC Highways expect to be able to consult locally on their detailed plan for the junction in the summer with implementation of the changes by March 2014. The request for HGV restrictions will unfortunately not now be considered by the local County committee until July 3rd rather than the March date that had been anticipated.

Jobs for Young People in the Parish - "The JobHub"

The West Hoathly Parish JobHub extension to the Hoathly Hub is now live. You can reach it via the link on the Hoathly Hub main page or by using www.HoathlyHub.info/JobHub. Local businesses have been contacted to encourage them to advertise any suitable opportunities. As an individual Hoathly Hub member you can also use it to offer some part-time or casual work like gardening or baby-sitting for example. You just need to complete a very simple online form and, after a quick checking process, your opportunity will be displayed on the JobHub.

Copyright © 2012 - 2013 microline sponsored by West Hoathly Parish Council | developed by Sylvia Domes
West Hoathly Parish Council cannot be held responsible for ensuring that any work offered by any user of its website complies with all applicable employment legislation
Both those placing advertisements and those responding to them are urged to take advice on compliance with applicable laws on the employment of Children and Young Persons including but not limited to The Children and Young Persons Acts 1933 and 1963 as amended by the Children (Protection at work) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/216) and subsequent regulations.
More information: www.hes.gov.uk/YoungPeople

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THREE STEPS TO A BETTER PARISH

Our Priorities

- Addressing traffic issues on the C319
- Improving pedestrian/cyclist safety
- Protecting the countryside and built heritage
- Retaining and enhancing key services and facilities
- Having more homes for younger families and older residents
- Improving public transport and retaining local employment
 - Supporting an ageing population
- Keeping and enhancing community activities and identity



KEY DATES

DRAFT PLAN POSTED TO YOU BY 19 APRIL

EXHIBITIONS:

PARISH ASSEMBLY -
8PM MON 22 APRIL

SHARPTHORNE CHURCH HALL -
8PM WED 24 APRIL

HIGHSBROOK VILLAGE HALL -
8PM THUR 25 APRIL

WEST HOATHLY SCHOOL -
11AM - 1PM SAT 27 APRIL

CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS.
5PM MON 3 JUNE

REFERENDUM BY END 2015

Our Plan Policies

Focussing on:

- * Countryside
- * Traffic
- * Homes
- * Employment
- * Community Wellbeing

+ Mid Sussex Policies

Outcomes

- £ money for road safety
- 🏠 new homes matching local needs
- 👥 more people to retain services
- 🦋 protection of countryside & historic buildings

WWW.HOATHLYHUB.INFO/OURPLAN/DRAFT

**"Representing Highbrook,
Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly"**



Speak Your Piece by 5pm June 3rd - or Hold Your Peace!

The draft Parish Neighbourhood Plan consultation period of six weeks is now in its final few days. This is **everyone's** opportunity to contribute their input to make **Our** plan one which can achieve a majority "Yes" vote in a parish-wide referendum later this year. Don't forget, not having an agreed Plan would mean we would have wasted the opportunity to ensure **OUR** priorities and needs are built into the statutory planning policies which apply across West Hoathly Parish. Put simply, saying "No" would mean **NO SAY** in the future. **Saying "No" won't mean nothing will change here – but the changes may not be what we need nor want!**

West Hoathly Community Shop News

Your council's meetings have enjoyed some record audiences recently as it carried through the decisions it made last October. The Council has also received a petition asking it to change its stance regarding the request from West Hoathly Community Shop Ltd to use part of North Lane recreation ground. Your Council will continue to evaluate all the concerns that have been expressed – many of these had been identified previously as matters still needing to be addressed. A comprehensive "issues and concerns management plan" should be discussed at the Council's meeting in June to ensure all concerns are dealt with satisfactorily.

C319 (aka East Grinstead Bypass) Traffic Management

Members of your Council's Highways and Transport Committee participated in a workshop during May with WSCC Highways representatives and the principal consultant of the TMS highways consultancy who prepared the 2011 study. Six distinct highway character stretches were defined for the 30mph section running through West Hoathly and Sharpthorne villages. For each of the six sections specific potential traffic calming measures were identified. It is hoped that an integrated strategy, with separate, distinct elements, will reduce speeds and improve driver behaviour. The Council hopes to be able to pursue this strategy, after community consultation, in cooperation of WSCC as funds and opportunities to do so arise – for example, as generated from some limited development within an approved Neighbourhood Plan.

