



HARTFIELD
PARISH
COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

August 2009 Vol. 2 Issue 1



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the summer edition of the Parish Council's newsletter. I am delighted to report that planning permission was granted on the 30th July for nine affordable housing units at the Old Coalyard. It was a unanimous decision at Wealden District Council's Development Control North meeting by the committee members. Uniquely on this occasion every one of the District Councillors attended the site prior to decision making. My thanks to all parishioners who attended the exhibition and supported the application. Town and Country Housing Group who will be building both sets of affordable houses in Hartfield were asked about a timetable and their response was "*Best estimate at present is that Old Crown Farm will start in January 2010 and run for a year, the Old Coal Yard may be earlier subject to grant funding*". It is wonderful to see years of planning coming to fruition and this will also result in improved parking for both the Playschool and the Forest Way. During construction a site manager will be appointed to monitor health and safety with particular regard to the children, parents and staff attending the Playschool in the adjacent building. Plans for the engine shed which currently has planning permission for offices is still under discussion.

Cllr. Mike Burbridge has emigrated to Australia with his family, we wish them well. This has created a vacancy for someone to be co-opted on to the Parish Council – see article below.

I would like to thank Rob and Laura Medhurst and their gardener Hilary King who for many years has kept the flat piece of ground directly around the War Memorial so immaculate. Sadly Hilary has broken her arm so is unable to continue, we all wish her a speedy recovery.

It is the Village Fete on Saturday September 12th which we hope you will be able to support. The Parish Council will have a stall so do come along to introduce yourself and meet some of the Councillors, I look forward to seeing you and hopefully discussing any issues you wish to raise,

John Chalke - Chairman Hartfield Parish Council.

SECURING THE COALYARD FOR THE PARISH

For many years, Parish Councillors have taken an interest in the land adjoining the former Hartfield Station. 2003 was a particularly active year, the Parish Council took on the Trusteeship of the Playschool Building and purchased additional land to extend the playschool garden in time for the 40th Anniversary celebrations. That same year the Parish Council orchestrated a well structured campaign to lobby East Sussex to commit to build a footpath from the village to the playschool which would benefit visitors to both the playschool and Forest Way. Years of previous petitions over the past 30 years had been ignored so this was a major achievement. The path was finally constructed in 2005.

Meanwhile the commercial property company owning the adjacent coalyard had obtained planning consent to convert the former goods shed building to offices. With established use as a coal and builders yard there was concern that the future development of the site might be detrimental to the playschool and the wider community. When the Coalyard was offered for sale in 2005, councillors were unanimous in their view that the Parish Council should purchase the site, with a building that had potential for public or commercial uses and land that could be used to provide affordable housing for the people of Hartfield as well as better parking for the Forest Way and Playschool. Having bought the site in 2006, Wealden put us in contact with Town & Country Housing Group, their preferred Housing Association, to design an affordable housing scheme and to secure planning consent. Their proposals for five 3-bedroomed and four 2-bedroomed houses received widespread support at the public exhibition held in June, to which Wealden gave its approval in July. The purchase of the Coalyard was funded by a long term low interest loan from the Public Works Loan Board.



Architects – Woodward Ambrose Ltd

The sale of just over half the land for affordable housing will enable part of that loan to be repaid and provide funds to upgrade the goods shed and car park areas that will remain in Parish Council ownership.

With the developments at the Coalyard and at Old Crown Farm, Hartfield has been one of the most active parishes in Wealden in securing affordable homes for local families who contribute to the vitality and sustainability of the village.

As Chairman from 2000 to 2006, I must express my appreciation to everyone who has given this scheme their continued support, including the councillors who took the bold decision to go ahead with the purchase - a decision entirely vindicated by this planning approval. I must also thank current councillors, particularly John Chalke as current Chairman and Nancy Holmes, Vice Chairman who has been the prime mover behind the scheme.

Kevin Hawes – Former Chairman Hartfield Parish Council from 2000 – 2006



HEDGES & TREES

With the departure of the last fledging birds **NOW** is the official time for owners to cut back hedges and tree branches which overhang paths and roads causing danger to pedestrians and motorists. East Sussex County Council have the powers to cut back untended hedges and invoice the property owner so please act responsibly and avoid this happening by taking action **NOW** or it could prove very costly.

