

# 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 are currently 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>Jack Westlake</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>Youth &amp; Community Building</i>	<i>Cheryl Hawkins</i>

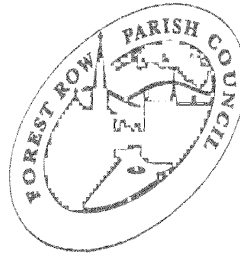
### **A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

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.

It has been a very busy year for all the Committees and my grateful thanks to all Committee chairmen 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 was nowhere for the youth in the short term the Council refurbished the old classroom block in the Community Centre Car Park to create a 'drop-in' facility for the youth and an additional resource for the Parish Council. The Annual Spring Clean took place in March. Our thanks to all those who helped us and to Wealden District Council for providing vehicles and manpower to make the job easier. It is unfortunate that so few residents turned out to help but our thanks to those who did.

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*



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No. 8  
2010

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

The Amenities Committee has, as usual, been ensuring the village looks neat and tidy. Much of the work done by our contractors is day-to-day housekeeping. There will be extra planting this year for the One Village 2010 event. The Parish Council took part in the Tree O'Clock Challenge with new hedging being planted along Foresters Link and the Hartfield Road side of Stonepark Drive.

The Parish Council was fortunate in being able to secure the services of the Community Payback Team during the middle of last year. They did sterling work on a number of Sundays clearing Kennard Path and overgrown parts of the cemetery.

The new allotments are being worked and look to be producing various types of fruit and vegetables. However, we still have 29 people on the waiting list.

Planters are scheduled to be built in front of the parade of shops in Hartfield Road. It is hoped these will be completed shortly.

The committee is constantly monitoring the situation regarding the need for more litter and cigarette bins and dog bins.

### **COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE**

In the past year the Community Centre Committee has given the Community Playgroup sole use of the Hambro Hall to enable them to extend their service to local toddlers. This has been successful and they are now applying for grants to improve their facilities.

Many rooms in the building have been redecorated. Weatherboarding on the Hambro Hall has been replaced. The old classroom block has been refurbished thanks to some grant funding, including a £10,000 Big Lottery Grant. This is now known as the Venu and is used by the youth and other organisations, increasing our letting facilities.

Drains have been improved in the car park to alleviate flooding.

### **BURIALS COMMITTEE**

The cemetery extension is now in use. Deeds of grant are being given for the first section of the ground, nearest the entrance, in order to make mowing and maintenance easier in the remaining section. A small booklet is being produced, to be given to grant holders and supplied to local undertakers, setting out information and the rules about memorials. We hope this will be helpful and that it will also prevent the appearance of non-appropriate and unapproved memorials.

Attention is now focusing on the chapel. Quotations and estimates are being gathered for essential repairs to the stonework and general fabric of the building.

### **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 £270,000 was raised from Wealden District Council for the financial year 2009/10. 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 meets every three weeks. Time was given to the consideration of potential sites for taking additional housing imposed on Wealden by the South East Plan. None of the sites identified met the criteria and it may be that sites may come through other means. The Parish Council continues to press for changes in Wealden District Council's policy on S.106 Developer Contributions to a per property levy that will benefit all communities. Other Councils supported our campaign and it is hoped that the Policy will be realigned to reflect the needs of smaller communities that may not be able to cope with developments over 14 houses.

We have agreed to take part in the trialling of electronic planning consultation whereby we look at plans from Wealden's website rather than paper copies. All planning authorities are going down this route and will dispense with paper plans ultimately.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Public Relations Committee continues to pursue a high profile for the Parish Council through its Newslink, notices, attendances at village events and participation of the Parish Council on outside organisations. The office, and Parish Clerk in particular, work tirelessly to integrate and contribute to community wellbeing.

As well as being delivered to houses in Forest Row, Newslink is being posted to outlying houses within the parish. Email communication is important and the Council is compiling a list of email addresses of those people who have expressed an interest so that Newslink and any other important Parish Council information can be sent by this means.

A new user-friendly Parish Council website was launched in April. This is an exciting new website with a substantial amount of information about the village, Parish Council participation, County and District Council responsibilities with links for Tourist Information, Young People, local organisations and many more.