The strategy complements the WSCC-committed scheme to improve the safety of the Vinols Cross junction in this Council year, and your Council's request at the next WSCC County Local Committee in July for the urgent pursuit of an HGV restriction order.

West Hoathly Village Hall

Over the last year or so your Council has been consulting with the hall's main users about what improvements could be made to the kitchen, its facilities and catering equipment and the various hall storage areas. The hall central heating system is inefficiently designed by current standards and the boiler is probably on its last legs. It is felt that running costs can be reduced and hall useability and attractiveness improved by a set of upgrades to the hall. Costs for the preferred actions are being obtained now so that the updates can be prioritised and scheduled for implementation.

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Draft NeighbOURhood PLAN consultation results

The consultation on the draft Plan took place from April to early June. Of the 125 residents, and in some cases couples, who submitted comments, 62 (49%) indicated that overall they supported the draft Plan as it stands, 36 (28%) indicated they mostly supported it, 2 (2%) mildly opposed it, 19 (15%) strongly opposed it and 7 (5%) had no overall opinion.

On 22nd June about 40 residents came to a meeting to consider the consultation feedback and comments (all the materials used at the meeting are available on the Hoathly Hub – www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan). The topic that raised the most concerns (but also a lot of support) was the policy for a new homes site (WHP13). A further public meeting to consider this policy and other proposed post-consultation Plan changes is fixed for Saturday 27th July (see the Hub calendar for details).

In due course a referendum-approved Neighbourhood Plan would confer a number of advantages on our area. It would form a key part of the Mid Sussex Planning control and mean that the locations and types of development parish residents want WOULD be permitted, but unwanted/unsuitable ones would not. The parish would also gain control of 25% of the "Infrastructure Levy" which will be raised by MSDC from most new developments, which could be used on road safety and traffic calming measures for example. As an indication, a new dwelling with a floor area of 100 square metres would provide the parish with £5,250 to use but without a Plan this would reduce to £3,150.

Another advantage of having a Plan is that half of all new affordable homes constructed would ALWAYS be prioritised to people with local connections whereas without a plan NONE would be (after the initial tenancy).

If you have any questions about the West Hoathly Neighbourhood Plan, please add them to the Hoathly Hub Speak Out or contact the Parish Clerk.

Traffic Management

At the West Sussex County Local Committee on 3rd July our request for a restriction on through-HGV traffic was REFUSED on the recommendation of the County Highways department. According to their criteria there is not enough of a problem here to justify any lorry restriction. Whilst this was very disappointing for the parish, the committee did acknowledge the general traffic issues based on the recent work your Council has done, and we will continue to press for further parish schemes to be included in future Highways developments. We anticipate receiving further news soon on the Vinols Cross junction works currently being designed by WSCC to improve safety there.

Youth Forum JobHub

The school holidays are upon us, so it's a good time to see if YOU have a job to offer to a Parish young person using the "JobHub". The Youth Forum had the idea as public transport makes it difficult to access holiday jobs in the towns. Jobs already filled include animal feeding while the owner was on holiday, winter fire log-collecting and waiting at table.

If you as a resident or business have an opportunity the ideal candidate may be literally just around the corner! Just go to www.HoathlyHub.info/JobHub to find them!

Parish office opening during August

During August the Parish office will be open on **Tuesday mornings 10-11am only**.

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Parish Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the council due to the resignation of Mrs Brough for personal reasons. By the time you are reading this the details of how to apply and how the replacement councillor will be selected will be available through the Clerk as below or at www.HoathlyHub.info/PCvacancy . The council is engaged in many important and interesting projects and strives to represent the interests of parish residents. If you think you would like to contribute to its work please contact Helen Schofield for an informal discussion.

