



Forest Row Parish Council

CLLR. DAVID BRETT

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

It has been a busy time for the council since members took their places in May. Details of some of the important new initiatives are given below.

I was delighted to be part of the Forest Row Festival. This gets bigger and better every year, and the wonderful weather brought people out in droves to enjoy the music, drama, dance, literary events, and story telling—and of course the cycle events that started the whole thing off all those years ago. Thanks and congratulations to the organisers and all those taking part in a festival that truly celebrated the incredible array of talent, energy and diversity we have in this village. More on this below.

The Government is considering the detail of the Localism Bill, which it says will devolve many powers to local councils. It is unclear at this stage how many of these proposals will work in practice, and requests for clarification often get a 'wait and see' response. Be assured that the Parish Council will be examining how these new powers, such as the Community Right to Buy, to Build and to Challenge, and Local Referendums, can be used for the benefit of Forest Row and its housing, jobs, services and environment.

And do keep this new-look compact version of NewsLink handy—it has details of many of the services and information provided by the Parish Council. Never know when you might need them!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Well, the Bank has gone. We fought a good fight—had our story told on BBC and ITV regional news, but it would seem that HSBC had made its mind up years ago. Thank you to everyone who signed the petition and those of you who turned up to protest. The Parish Council worked hard on your behalf to try and protect this vital service for the village, but unfortunately, our best efforts bore no fruit.

The new enlarged LIBRARY is now open and as a community thanks should be given to East Sussex County Council for committing resources to Forest Row in these difficult times. It is a wonderful space with more books, more computers and more of everything really.... And open on Saturday mornings! Come in and use it and justify their faith in Forest Row.

The Parish Council has acquired a PLOT OF LAND next to the allotments from Gleeson Group plc at a nominal cost. It has taken a couple of years, but it is gratifying when these things come to fruition and the benefit is for all the residents. It is planned to keep it mowed and available as a kick-about area for all the village for the time being.

The Council will be embarking on producing a 'BUSINESS PLAN' for the next few years. We may well be coming to you for your thoughts, so bear with us if you get any questionnaires from us.

There will be a PROJECT UPDATE EXHIBITION in **THE VENU** on the proposals to build a NEW YOUTH AND COMMUNITY BUILDING on Council-owned amenity land at the rear of Forester's Green. This will be held during the week commencing 7th November on:

<i>Monday 7th Nov</i>	<i>2-4pm.</i>
<i>Wednesday 9th Nov</i>	<i>10-12am & 6-8pm.</i>
<i>Saturday 12th Nov</i>	<i>2-4pm.</i>

The results of the door-to-door consultation that took place in March gave a positive response of 77% of those who responded supporting the proposals. The response rate was 35.8%. This is a good response rate and every household had the opportunity of participating and making their views known. Nothing will be done until fundraising has started and the amount of funds accumulated in this way is known. PLEASE COME ALONG—we have chosen times that should suit nearly everyone.

The Parish Council has resolved to seek funding to see whether the project's objectives can be met without a draw on local taxpayers. There will also be a need for community fundraising and plans will be drawn up for this. If you would like to help with the fundraising and/or have any ideas, please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661.

The MARKET in its current guise will be discontinued after December. The Council wish to re-brand and re-launch a new Market. A working group is looking at this—so look out for further information.

Work to make the little CHAPEL in Priory Road weatherproof after two bad winters has been recently completed. The Parish Council is looking at alternative uses for this property which has not been used for decades, apart from the odd hirer. We have been approached by Barebones Theatre Project about the possibility of converting it into a little theatre. The Council is minded to enter into a lease agreement with the Group and acknowledges some of the concerns of local residents. However any permissions would include some very tight controls and given that the Council is obliged to make the best use of its assets,



Members will give this proposal detailed consideration before a final decision is arrived at.

As you may be aware, the PUBLIC TOILETS in the Station Road Car Park have been closed. Forest Row is part of the Community Toilet Scheme whereby members of the public are able to use toilets in the following locations when they are open:

- Brambletye Hotel
- Chequers Inn Hotel
- The Community Centre
- Lenny's Sandwich Bar

FUN IN THE SUN AT THE FOREST ROW FESTIVAL 2011

The whole village and many of our neighbours basked in a record breaking weekend of hot weather, music, art, dance, drama, film, literature, children's activities and of course all the bike rides and forest walks over the first weekend in October. Group meditations opened and closed the Festival.