RIGHTS OF WAY

After five years of leading the Rights of Way Committee, Clair Park stood down in April. Clair has worked tirelessly to keep our Rights of Way open and safe for everyone's enjoyment. She has achieved a great deal during her term of office, including the reopening of Robins Lane and running monthly working parties to keep the paths clear. A huge thank you to Clair for all her energy and dedication, she will continue as Vice Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee and remains in her role as Tree Warden. In June we welcomed Anthony French as a new committee member.



Currently the Rights of Way committee has opposed the proposed footpath diversion at North Clays, is in support of the proposed new footpath to Pooh Bridge, is actively working with the landowner at Lamberts to open the bridleway which gives access to the Forest and continues to lobby against the building of a sand-school over a footpath at Faircote Hall. Hopefully there will be positive news on Lamberts bridleway very soon.

Jo Edwarde - Chair of Rights of Way Committee

THE TOWN CROFT



Once again we are sad to report that the Town Croft was targeted by thieves. The Croft barn doors were vandalised whilst they unsuccessfully searched for alcohol and/or valuables neither of which are ever kept there. A subsequent raid on the pavilion resulted in the theft of the Cricket Club's store of alcohol left over from summer

events on the Croft. It also resulted in damage to the newly refurbished changing room fire door so following advice from the police strict instructions have been issued by the Parish Council that in future **NO ALCOHOL, VALUABLES OR CASH WILL BE PERMITTED TO BE STORED IN ANY OF THE CROFT BUILDINGS**. How sad for a small rural village that it is believed that those with local knowledge played a part. Security measures are now being investigated. The Sports Clubs were delighted with the refurbished changing rooms and we will be moving on to the next stages of refurbishment, which will include the kitchen and disabled lavatory as funds allow. It is very disappointing to see the amount of rubbish bottles and cans dumped on the Croft on a daily basis which shows a lack of care and consideration and anger is expressed by many parishioners at the constant petty vandalism and recent thefts that are so costly to repair which makes a huge dent in our precious budget.

Nancy Holmes, Chairman Town Croft Committee.



HARTFIELD HEALTH CENTRE – The new flagship health centre, started in February, is on target to complete by October, after which there will be a short changeover period to allow for the removal of the portakabin and creation of the new car park and landscaping in its place. The roles of Hartfield and Groombridge will then reverse with Hartfield becoming the main surgery with longer opening hours and Groombridge the satellite. Keep in touch with the activities of the Practice led by Dr. Andrew Wolfle and Dr. Matt James and Practice Manager, John Wilkin, on their website www.groombridgeandhartfieldmedicalgroup.co.uk 01892 863326

FUN RUN - 2010



Get training!! - It's back, by popular request Town Croft Sunday 18 April 2010.
Juniors 2k (1.2 miles) starts 10.30 am.
Seniors 10k (6 miles) starts 11.00 am.
Walkers from 11.15 am

All proceeds to the Hartfield Sports Pavilion Renovation Fund.

Further details will be in the December Newsletter or phone Jo Edwarde on 01892 770201

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Due to the emigration of Mike Burbridge and his family to Australia, a vacancy has on the Parish Council. If you are keen to be considered to fill the vacancy, please contact our Parish Clerk Debbie Little who will confirm if you meet the criteria for election. This is a responsible, interesting job which requires a good degree of commitment and the ability to attend monthly meetings starting at 7.30 pm in the evening as well as other committee meetings held at regular intervals. You should be willing to undertake training courses and occasionally attend conferences and other District and County meetings arranged from time to time. If you feel passionate about Hartfield, keen to share your skills and be of service to the community, then this is the job for you. Parish Councillors, as opposed to District and County Councillors are unpaid and at present receive no allowances. Deadline for applications is 18th September and interviews will take place during the week commencing 21st September with a view to joining the Parish Council in October. For more details please ring, Debbie 01342 834409.



