



East Dean & Friston

P a r i s h C o u n c i l

Date: 4th January 2018

Title: Report Item 6 – Bonfire 2018

By: Cllr I Haydock

Purpose: To review the holding of a bonfire/fireworks event in 2018

Recommendations: a) To rescind the council's previous decision not to hold a bonfire event in 2018
b) To consider a budget and practical arrangements, if required

Bonfire Night does not just happen in Lewes on 5th November. All over East and West Sussex villages and towns have their own night from the beginning of September to early December. Most are put on by small groups of people who want to keep the tradition of Bonfire or Guy Fawkes Night going and as such it would be a shame if the holding of an event in East Dean and Friston was to be allowed to die out as I believe it brings together different members of the community.

At the Annual Village Meeting although the holding of Bonfire was supported, the numbers prepared to help was not sufficient at the time for the Parish Council to proceed, added to which was the problem of the numbers of outsiders who turned up for the last event.

Since that decision was taken questions have been raised and answers given regarding that decision, however Toby Tompsett a former Captain of Eastbourne Bonfire has offered to help.

Owing to the influx of outsiders who attended the last time the event was held I suggest that it should not be held on November 5th but on Friday 19th October, as currently this date has no other event booked for the Village Hall leaving the car park free.

I have been in contact with Mr Davies-Gilbert who sent me the following:

"In principle and with written agreements in place, the Estate could provide land and access, including the village green, to facilitate a bonfire night celebration, however, we would need to be satisfied that the problems of previous events associated with traffic management, parking, access, risk assessments and insurance have been overcome at least six months before the event is due to take place."

Parking/transport

Parking would be in the Village Hall car park and on the Recreation Ground, the availability of the Horsefield could be requested.

The possibility of hiring one of the Cuckmere Buses for the evening should be looked at with Cllr Fuller being 'route master' so that people do in fact leave their car at home.

Procession

Encouragement of children (of all ages) to dress up and process from the village hall car park to the Village Green where we could follow the tradition of other villages to hold a minutes silence at the War Memorial before the lighting of torches and continuing along Went Way and down The Drove to the Recreation Ground. By using this route no signage would have to be put up on Gilbert's Drive thus advertising the event to outsiders. To make the procession more fun I would suggest a small group of the local family run group "Stix" could possibly be invited to join us for the evening, playing on route both ways. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74vDnx_tMq0

Or as an alternative a small group of the Eastbourne Pentacle Drummers

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=pentacle+drummers+eastbourne&&view=detail&mid=FE11A18356087C4D9C92FE11A18356087C4D9C92&&FORM=VDRVRV>

On arrival at the Recreation Ground the bonfire will be lit and the fireworks duly set off after which the procession would return to the Village Green and disperse.

Food/beverages

To be discussed

St Johns' Ambulance

With the use of lit torches and the bonfire it is advised that St Johns' are in attendance.

Help from Toby Tompsett

At an on-site meeting with Toby, Paul Seeley (Chairman of the RA who are in favour of the event) and myself the following help was offered if needed:

- Stewarding
- Building the bonfire and making an effigy of Guy Fawkes
- Making the torches and providing a trolley for the spent ones.
- General advice as necessary and contact with firework display organisers.

Ian Haydock
Parish Councillor