

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Tuesday 8 April 2008
at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall, Heathfield Community Centre,
Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Mrs Archer, Chambers, Mrs Clark, Davis, Hough, Mrs Kentish-Barnes, Kerby, Mrs Muddle, Newnham (HWPC Vice-Chairman, in the Chair) Mrs Plant, Woodhouse and Woolley.

Also present: District Councillor Angel and County Councillor Simmons

Approximately 35 members of the public

Sussex Police represented by: Insp. Stephenson, PC Codling and PCSO Claxton

Representatives of the following organisations:

Waldron Country Market, Heathfield and District Twinning Association, Heathfield Chamber of Commerce, Waldron Neighbourhood Watch, Heathfield Farmers' Market, Churches Together in Heathfield, Demelza James Hospice, Heathfield Partnership, Heathfield and Waldron Rotary Club, Wealden Citizens Advice, Punnetts Town Village Hall Management Committee, Heathfield Youth Service, Lucas Memorial Hall Shadow Management Committee, Mediation +, HAPI, United Nations (Wealden Branch), Le Marché Committee, Linked Hands, Friends of All Saints, Old Heathfield, Cross-In-Hand Village Hall Management Committee and Kings Church (approx 46 people).

3 representatives of the press

The Clerk to the Parish Council, the Finance Officer and Administrative Officer were in attendance.

08/01 **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Mr Newnham, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all those in attendance and gave apologies on behalf of Mr Bassingthwaite, Chairman of the Parish Council, who was unable to attend because of family problems.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Clerk to the Parish Council and her staff for their hard work during the year and for organising the Assembly and went on to thank the Chairman in his absence and his fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work and dedication.

08/02 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A printed copy of the Chairman's Report for 2007/2008 financial year was made available to all those attending the Assembly and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

08/03 **THE HEATHFIELD CHARITIES**

Mr Newnham reported on the Charity and said that during the year a donation of £500 had been made to Age Concern towards their minibus.

08/04 **OPEN SESSION**

Mr Newnham first invited questions for representatives of the Police, who had to leave the meeting early due to other commitments.

A question was raised as to whether the Isenhurst Service Station could be made one way, with one entrance and one exit. Insp. Stephenson indicated that whilst the Police had no jurisdiction over the site, they would liaise with ESSO to see if an agreement could be reached. With regard to the delay in the redevelopment of the site, Mr Newnham indicated that this was partly due to a wildlife and ecological study which had been required. Mr Angel informed the meeting that the Environmental Impact Assessment was required by European Law.

Mr Liggett stated that he had reported problems of speeding traffic on Mutton Hall Hill at last year's Assembly and the problem was still unresolved. He asked whether 30 mph repeater signs could be installed. PC Codling indicated that the mobile laser gun was now in use and would be deployed in the area. With regard to signage, this was a matter for ESCC. Mr Newnham said that it would be raised at the next Liaison Meeting between the Parish Council and ESCC.

A resident of Cross-in-Hand expressed his concern about the danger to pedestrians in the High Street because of the narrow pavements and the number of large vehicles which mounted the footway. He asked for greater Police presence. It was explained that a proposal to provide better provision for pedestrians together with parking bays was being investigated and public consultation would take place shortly. Works were also planned for the A267/B2102 junction, but these would not take place until 2009/2010 financial year.

Mrs Farniloe complained about the extent of parking on verges as well as on the pavements in the High Street and lack of Police enforcement. PC Codling said that if details of specific times and locations could be provided to her, action would be taken.

A complaint was then made about the lack of parking provision at Heathfield Community College and problems with children playing near parked vehicles. PC Codling stated that they were working with the College with

regard to parking issues. Mrs Sones stated that she was a teacher at the College, which had expanded over recent years and this had added to the problem. She explained that children were not allowed to play in the vicinity of parked cars and that staff were not allowed to leave until all the children had gone home.

Insp. Stephenson stated that the new Policing Plan placed an emphasis on community matters and as a first step, street meetings would be held in various locations. She urged everyone to attend so that local issues could be identified.

Mr Cattel-Killick asked whether nameplates could be used at Committee meetings of the Parish Council to help identify those speaking. Mr Newnham said that this would be investigated and confirmed that nameplates were currently used at full Council meetings.

There was then a question as to whether there had been any progress with a request to Co-op that a lockable barrier be erected at the entrance to the car park to prevent young people gathering there and causing a nuisance to local residents. The Clerk indicated that this matter had been referred to the PCSO's for discussion with Co-op. The Parish Council would ascertain what the current position was.

A representative of Waldron Neighbourhood Watch expressed concern about speeding traffic through the village. The Vice-Chairman stated that this matter had been raised with ESCC on several occasions. County Councillor Simmons said that village nameplates were to be erected shortly but the Conservation Area status might restrict potential measures.

Mr Coltart stated that fly-tipping was a problem in the Waldron area. Cllr Newnham said that the Parish Council, when notified of such incidents, passed information on to Wealden District Council for action. Cllr Hough expressed concern at restrictions which prevented private householders with trailers using the Household Amenity Waste Site in Heathfield. Mr Wilkinson went on to say that some of the staff at the site were not very helpful when explaining that items such as tyres were not accepted. County Councillor Simmons said that rules were in place to prevent commercial waste being dumped.

Mr Rigg, Chairman of Heathfield Area Pool Initiative (HAPI) expressed his sadness at the closure of the outdoor pool and gave a progress report on the proposed indoor pool. Funding was now being sought to enable the design to be finalised and a planning application submitted. He encouraged new supporters to join the organisation.

08/05 **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

There being no further comments or questions, the Vice-Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: