

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Forest Row Parish Council

### **THE COUNCIL**

This has been a busy year for the Council and at its Annual Meeting in May Cllr. Manger was re-elected as Chairman. The Chairmen of the Committees were as follows:

<i>Amenities Committee:</i>	<i>Jane Wogan</i>
<i>Community Centre Committee:</i>	<i>Katie Del Mar</i>
<i>Burials Committee:</i>	<i>Vivien Hill</i>
<i>General Purposes &amp; Traffic Committee:</i>	<i>James Gardiner</i>
<i>Planning Committee:</i>	<i>Margaret Winton</i>
<i>Public Relations Committee:</i>	<i>Susie Kemp</i>
<i>Finance Committee:</i>	<i>Fred Bishop</i>
<i>Relief Road Committee</i>	<i>Fred Bishop</i>

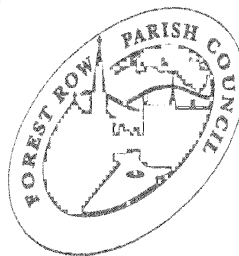
### **A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I was very honoured that the Parish Councillors have again re-elected me as Chairman. I am very proud of the village and will continue to do my very best for the whole community. As always I am indebted to the Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and the office staff and all those in the community, especially the Community Liaison Group, who voluntarily give of their time for the good of the village.

We were again short-listed for the Village of the Year competition and I would like to thank all those who helped during the presentation to the judges. The Parish Council has again supported the South and South East in Bloom competition and judging is due to take place during July.

It has been a very busy year for all the Committees and my grateful thanks to all Committee chairman for their commitment and hard work. All Parish Councillors are volunteers and the burden in terms of time and commitment should not be underestimated. Recognising the fact that there is nowhere for the youth in the short term, the Council has resolved to refurbish the old classroom block in the Community Centre Car Park, to create a 'drop-in' facility.

The year saw the completion of the Masterplan consultation exercise. We had an amazing 43% response and that is largely due to the army of volunteers who helped us out with delivering and



Annual Report  
No. 7  
2009

collecting the questionnaires. Our thanks again to them for giving up their time for the community.

The Parish Council has launched its 'GREENING CAMPAIGN'. This is an independent campaign designed to make everyone feel they can make a difference to climate change and the environment by taking small everyday actions. The Campaign is in four phases and, depending on the success of phase 1, we will consider the next steps.

The annual Spring Clean again saw a reasonable turn out of residents giving up their Saturday morning to help tidy up the village. Our thanks to all those who helped us and to Wealden District Council for providing vehicles and manpower to make the job easier.

The Parish Council and staff continue to work on the day to day tasks that we all take for granted and whilst these things are not exciting, we would all notice if they weren't done. We have a hard-working and active Parish Council - and this, I believe, contributes to making Forest Row a very special place to live and work.

*Cllr. Nigel Manger*

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

This committee looks at all the outdoor spaces and street furniture. There has been no major activity or project during the year, but the normal business of ensuring our village looks the best it can continues.

We have launched our 'bin it' Litter Campaign which is now in full flow. Our thanks to Cllr. Susie Kemp for spearheading this and raising the awareness of the need not to drop litter, and how much damage such litter does to the environment. This Campaign will be running throughout the year.

### **COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE**

During the year we replaced the two 'patio' doors opening onto the car park.

The drainage problems in the car park were resolved - this involved digging up a section of the car park and was done during a school holiday to minimise inconvenience.

The Community Playgroup has been granted sole use of the Hambro Hall and this will take effect from the September term.

### **BURIALS COMMITTEE**

The major project of extending the cemetery has come to fruition with some 160 additional plots being created for the community.

A computer package has been purchased to enable the Council to have a sound database of historical information and to keep our records consistent and easily accessible.

### **GENERAL PURPOSES AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

We have resolved to create two 'build-outs' in Upper and Lower Square, London Road. It is hoped that these will stop inappropriate parking and also prevent any further abuse in those areas by street traders. The build-outs will include planters and cycle racks.

The Parish Council's contract for the maintenance of the streetlights has been awarded to Direct Technical Services after EDF gave notice of their intention to discontinue this service.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A precept of £320,000 was raised from Wealden District Council for the financial year 2008/09

This was raised to reflect the work on the cemetery and allotments.

The Committee made the following grants during the year:

Forest Row Sports Ground Assn.	£2,000
Kent Air Ambulance Service	£ 200
Hammerwood & Holtye Hall	£ 300
St Catherine's Hospice	£ 500
Relate (Relateen)	£ 200
East Sussex Assn. For the Blind	£ 100
Coleman's Hatch Bowling Club	£ 100
Forest Row Twinning Assn.	£ 50
Mediation +	£ 50
Holy Trinity Church	£ 250
Village Hall	£ 350
What's On in Forest Row	£ 100

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

This Committee has considered 126 applications during the civic year. It also responded in detail to the Local Development Framework, which will set the scene in Wealden for the next 10 years or so in terms of development, including

affordable housing, and allocation of potential sites.

Our concerns at the lack of developer contributions towards community facilities (£106) has led the Council to ask that Wealden District Council's policy on S.106 Agreement be re-examined through the LDF process. The Parish Council considers it important that all communities receive a fair share of the contributions, even if they cannot accommodate large developments. East Sussex County Council has also been approached and appear sympathetic to re-examining and supporting changes.

The results of the Masterplan survey will be fed into the Wealden District Council Local Development Framework and also used as evidence of need with other agencies. The LDF consultation will take place during July and August and the Council will be making its representations, reflecting the need to limit development and ensure that affordable housing is included.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Jim Read was the worthy recipient of the Citizen of the Year award at last year's Autumn Reception. Our annual environmental competitions continue with a couple of additional categories added, including 'Best Commercial Floral Display'. We continue to work with the Forest Row in Bloom Committee.

The Parish Council's website is being reappraised and we hope to make it better and more relevant.

### **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The Parish Council resolved to keep the Members' Allowances:

Members Basic Allowance	£360
Chairman's Allowance	£300

### **YOUTH PROVISION**

Since the destruction of the youth club building last year the Parish Council has been working hard to try and find a solution that will stand the test of time and fit the bill for current times. The Working Group is looking at various options and will be applying for funding when plans are further forward.

Youngn people have been consulted and their views will be taken into consideration during the planning stage. It is very exciting for the village but it be a while before it all comes to fruition. In the meantime the Council will refurbish the old classroom block in the Community Centre car park to enable youngn people to have a place to 'hang out' in. It will also provide additional letting space for the Parish Council in the longer term

Amenities	Community Centre	Burials	General Purposes & Traffic	Public Relations	Finance	Planning (6pm)	Full Council
9 June 29 Sept 9 Feb	16 June 20 Oct 16 Feb	26 May 13 Oct 2 Feb	23 June 3 Nov 23 Feb	7 July 17 Nov 23 March	14 July 22 Sept 15 Dec 16 March	11 & 26 May 8 & 22 June 6 & 20 July 3 & 17 Aug 1, 14 & 28 Sept 12 & 26 Oct 9 & 23 Nov 7 & 21 Dec 4 & 18 Jan 1 & 15 Feb 1, 15 & 29 Mar 12 & 26 Apr 10 & 24 May	7 A[r 7 July 17 Nov 28 Mar

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 13th May 2010 with the Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) on 11th May 2010. Please check notice boards for details. Members of the public are invited to attend meetings and the first 10 minutes of all meetings are reserved for questions from the Public.

<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009</b>						
<b>31 Mar 08</b>	<b>Income Summary</b>	<b>31 Mar 09</b>	<b>31 Mar 08</b>	<b>Running Costs (cont)</b>	<b>31 Mar 09</b>	
			.....cont'd			
220,000	Precept Received	320,000	10,262	Cafe	10,420	
4,074	Interest Received	5,755	1,237	Thursday Club	1,923	
	<b>Operating Income</b>		83,433	General Administration	73,594	
671	Allotments	1,411	5,259	Section 137	3,022	
1,760	Village Greens	170	2,250	Other Grants	4,200	
53,039	Community Centre	53,672	966	Council Initiatives	1,170	
10,289	Cafe	9,305	5,073	Youth Provision	5,516	
847	Thursday Club	531	1,050	Payments from Reserves	4,387	
8,113	General Administration	37,626	11,195	Burials	34,429	
4,898	Burials	4,811	4,786	Public Relations	4,261	
0	Public Relations	31				
<b>303,690</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>433,310</b>	<b>273,739</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>328,466</b>	
	<b>Running Costs</b>			<b>General Fund Analysis</b>		
9,748	<b>Allotments</b>	2,389		16,325	Balance as at 1 April	26,311
6,948	Village Greens	6,856		<b>303,690</b>	<b>Plus Income for Year</b>	<b>433,310</b>
2,027	Open Spaces	2,714		<b>320,015</b>		<b>459,621</b>
12,411	Amenities General	10,270		<u>273,739</u>	Less Expenditure for Year	<u>328,466</u>
117	Bus Shelters	5,183		46,277		131,155
11,665	Street Lighting	10,270		<b>19,966</b>	Transfers to/from Reserves	<b>769</b>
425	Road Safety	390		<b>26,311</b>		<b>130,386</b>
646	Misc. General Purposes	0				
61,150	Community Centre	88,246				
43,091	Community Centre Capital	58,524				
		Cont'd .....				