Mid Sussex District Community Service Award

Each year your council is asked to nominate an individual who has made a special contribution to the local community. This year's nomination has been recognised by an invitation to a garden party run by the District Council at the Ravenswood Inn. Pauline Dodsworth has for the last 30+ years provided the always-smiling, whatever-the-weather school crossing patrol across The Hollow opposite the Vinols Cross Inn. Congratulations and thanks to Pauline.

Winter Management Plan

We are now approaching the third winter when the council have worked with WSCC in the development of a winter management plan. Winter weather poses particular problems to a fairly isolated rural community in this hilly location. Each year the plan has been refined in order to improve the response to icy and snowy weather. Please take time to have a look through the plan which is available on line, because the plan involves us all.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Following the draft Plan consultation that finished in June, two open feedback workshops were run on 22nd June and 27th July. As a result of the consultation, the workshops and discussions with MSDC and other bodies the text of the draft Plan has been updated. The latest version and all the documents used and created through the project are now available on the Hoathly Hub at www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan . Following on from the workshops a group of residents are looking into alternative sites for the draft policy *WHP13 – Site for New Homes*. Their input is expected for the end-October parish council meeting at which time the next steps of the project will be determined.

West Hoathly Village Hall "upgrade" project

The Village Hall is a valued and well used facility for the whole community, but it has been 22 years since previous improvements were made. A Working group has made further progress with the upgrading plans for the Village Hall including:-

1. A defined scheme for the kitchen refurbishment for which we are seeking firm prices
2. An outline scheme for the refurbishment of the main Hall, PC office and storage areas
3. Indicative prices for a new boiler and heating system.

During the next few weeks, it is planned to define schemes for items 2 and 3 above and we will then be seeking firm prices for these. At the same time, we are investigating grant funding as the Parish Council are unable to fund all of this work; we hope the whole project can be completed during 2015.

Several members of the wider community are helping with this project. We would still like help from people who can explore availability of grants, etc. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you can help – after all, **the Village Hall is a facility for the whole community and we are keen to get it 'up to scratch.'** So the more helpers, the merrier!

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NeighbOURhood PLAN Update

Following the draft Plan consultation earlier this year, two post-consultation workshops in the summer and the input of a group of Sharphorne residents during October, the next phase of the project is now underway. The focus of this phase is on the draft Plan policy WHP13 – Site for New Homes and on identifying alternative viable options to satisfy the parish requirements. All landowners known to be interested in developing new homes have been asked to provide more details during November. It is anticipated that those put forward together with their MSDC “site assessments” will form the basis for parish exhibitions in the New Year giving residents the opportunity to comment on the various sites. Those comments will allow one or more options to be established. Following a second formal resident consultation period, a revised draft Plan for the parish will be written and progressed through the rest of the statutory steps to a parish referendum. The other 19 policies of the draft Plan would remain in their post-consultation feedback form. (Currently available to view on the Hoathly Hub).

Traffic Management and Highways safety - “Good News” and “Bad News”

The **bad news** is that for some months your Parish Council had quite justifiably understood that the safety changes negotiated to benefit pedestrians at the Vinols Cross junction would be carried out by March 2014. It has been disappointing to learn that West Sussex County Council are now indicating that this will not now happen until somewhat later – firm date being sought - although design and consultation work is currently taking place.

The **good news** is that your parish council put forward a strong case for further traffic calming and safety improvements on the C319 to be prioritised at the County Local Committee in October. This initiative was one of two to be prioritised (out of 16 from around this area). WSCC highways officers can now start to work with the parish on the details of what will be done.

West Hoathly Village Hall Improvements

As Trustee of the WH Village Hall, the parish council has agreed to carry out two major improvements in 2014. Mostly during the Easter break a new kitchen will be fitted, with new appliances and, at long last, sufficient matching crockery, cutlery and glassware for hall hirers to use. During the summer the entire heating system will be replaced with a new boiler, high-level heating units in the hall with “zones” to allow only the required parts of the hall to be heated. Further useability, energy efficiency and aesthetic improvements are also planned.

New Parish Councillor

At the October PC meeting Mrs Anne Helligey applied to fill the councillor vacancy and was duly co-opted onto the council. The council also recorded its thanks for the significant contribution Mrs Lynne Brough had made over the preceding 2.5 years.