### **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE**

This new committee has been set up to oversee the work of planning and developing a potential exciting new building for the Community. It is early days yet, and a detailed business plan will be developed to ensure that this is what the community needs, and that it will be viable and sustainable in the future. There is a long way to go, but the community will be fully informed of all progress.

Amenities	Community Centre	Burials	General Purposes & Traffic	Public Relations	Finance	Youth & Comm Centre	Planning (6pm)	Full Council
8 June 14 Sept 1 Feb	29 June 26 Oct 15 Feb	25 May 21 Sept 25 Jan	15 June 2 Nov 22 Feb	6 July 16 Nov 22 March	22 June 28 Sept 14 Dec 8 March	Meetings called as required	1 & 21 June 12 July 2 & 23 Aug 13 Sept 4 & 25 Oct 15 Nov 6 Dec 10 & 31 Jan 21 Feb 14 March 4 & 26 April	20 July 12 Oct 18 Jan 12 Apr

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 12th May 2011 with the Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) on 17th May 2011. 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 2010</b>						
<b>31 Mar 09</b>	<b>Income Summary</b>	<b>31 Mar 10</b>	<b>31 Mar 09</b>	<b>Running Costs (cont)</b>	<b>31 Mar 10</b>	
			.....cont'd			
320,000	Precept Received	270,000	10,420	Cafe	11,782	
5,755	Interest Received	602	1,923	Thursday Club	1,705	
	<b>Operating Income</b>		73,594	General Administration	84,067	
1,411	Allotments	1,390	3,022	Section 137	6,530	
170	Village Greens	220	4,200	Other Grants	1,815	
0	Amenities General	980	1,170	Council Initiatives	565	
53,672	Community Centre	53,999	5,516	Youth Provision	4,116	
0	Community Centre Capital	10,000	4,387	Payments from Reserves	14,506	
9,305	Cafe	8,918	0	Planning	30	
531	Thursday Club	973	34,429	Burials	9,581	
37,626	General Administration	- 7,030	4,261	Public Relations	3,615	
4,811	Burials	6,749				
31	Public Relations					
<b>433,310</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>351,735</b>	<b>328,566</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302,016</b>	
	<b>Running Costs</b>			<b>General Fund Analysis</b>		
2,389	Allotments	3,199		26,311	Balance as at 1 April	130,286
6,856	Village Greens	6,341	<b>433,310</b>	<b>Plus Income for Year</b>	<b>351,735</b>	
2,714	Open Spaces	2,423	<b>459,621</b>		<b>482,021</b>	
10,270	Amenities General	11,912	<b>328,466</b>	Less Expenditure for Year	<b>302,016</b>	
5,183	Bus Shelters	78	131,155		180,005	
10,270	Street Lighting	12,708	<b>769</b>	Transfers to/from Reserves	<b>34,122</b>	
390	Road Safety	819	<b>130,386</b>		<b>145,883</b>	
0	Misc. General Purposes	10				
88,246	Community Centre	81,776				
58,524	Community Centre Capital	44,437				

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
Vivien Hill	822811
Susie Kemp	822784
Brian Killick	810581
Nigel Manger	822711
Rowena Moore	314402
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	Jack Westlake
Community Centre	Katie Del Mar
Finance	Fred Bishop
Planning	Margaret Winton
Burials	Vivien Hill
Public Relations	Susie Kemp
Youth & Community Building	Cheryl Hawkins

### **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
Crowborough	01892 653311

Planning, Works & Services, Leisure

Hailsham 01323 442666

Housing, Finance, Environmental Health

#### Police

Routine or non-emergency matters  
0845 6070 999

### **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The Parish Council resolved to keep the Members' Allowances:

Members Basic Allowance	£360
Chairman's Allowance	£300

### **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	

This Group is very keen that the Council challenges the planned closure of Evelyn Clark House. The One Village 2010 Festival was organised by The CLG under the chairmanship of Mrs Jeanne Dyke. We can all say that it was a resounding success and our thanks go to Jeanne and the whole committee who worked so hard on our behalf.

### **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)