The above figures are unaudited

## USEFUL INFORMATION

Forest Row  
Parish Council  
The Community Centre  
Hartfield Road  
Forest Row  
East Sussex  
RH18 5DZ

**Clerk: Rodabe Rudin**

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10am-4pm

Tel: 01342 822661  
Fax: 01342 825739  
E.mail: info@forestrow.gov.uk  
Website: : www.forestrow.gov.uk

### **Your Councillors are:**

Geoffrey Atkins	826080
Fred Bishop	822536
David Brett	823044
Katie Del Mar	823196
James Gardiner	850660
Vivien Hill	822811
Susie Kemp	822784
Brian Killick	810581
Nigel Manger	822711
Gwen Pritchitt	823296
Georgia Taylor	823199
Jack Westlake	824275
Margaret Winton	822951
Jane Wogan	825382

### **The Chairman of the Council is:**

Nigel Manger

### **Vice Chairman is**

Fred Bishop

### **Committees**

	<b>Chairman</b>
Amenities	Jane Wogan
General Purposes & Traffic	James Gardiner
Community Centre	Katie Del Mar
Finance	Fred Bishop
Planning	Margaret Winton
Burials	Vivien Hill
Public Relations	Susie Kemp

### **Useful Telephone Numbers**

#### **East Sussex County Council**

##### *County Councillor:*

Francis Whetstone	01892 770304
Main Switchboard	01273 481000
Highways	01273 813933

#### **Wealden District Council**

##### *District Councillors:*

David Jonas	01342 824914
Vania Phitidis	01342 823629
<i>Crowborough</i>	01892 653311

Planning, Works & Services, Leisure

*Hailsham* 01323 442666

Housing, Finance, Environmental Health

#### **Police**

Routine or non-emergency matters

0845 6070 999

### **RELIEF ROAD COMMITTEE**

The South East Plan has removed the imperative for a relief road to mitigate the impact of additional housing in East Grinstead.

### **COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP**

It meets quarterly and discusses various issues of concern and is made up of representatives from:

Residents Associations	Sports Associations
Schools	Business Forum
Forest Row Twinning	Fire Service
Youth Groups	Police
The under 5's	Disabled
Churches	

Three Councillors are also on this Group and it was intended that it should serve as a link between the Community and the Council. Out of these meetings came the decision to organise a special community 'event' next year. A group, chaired by Jeanne Dyke, is working on this and the event called 'One Village 2010' will be held from June 14th—20th. Look out for further details.

### **THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Allotments - off Medway Drive

Bus Shelters

Bye Laws

Cemetery - Priory Road

Children's Recreation Area

Open Spaces

- Rush Green
- Forester's Green
- Forester's Link
- Land at Stonepark Drive
- Gilham Bank (wooded Area)
- Some verges and trees
- Amenity Land off Medway Drive

Community centre

- Community Café
- Monthly Market/Car Boot Sale
- Thursday Club
- 'Create It' Jubilee Garden
- Fred Kennard Memorial Garden

Gilham Bank (Wooded area)

Grants to Parish Organisations

Emergency Planning

Footway Lights

Forest Row Guide

Forest Row Newsletter - NewsLink

Leasing of Sports Field - top of Chapel Lane

Litter Bins/Dog Fouling Bins

Notice Boards

Planning (consultees on applications)

Public Seats

Representation on Outside Bodies and Associations

Newlands Place

War Memorial

Youth Facilities (provision and maintenance of building and grant)