North Lane Playground Equipment – Youth Forum Project

The Youth Forum group have been helping to decide how the existing playground area can be improved with some new and interesting equipment. This included running and analysing a survey of primary school pupils and parents. The council is now in the process of obtaining quotes and seeking grant funding to assist with the significant costs involved.

Severe Winter weather – local management plan

A revised Winter Management Plan has been developed for the parish in conjunction with WSCC. Details of its provisions and a handy “FAQ” (Frequently Asked Questions) guide are available on www.HoathlyHub.info/Winter or in printed form from the Parish Clerk.

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New Homes in the Parish – HAVE YOUR SAY!

The quest for alternative locations to provide additional homes matching the Parish's requirements has now resulted in 9 sites being put forward by owners. The New Homes Policy Task Force will need your input on which site or sites would work best for this community – see the full details on how and when to do this on page 5 of this Chronicle. Your input will help to guide the definition of the new draft policy for the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be followed by another formal resident consultation period on the whole revised draft Plan. The Plan will then be progressed through the rest of the statutory steps to a parish referendum – probably late in 2014. All the current Plan information is at www.HoathlyHub.info/Sites.

West Hoathly Village Hall Transformation – HOW ABOUT DOING YOUR BIT?

2014 is going to see the start of a major transformation of West Hoathly Village Hall. At Easter a brand new kitchen will be installed with a super-fast dishwasher, instant hot water boiler and shared community equipment! In the summer the antiquated, energy-inefficient and space-hungry heating system will be completely replaced. Other improvements to storage space will also be taking place. ALL of this is funded from the Village Hall's own income and reserves plus grant monies being applied for – NOT from our Council Tax by the way. Your Council solely manages the hall, it doesn't pay for it.

NOW for YOUR BIT – "The ICING on the CAKE"!.....

The Hall doesn't have its own crockery, glasses, cutlery or other normal kitchen utensils and equipment – but now it ought to! On the page opposite you can see how **YOU** can **become a Kitchen Patron** and then join a celebration of the new kitchen's opening (hopefully it won't be a "smashing time"!). Let's all make West Hoathly Village Hall a facility we can be proud of!

Vinols Crossing & Junction – Showing the way for the C319 Improvements

In January, your Council's Highways and Transport Committee again met with WSCC representatives regarding the redesign and detailing of this junction to improve the safety for pedestrian and vehicle users. An exhibition of the planned approach will take place during April so watch the Hoathly Hub and the next Chronicle for details. This Council's goal is to make the implementation an outstanding showpiece of its "shared space" approach to the C319 safety and traffic calming philosophy.

New Parish Councillor & Further Vacancy

At the January PC meeting Mr Ken Allfree applied to fill the councillor vacancy and was duly co-opted onto the council. The council also recorded its thanks for the contributions made by Mrs Jean Kingsley-Monk and Mr Bob Denny over the last few years. A further Councillor vacancy now exists on the Council and applications for co-option should be sent to the Parish Clerk.

2014-15 Parish Council Tax

The Parish component of our 2014-15 Council Tax bills has now been agreed with an increase of 2%, equivalent to 85p for the year for a Band D household.

Parish Assembly date -8pm Monday 14th April, West Hoathly Primary School

Come along and hear about Your Council's activities and Plans for the year ahead.

Sharpthorne Christmas Tree – Thank you!

The tree at the junction of Station Road and Top Road had been vandalised; many thanks to those Sharpthorne residents who replaced it and decorated it before Christmas.

**In severe winter weather consult the parish "Winter Management Plan" at
www.westhoathly.gov.uk**

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WHERE should the **NEW HOMES** be built in West Hoathly Parish?

Find out about the **OPTIONS** and **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

LANDOWNERS

describing their

PROPOSALS

followed by a short

Q & A SESSION

Numbers limited - come early!

West Hoathly Primary School

Monday 3rd February

7:30pm - 11pm

EXHIBITION OF SITES

and **RESIDENT INPUT**

Sharpthorne Church Hall

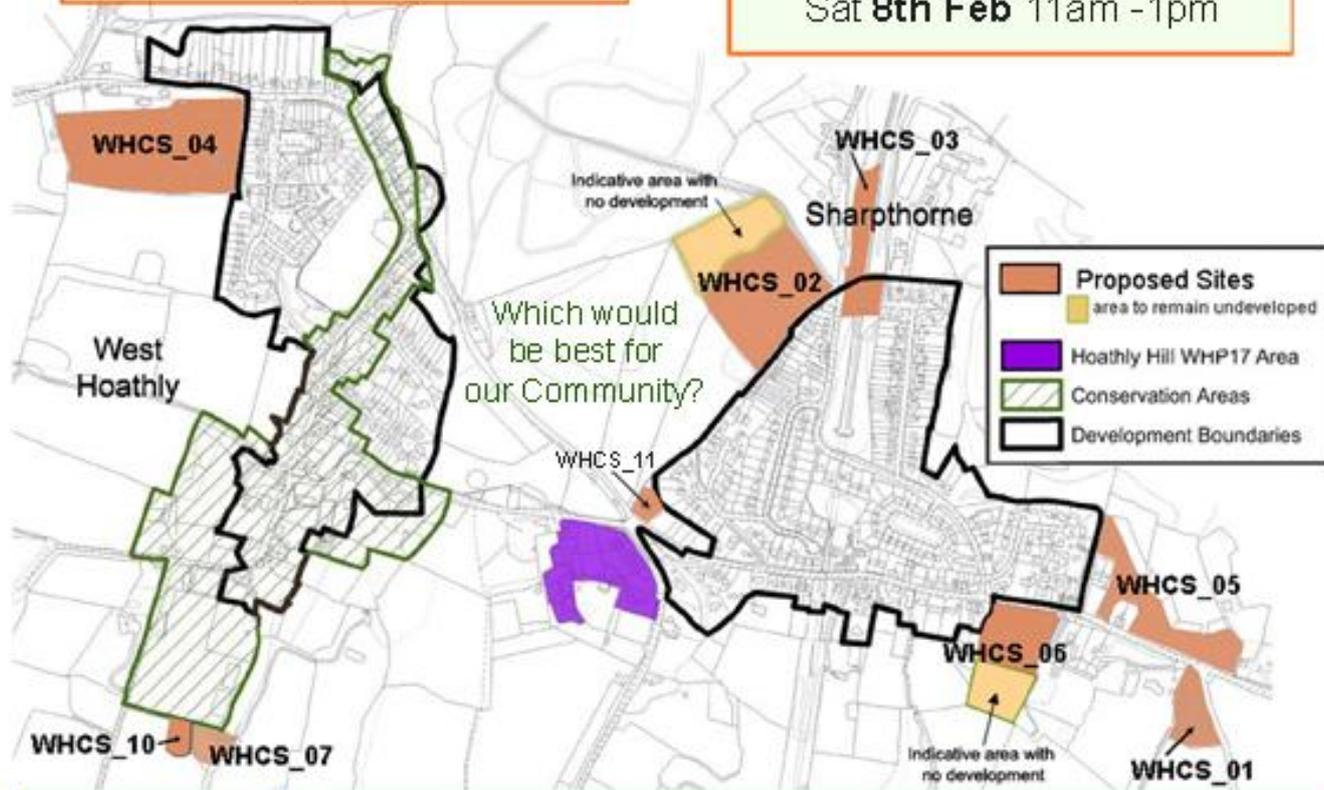
Weds **5th Feb** 8 -10pm

Highbrook Village Hall

Thurs **6th Feb** 8 -10pm

West Hoathly School

Sat **8th Feb** 11am -1pm



More details about each **WHCS** site:
www.HoathlyHub.info/sites
See the Parish Council page in The Chronicle for contact details

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Neighbourhood Plan Update

In February the Neighbourhood Plan Task Force organised a public opportunity for landowners and developers to explain their site proposals followed by 3 public exhibitions around the parish. Around 200 residents attended these sessions and as a result 52 people submitted comments on the feedback forms about one or more of the sites. These comments will now form part of the input to the process through which the Task Force of parish councillors and residents will make a recommendation on the site or sites to be allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan. To help with this next stage the Parish Council decided in February to appoint a consultant with appropriate expertise and experience to guide the Task Force deliberations over the next weeks.

West Hoathly Village Hall Transformation

As previously described here, 2014 is going to see the start of a major transformation of West Hoathly Village Hall. Everything is in place for the first stage with the shiny new kitchen being installed over Easter. In the summer the heating system will be completely replaced. Other improvements to storage space will also be taking place.

The campaign to raise some additional funds to fit out the kitchen has now closed with just over the target of £2000 having been raised through the "Icing on the Cake" initiative – all the "Village Hall Patrons" who donated will now be invited to a grand opening reception in May. As well as individual cash donations the Hall was very fortunate to receive the generous gift of Sharpthorne WI's matching crockery.

Soft landscaping to make Top Road more "Villagey" and help calm traffic

Your Parish Council's has been considering how some relatively small changes to the frontages adjoining Top Road could help to make the street scene one that encourages slower and more considerate driving behaviour through the village. At the Parish Assembly in April a project will be launched to stimulate frontage householders' practical ideas for the street scene transformation.

Vinols Crossing & Junction – Exhibition of the redesign 26th April

The design of the planned safety scheme to adjust the layout of the Vinols Cross junction will be exhibited by West Sussex CC Highways department in West Hoathly Primary School Hall on Saturday 26th April from 10am to midday. Come along to see what is going to be done and have the opportunity to discuss it with the highways engineers themselves.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – Why not "Put a toe in the water"?

With the next Parish Council elections in May 2015, now would be an ideal time to apply to join the council see what it is like for just a year and find out how you can make a difference for your local community. Then, next year, you can decide whether to stand for the following 4-year term or not but with the benefit of your experience. So if you ever have thought about joining the Council (or even if you haven't!) but were unsure, now is the time to contact the Parish Clerk as below for details.

Parish Assembly date -8pm Monday 14th April, West Hoathly Primary School

Come and hear about Your Council's activities and Plans for the year ahead. The agenda and displays will include the Neighbourhood Plan project and site(s) for new homes policy, C319 traffic topics including the Vinols Cross junction and the soft landscaping mentioned above, North Lane play area plans and what's happening at West Hoathly Village Hall.

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Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation starting

The Neighbourhood Plan Task Force, assisted by an independent planning consultant completed their task of identifying, assessing and ranking the sites which had been put forward by landowners as opportunities for new homes development. Their recommendations were discussed by your Parish Council at an extraordinary meeting in May assisted by the consultant and at the regular meeting on 19th May. As a result 3 sites were identified as the most suitable based on their potential to make the best contribution towards the parish being a sustainable community. All the details of the criteria that have been used were derived from residents' concerns and priorities and are available on the Hoathly Hub www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan.

A copy of the revised draft Neighbourhood Plan is now being distributed to every household by post during the first week of June as part of the formal, statutory 6-week consultation that has to take place at this stage. Your comments on it can be submitted through the Hub feedback facility or a hardcopy version distributed with the draft Plan – exactly as was done in 2013.

In addition there will be drop-in information sessions about the revised draft Plan as follows:-

- Wednesday 4th June at 7:30-9:30pm in **Highbrook** Village Hall
- Thursday 5th June at 7:30-9:30pm in **Sharpthorne** Church Hall
- Saturday 7th June at 10:30am-12:30pm in **West Hoathly** Primary School

West Hoathly Village Hall Transformation - Update

The Village Hall now has its shiny new kitchen and full sets of crockery and cutlery. It is hoped this will encourage and allow even greater culinary exploits there and much improved opportunities for a range of uses of the hall.

In July, work will start on the complete replacement central heating system.