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PLAYSCHOOL TRUSTEES

In July the Parish Council accepted a draft Trust Deed which formalises the arrangement between the Playschool and the Parish Council. The Playschool will now amend their constitution to take account of the Trust Deed. The paperwork then goes to the Charity Commission for approval. When all this is completed and signing has taken place the Playschool will enjoy security of tenure and have increased freedom to manage the Playschool building. The Parish Council will remain Custodian Trustees to ensure the building is always used for the welfare of the children of the Parish.

HARTFIELD TENNIS CLUB are looking for new team players to play occasional Saturday

Morning matches in the Men's Doubles League. Any new club members, Family, Senior, Intermediate and Junior will be given a warm welcome. Fees are most reasonable. Come and make use of this wonderful facility in the heart of the village.

Please telephone Richard Hodge 01892 531815



HARTFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB Football Season training has begun held each Wednesday on the Town Croft. First Home match is September 26th

New members always welcome 'phone Lee Farren 01342 325410



1st Hartfield Scout Group

Beavers are still full to bursting, with the section probably needing to start a waiting list - a first in the Groups History! **Cubs** are also going from strength to strength. Winning the District Backwoods cooking competition was probably last terms high point, entering two teams they grabbed both first and second places!

The Scouts - Also had success in winning the 'The Constructors Trophy' at the District Soapbox Derby for the best Soapbox (Go-Kart). Sadly the group announced at the June AGM that it would have to close due to lack of adult support, however it looks as though, after a bit of emotional blackmail, the Scout Troop could be up and running again come the new term in September. Although the Troop has just enough adults to run, another one or two, even on a job share/rota basis would really be fantastic. Any volunteers should contact Neil Postlethwaite on 01892 770743 or by e-mail at info@1sthartfield.co.uk

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Wanted - wooden pallets to make composting bays this autumn. Please phone Jo Edwarde on 01892 770201 if you have any to spare

GUIDES



The Guides run by Denise Goldsmith have made their new home in the Youth Hut and at present enjoy meeting there regularly on Thursday evenings. Hopefully other groups will follow. They are raising funds to enable them to celebrate 100 years of Guiding. They invite you to join in JUMBLE MANIA on 26th September 10am – 12pm in the Hartfield Village Hall.

They are looking for many items to sell, bric-a-brac – Men and Women's wear, Toys and Books, Handbags, Accessories, Pre loved goods etc.

Jumble can be accepted on the 25th September at the Hall 6pm – 8pm. Contact Denise Goldsmith 01892 665389

YOUTH FACILITIES

The Parish Plan and other questionnaires that have been circulated recently by community associations, indicate that there is a growing enthusiasm for making more use of the Youth Hut building on the Croft which had closed its doors following the disbanding of the youth club through lack of helpers. With the guides using the Youth Hut regularly and the possibility of new leaders coming forward the future may be rosier. Increased use means that more income will be generated to plough back into facilities. With the cooperation of PCSO Julie Perrin we will be exploring some of these new ideas in the near future for instance a Youth Council she says works well in some villages. Our youngsters are much luckier than many who live in adjacent rural villages because Hartfield has a playground for the young ones, the Town Croft open space for informal games, many organised sports such as cricket, football, stool ball and good tennis courts all in the heart of the village. The Forest Way is on our door step for cycling, exploring and running, dog walking which is already extremely popular. Other youth leaders do a tremendous job running Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Beavers and hopefully Scouts again soon but we understand some young people prefer less formal activities such as the old youth club provided. We remain aware of the needs of youngsters in the more isolated outlying areas of the parish such as Chuck Hatch, Colemans hatch, Holtye and Upper Hartfield. Anybody with an interest in youth work or teenagers keen to become involved in new ventures should contact the Parish Council.



Your Parish Council

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EAST SUSSEX COUNTY CLLR.	CLLR. FRANCIS WHETSTONE	01892 770304	franciswhetstone@eastsussex.gov.uk

Other useful numbers

Wealden District Council 01892 653311
Local Police Community Support Officer

East Sussex County Council 01273 481000
Julie Perrin 0845 6070999 – Ext. 27943
email Julie.perrin@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Emergencies 999 or 112

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