This year's Forest Row Festival was our 10th festival and our 11th bike ride, and in both cases, the biggest ever. Over the weekend 300 cyclists and 500 performers descended on the village. Innovations included 10% off for wristband wearers over the festival weekend and expanded facilities for children.

If you were one of our many wonderful performers, please let us know what you thought of this year's Festival, and whether you would be interested in participating next year, by emailing forestrowfestival@gmail.com. Photographs, videos, and information about this year's festival will be on www.forestrowfestival.org very soon.

Send us your best photographs and videos for the website: there will be a prize for the best individual photograph or video taken during the Festival, to be awarded at the December launch for the 2012 Festival.

The hard work of preparation for the 2012 Festival has already begun. We need more helpers: the Festival gets bigger and better every year. If you can help, please email Martin Eastaff, our webmaster (forestrowfestival@gmail.com) or contact Cheryl Hawkins on cheryl@forestrowletting.com.



Photos courtesy of John Bradley



Transition Forest Row will be holding a special Energy Fair on Saturday November 5th. This grassroots initiative has the full backing of Forest Row Parish Council, and our local MP, Charles Hendry, has agreed to open the event and make a keynote presentation.

The aim of the Fair is to highlight the many different ways in which householders can save energy and reduce their outgoings. More than a dozen stalls will demonstrate the latest energy-efficient technologies, and a panel of experts on energy saving and eco building will deliver a programme of talks that will enable ordinary residents to make sense of everything from heat pumps to solar panels, in order to achieve real savings in their energy bills and cut carbon emissions.

Reflecting its theme of *Cut The Cold – Cut The Cost*, the Fair will also be offering people the opportunity to sign up for a free draught-busting workshop so they can do the job themselves and maybe help others too.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

This service is now up and running and thanks to our lovely volunteers, we are able to help people get to their medical appointments.

Just call 01342 822909 between 9.30 and 12.30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday to book your trip. The service is available to residents of Forest Row and Ashurst Wood Parishes to enable them to attend medical/dental appointments.

Charges will be 40p per mile payable to the volunteer driver with a minimum charge of £3.00 for short journeys. An admin charge of £1 will be levied to other journeys to enable the service to pay for itself and not be a burden on the community. Donations would also be welcome in addition to this. If the driver is expected to wait for the passenger for a few hours then the mileage cost will be doubled.

If you could spare a few hours a week to help us then please contact the office: 822661—info@forestrow.gov.uk gwright@forestrow.gov.uk

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

The Parish Council runs the Thursday Club for our older residents. Come along and give it a try. Ring Sue in the Council Office on 822661 for further information. The Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in the Community Centre.

PROGRAMME:

20th October	Tea & Chat
3rd November	Beetle Drive
17th November	Quiz with Vivien
2nd December	Christmas Party
Tuesday 20th December	Christmas Lunch

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Planning Committees	31 Oct
(Mondays at 6.30pm)	21 Nov, 12 Dec 9 & 30 Jan
Property & Services Committee	22 Nov
Full Council Meeting	1 Nov, 6 Dec, 10 Jan
Youth & Community Building Committee	1, Nov, 6 Dec, 10 Jan
Finance & Policy Committee	29 Nov

All meetings of the Council start at 8.00pm, except for the Planning Committee, and are open to the public, with the first 10 minutes available for questions from the public.

Agendas are posted on notice boards around the village and on the Parish Council website, so if you see an item you have an interest in, come to the meeting and have your say.

YOUR COUNCIL YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A VOICE



WE NEED YOU :

If you find that you have a few hours a week to spare then please contact the Parish Council office

Drivers/Administrators— for the Forest Row Community Transport Scheme and also for North Wealden Community Transport.

To help in the Community Cafe

To join the Fundraising Group for the proposed new building—if you have the right skills please get it touch.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE SURGERIES

We have been lucky to be put in touch with a firm of solicitors who are willing to offer free legal advice. This is an incredibly useful service to be able to offer our residents and we hope you think so too.

Please ring the Parish Council office on 01342 822661 to make an appointment to see a solicitor between 2.30 and 4.30pm.

