

Annual Village Meeting
East Dean and Friston

Format of the Evening

- Welcome and Introduction;
- Presentations from the Parish Council;
- Presentations by Village Groups;
- Question and Answer Session;

Kindly assist us in adhering to the schedule by saving questions until after the presentations.



Purpose of the Annual Village Meeting

- A platform for the Local Community;
- Allows Parish Council to keep residents informed;
- Showcase for local organisations and groups;
- An important opportunity to voice opinions.



Key Achievements

- Precept now £79,103;
- Increase of less than 2.5% from £77,175 last year;
- Average household increase £2.48 p.a.;
- Reserves of £115,000.



Other Key Achievements

- Neighbourhood Plan adopted after a resounding mandate from 94% of voting residents with a record turnout of over 41%;
- Mailing list reintroduced keeping residents informed of local matters of interest;
- Downlands Way. Responding to residents- replacement bollards introduced and no entry sign placed at the entry to Gore Farm Close;
- Strong relationship with BHC and National Trust in an effort to secure road safety changes by ESCC;
- Ongoing maintenance to our footpaths and bridleways with regular patrols by councillors.

Speeding and Road Safety – areas of concern

- Jevington Rd/Crowlink Lane Junction;
- The loop from Beachy Head Rd, Meads to Gilbert's Drive;
- Village centre A259 junctions with Michel Dene and Gilbert's Drive.

Village Speed limit

- Introduction of 20 mph speed limit is imminent;
- Under negotiation with the Police and East Sussex County Council for some years;
- All safety surveys now complete & positioning of signs and roundels decided,
- Once the final go-ahead is given by ESCC, completion action can be taken by the Parish Council;
- Capital earmarked.



Parish Council Action - Jevington Rd Junction & Centre of Village

- Lobbying local County Councillor and liaison with ESCC for traffic control/calming at the junction;
- Meeting with ESCC and Exceat Contractors Jacksons to address traffic control during and after works;
- Pressure for a safety review of the village as a whole.

Parish Council Action – Beachy Head Rd to Gilbert's Drive

- Forging a strong relationship with Beachy Head Chaplaincy and National Trust;
- Speed reduction initiatives & extension of Police Action Day enforcement;
- Consideration of a seasonal or permanent road closure;
- Compiling a case for change with upper tier authorities;
- Seeking PSPO extension Birling gap to Gilbert's Drive;
- Use of a speed gun at the "Z bends" with partners CSW.

Friston Pond

- The pond could date back as long as 3000 years and is a scheduled ancient monument;
- Significant maintenance last took place in 2012;
- Advice taken from SDNP biodiversity officer and the environment group of the Residents' Association.



Moving Forward

Engage a contractor to:

- Clear out the pond;
- Create wildlife habitats;
- Maintain sediment traps and gulleys;
- Maintain or remove on-site trees;
- Perform on-going maintenance;
- Repair dipping platform;

Grant assistance is available to supplement earmarked reserves.



Neighbourhood Plan – Planning implications

- Now within the legal framework for deciding planning applications;
- Design guidance protects the village in the long term against unsuitable development;
- Greater consideration of environmental and climate factors within the process;
- Always used as a reference guide at Planning and Council meetings.

Neighbourhood Plan – general considerations

- Informs areas for investment and continued improvement in the village;
- Promotes capital projects such as:
 - Pavilion Replacement;
 - Public Lavatory Provision;
 - Additional parking for the disabled;
 - “Revamp” and accessibility improvements at Downlands shops.
- Encourages re-wilding and wildflower planting;
- Renovation and on-going maintenance for Friston Pond;
- Aspiration to become pesticide free.

We need your help

- Community Speed Watch (CSW) needs volunteers both within the village and around the “Z bends” on the Beachy Head Rd east of Birling Gap;
- The council will shortly be launching a comprehensive survey and consultation to decide the way forward for health and fitness equipment and facilities around the village. Please make your opinion count.
- We are looking to appoint a Youth Ambassador to the council to help ensure that all projects are relevant across the age groups

In Summary

Parish Council aims:

- Keep the precept low but still drive capital investment in the village;
- Keep residents informed;
- Pursue the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Continue to push for improved road safety;
- Maintain and enhance public areas and footpaths.