Thank you to Peter Hartley

Peter Hartley has served the community on the Parish Council for the last 7 years and as its vice chairman for the last several years. Regrettably he has decided that he now wishes to devote more time to some of his other interests and has resigned from the Council. Your Council would like to thank Peter for the energy and commitment he has put into its work. In particular his leadership of the 2009 Parish Futures Study helped to identify the important issues of the parish and initiate projects to address them. In 2012, Peter galvanised and coordinated the parish's highly successful Queen's Jubilee celebrations and in the last couple of years he has lead the projects to bring improvements to West Hoathly Village Hall such as the recently completed kitchen and the new central heating scheduled for this summer.

Gatwick Airport Second Runway Consultation

Your Parish Council submitted a consultation response regarding the proposal for a second runway. The main focus of the response was to highlight the inadequacies of the east-west surface transport links in general and in particular the need for alternative and better suited routes for much of the traffic along the C319.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – Why not "Put a toe in the water"?

With the next Parish Council elections in May 2015, now would be an ideal time to apply to join the Council see what it is like for just a year and find out how you can make a difference for your local community. Then, next year, you can decide whether to stand for the following 4-year term or not but with the benefit of your experience. So if you ever have thought about joining the Council (or even if you haven't!) but were unsure, now is the time to contact the Parish Clerk as below for details.

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West Hoathly Village Hall Transformation – Latest Update

By the time you are reading this two further elements of the Hall transformation will be underway and another is set to take place in September. At the end of July work started on the **new Parish Council office** across the stage from the existing office. The office works are long-overdue and will provide a better layout, be more comfortable and energy efficient and be a more presentable working environment for the Parish Clerk. This project is funded by the Parish Council and is being carried out by a local firm.

During August the **replacement central heating system** will be installed throughout the hall with a modern, energy efficient boiler, new radiators and multi-zoned controls. This means a cheaper to run system, a less cluttered hall and faster heating up of the space. Preparatory building works have already been completed to accommodate the boiler. This project is being funded from Village Hall reserves.

In September, funded by a WSCC grant, the old Parish Office will have **new equipment storage** facilities for regular users. The work is also being carried out by a local contractor.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – Time to Act!

For several months your Council has been two Councillors short of its full complement of 11. Appeals have been made for other residents to come forward – but with **NO** success to date. Your Council has been and continues to progress an unprecedented number of projects and initiatives to improve the community's facilities and address residents' requirements. However, the shortage of Councillors is putting an increased load on the shoulders of the current 9 members and **the ability of the Council to maintain the progress is NOW being compromised**. Parish Council Chairman, John Downe (john@burstowcottage.co.uk) would be happy to discuss the role with you if you would like to consider serving on the Council.

Another Youth Forum Success – North Lane Rec Playground

As a result of the efforts and involvement of the Youth Forum led by the Parish Council, the parish has been awarded a **£20,000 grant** by the SITA Trust. This is the major part of a significant upgrade of the children's playground on North Lane Rec to include many exciting new play features. The **Youth Forum** has played a key part in the project by researching the requirements, choosing the pieces of equipment and their layout and then supporting the grant applications. A modern and stimulating playground for the community's children will result which will add to the parish's appeal to young families. Other grants are still being sought which, with the parish council's own playground fund and the *SITA* grant, will mean the whole project can be completed ready for use within the next year.

Neighbourhood Plan – Update

The 6-week period for comments on the draft Parish Neighbourhood Plan finished on 14th July. The Parish Council is reviewing the comments received to assess whether modifications are needed to the draft plan prior to its submission to Mid Sussex District Council for the next steps. You can keep up to date at www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan.

Top Road – Soft Landscaping Initiative

Your Council are offering households with land adjoining Top Road a contribution of up to £50 towards the best projects proposed to change the area visible to motorists driving along Top Road. The aim is to break-up the continuity of the streetscape and give variations to the scene – thereby reducing the speed of traffic through the village. Even if you don't have a boundary onto Top Road, the Council would very much welcome your ideas – a new Hub "Speak Out" topic has been set up so that all residents can easily make suggestions.

Parish Clerk: Helen Schofield - The Parish Office, North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4QG
T: 01342 811301 E: clerk@westhoathly.gov.uk Website: www.westhoathly.gov.uk

The office is open on **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** between **9am and noon**.

Messages can be left at all other times on the answer phone or by email.

NB During August the office will only open occasionally to monitor the post.