We have the following dates booked so far:

27th Oct, 23rd Nov, 20th Dec, 19th Jan, 16th Feb
We would like to see this become a permanent service so please take advantage of it if you are need of any kind of legal advice in order to ensure its continuance.

INTERNET - CAFE @ 'THE VENU'

Come and surf The Net!

Guidance & Help available
(volunteers always needed)



We are now a registered **UK-Online Centre**
Open on **Tuesday & Thursday** mornings
from **10am to Noon**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY CAROLS, THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Start at 6.30 outside the Co-op, we will then walk to The Memorial Green, and finish at The Swan at around 8.00pm.

Please come dressed for the weather but most importantly **COME**. It is a magical evening and gets everyone in the mood for Christmas.

COMMUNITY CENTRE CAFE

Have you tried our Community Cafe?
Well, if you haven't you are missing out on the pleasure of enjoying home-cooked lunches in a welcoming atmosphere



Soup & Roll—£2.00
Main Course—£4.00
Dessert—£1.50

We now do takeaways

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

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

Tel: 01342 822661
Fax: 01342 825739
Email: info@forestrow.gov.uk
Website: www.forestrow.gov.uk
Clerk: Rodabe Rudin

Your Councillors are:

Anna Bendall:	854313
David Brett:	823044,
Violeta Eastaff:	07731 158343
Ken Farrar:	823252
Keith Foley:	822380
Cheryl Hawkins:	822500
Vivien Hill:	822811
Wendy Jones:	826575
Jenny Josephson:	824422
Tony Lewin:	822479
Rowena Moore:	314402
Alan Potter:	826901
Gwen Pritchitt:	823296
Derrick Retief:	822528
Patrick Shaw:	826657

The Chairman of the Council is: David Brett

Vice Chairman is: Wendy Jones

Committees

Finance & Policy	<u>Chairman</u> Ken Farrar
Property & Services	Vivien Hill
Youth & Community Building Planning	Cheryl Hawkins Alan Potter

Useful Telephone Numbers East Sussex County Council

County Councillor:
Francis Whetstone 01892 770304
Main Switchboard 01273 481000
Highways 0345 6080193

Wealden District Council

District Councillors:
Peter Holloway 01342 824434
Rowena Moore 01342 314402

Crowborough: Planning, Works
& Services, Leisure 01892 653311
Hailsham: Housing, Finance,
Environmental Health 01323 442666

Police:

Routine or non-emergency matters: 0845 6070 999
Forest Row Comm Transport: 01342 822909

Hello from THE VENU

Anybody over 12 who wants to pop in to our after school club (Monday to Friday, 3.30-6.30), just come in! It's free, with internet access, games stations, table tennis, pool, volleyball and a great shop filled with everything you need after school.

We are looking for more bands and performers for our Friday nights music zone, so if you're in a band or you just want to show us what you can do, get in touch by adding your name to the website mailing list or just contact us via facebook (Forest Row Youth Club)

We're having a Halloween party on Friday 28th October and will have a special DJ for the occasion. It'll cost £1 to get in and all over 12's are welcome. From 8-11pm. There'll be a shop filled with refreshments so tell all your friends about it.

Our film afternoons are still on so if you want to see a big screen, eat some popcorn and just relax, we're open from 4pm every Saturday. Look at the website to see what's on.....

HEARING AIDS

Janet and Sue in the office are able to change the tubing on most hearing aids. They have undertaken the necessary training and are now be able to offer not only the batteries but also the basic maintenance service.

POLICE - The new Police office is now located within the Parish Council office. If you need to leave a message or see a PCSO, please call in.

DON'T MISS COMMUNITY MARKET AND CAR BOOT SALE

10.00am - 1.00pm at

Forest Row Community Centre

5 Nov, 3rd Dec.

To Book Telephone (01342) 822661.

Minimum Charge per Table - £3.00.

Refreshments available.

Minimum Charge per Commercial Vehicle £10.00.

HALLS FOR HIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Various sized rooms for hire for meetings, conferences, dance, art. TREATMENT ROOM - Ideal for chiropody, reflexology, massage etc. PRIORY ROAD CHAPEL - Ideal for singing groups, prayer meetings, church groups, naming ceremonies etc.

We will shortly be undertaking some work on the War Memorial—so if you see scaffolding round it—don't worry.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!!!