



# East Dean & Friston P a r i s h C o u n c i l

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Title:** Report Item 6 – Carols and Fireworks

**By:** Cllr P Hill and Cllr P Seeley

**Purpose:** To present the final report of the Working Group

**Recommendations:** To note the report and approve the revised recommendations for an event on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 using the Horsefield as the firing site

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## **Revised Carols and Fireworks proposal for December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

Following a detailed review of the issues surrounding a bonfire and fireworks event on the 5<sup>th</sup> November combined with the unfortunate experience of the last event in 2015, the working group investigated various options with the prime function of limiting numbers and ensuring that any event should be primarily focussed around the village allowing local residents, friends and families to benefit without disruption from outside sources.

The Working Group set up by the PC has investigated various options and has concluded that moving away from Bonfire night is the most obvious option due to the potential disruption caused by publicity via social media. An event on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, a Saturday, is proposed which when presented to the Village meeting was very well received. The event originally was considered to include fireworks at the recreation ground with a procession to and from the ground from the Village Hall via Went Way followed by the lighting of Christmas tree Lights at the Village Hall and the singing of Christmas carols by the community. Due to the closure of the Drove the procession from the Village Hall would have to have been along Gilberts Drive and the risks to Health and Safety for pedestrians and especially young children as well as the traffic marshalling requirements were far too high to contemplate. On this basis a procession has had to be discounted.

Alternatives were considered and presented to the Gilbert Estate and after some positive alternative suggestions a meeting was held on site with frontier Fireworks to review and assess the practicalities.

As a result of this meeting and a further meeting with the Gilbert Estate the use of the Horsefield for setting off the fireworks was discussed and reviewed.

Frontier confirmed that the location would be ideal if the following restrictions could be imposed:-

1. The footpath adjacent to the Horsefield would be closed for access 2 hrs before and after the event.
2. The fireworks would be set off near the centre of the field approx. 25m from the footpath boundary.
3. Pedestrian access would be limited to the fenced car park area in the Horsefield and alongside the flint wall within Wealden car park as shown on the attached plan.
4. A full Health and Safety risk assessment would be undertaken by Frontier Fireworks and all relevant insurance was in place.

A further meeting was held on this basis with the Gilbert Estate and it was confirmed that a more detailed review of car parking and marshalling requirements would be undertaken together with provision for overflow car parking facilities to avoid congestion and risks.

On this basis the event is planned to operate as follows:-

- 5.30pm congregate at the Village Hall - Hog Roast and BBQ provided.
- 6.00pm light the Christmas Tree Lights.
- 6.00pm to 6.45pm Community singing of Carols
- 7.00pm Firework display in the Horsefield

It is anticipated that there will be outside catering provided also by The Tiger Inn and the Thai Terre restaurant on the Village Green.

The Tiger car park and Wealden car parks will be used initially with overflow parking being made available at the recreation ground.

Traffic marshalling is key to the smooth running and safety of the event so volunteers will be recruited to marshal traffic both at the Village Hall and the recreation ground, cones will also be provided along the length of Gilberts Drive.

Advertising the event will be restricted to the Parish Magazine and it will be noted as a "Residents Only" event with limited car parking.

It is anticipated that approx. 400 to 600 people may attend the majority walking to the event. However car parking for approx. 200 cars will be required as a back up.

It is anticipated that the event will be self-financing (or even make a small profit) based on past experience from the bonfire night events, allowing for sponsorship by local business, sales of glow torches, sale of food and also donation buckets.

A further meeting is required with the Gilbert Estate to confirm the PC's proposals for car parking and marshalling following which it is anticipated that permission will be granted for the use of the Horsefield for this one-off event.

Cllrs: Hill, Seeley