

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Tuesday 13 April 2010
at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall, Heathfield Community Centre,
Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Chambers, Baker, Chambers, Mrs Clark, Davis, Hart, Mrs Holmwood, Hough, Kerby, Newnham (Chairman), Mrs Oakes Smith, Wood and Woodhouse.

Also present: District Councillors Angel and Mrs Kirkpatrick and County Councillor Simmons

Sussex Police represented by: PCSO's Paula Mackie, Fleur Whittaker, Geraldine Hodgins, PC Cathy Codling and Inspector Tony Wakefield

Representatives of the following organisations:

Bull River and Heathfield District Guides, Broad Oak Village Hall Committee, Churches Together and Street Pastors, Demelza Hospice Care for Children, East Sussex Association for the Blind, Fire Brigade Community Volunteers, Friends of Demelza Hospice Care for Children, HAPI, Heathfield Farmers Market, Heathfield Millennium Green Trust, Heathfield & Waldron Rotary Club, Heathfield & Waldron Twinning Association, Heathfield Partnership, Heathfield Scouts, Heathfield Youth Centre, Kings Church, Le Marché, Linked Hands, Lucas Hall Shadow Management Committee, Mediation+, Punnetts Town Village Hall Management Committee, Sussex Crimestoppers, St Wilfrid's Hospice, Sussex Crimestoppers, Sussex Police, Waldron Country Market, Waldron Neighbourhood Watch, Wheeldon 20-60 Group.

1 representative of the press

The Clerk to the Parish Council, the Assistant Clerk and Administrative Officers were in attendance.

Approximately 35 members of the public were present.

10/01 **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

The Chairman of the Parish Council introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending. He thanked all the representatives of organisations who had mounted displays and the Clerk and her staff for organising the event.

10/02 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman introduced his report for 2009 which was available in hard copy for all those attending.

10/03 **THE HEATHFIELD CHARITIES**

A verbal report on activity of the Charity was made, together with bank balances.

10/04 **OPEN SESSION**

Cllr Newnham then invited questions from the floor.

Ms Espinasse asked for a copy of the Parish Council accounts and it was confirmed that a copy would be sent to her. She also asked about ownership of street lights and was told that both ESCC and the Parish Council owned street lights.

A question was then raised about the delay in providing allotments on the new land at Theobalds Green. It was explained that this would be progressing but that clarification over the planning situation had been awaited and was only now to hand. With regard to the number of allotments to be provided, the Chairman explained this would depend upon the possible layout of the site which was also planned to be used as a burial ground.

The lack of enforcement of illegal parking outside the School was then raised and PC Codling explained that the PCSO's were often in attendance at School drop-off and pick-up times and did issue tickets. However, the incidences of illegal parking were considerably less when PCSO's were in evidence. The Police would continue to liaise with the Schools to try and tackle the problem. With regard to the Walking Bus, this was not well supported and County Councillor Simmons was aware of this.

A complaint was then made about School buses being parked in the High Street which prevented other buses from stopping there. Cllr Simmons would investigate this matter. Mrs Farmiloe asked why buses parked in the High Street left their engines running and was told that if switched off, they often would not start again.

Mr Hamilton asked about the No Cold Calling Zone signs and was informed that they were now up, but that one in Waldron would need a new post.

Mr Hampton explained the current situation with regard to HAPI and the proposed swimming pool and commended the hard working local people who had progressed the project this far. A new raffle was being launched with a car as first prize and it was hoped to raise enough funds to enable the planning application to be submitted.

Mr Rigg, Chairman of HAPI, thanked the Parish Council for their support of the project and said he was determined to see it succeed.

Mrs Howitt asked if the footways along the B2102 could be widened, being only 14" wide in places and spoke about the traffic speeds in the vicinity.

Mr Wilkinson reminded people about the Country Market at Waldron.

Mrs Sheppard spoke about the limited public transport available, especially for those with hospital appointments. Cllr. Kerby said that Heathfield did very badly in terms of public transport and more ESCC subsidies would be necessary for the situation to improve. County Cllr Simmons said that representations had been made to ESCC but funding was very precarious. There was general discussion at the lack of buses and the cost of fares.

Mrs Hewitt thanked the Chairman and the Clerk and her staff for all their hard work.

A complaint was made about litter at the Skatepark and the Clerk explained that litter was regularly picked up and bins emptied but the Parish Council welcomed reports from members of the public if they noticed problems in the meantime. Litter was often picked up by the Street Pastors, and they were thanked for their help and support.

Ms Drury reported that the Youth Centre and Youth Council were very busy and a new Street Football initiative on Friday evenings was working well so far. The newly refurbished skatepark was brilliant.

Inspector Wakefield then spoke about the CCTV scheme, due to be implemented shortly and introduced Operation Time, which was a new initiative to help tackle anti-social behaviour.

Ms Eggar spoke about the ESFRS Community Volunteers and said that the scheme was due to actively commence shortly. Several volunteers had already been signed up.

Mr Wilkinson then thanked the Parish Councillors on behalf of all parishioners for the terrific job they do.

10/05 **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

There being no further comments or questions, the Chairman thanked for coming and closed the meeting at 8.59 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: