

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND MISC. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**Miscellaneous Correspondence & Information Received**

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to members 23/11/23, 30/11/23, 7/12/23, 14/12/23, 21/12/23, 11/1/24, 18/1/24
- **Sussex Police – letter re security of elected members** – forwarded to member 30/11/23
- **RDC Members Bulletin – November 2023** – forwarded to members 30/11/23
- **County Councillor's reports**– December and January reports forwarded to Members 16/1/24
- **Notification of BACT AGM on 25th January 2024** – forwarded to members 16/1/24
- **Open Letter from Chair of Ralc** – sent to members 18/1/24

Station Road Resurfacing

E.S Highways has confirmed that the works are still listed for the next financial year Spring/Summer 2024 (no specific dates allocated yet).

Rother Rural Business Grants Programme

Has been launched for local businesses. Grants up to 50% of the cost of capital projects from £2,500 and up to £50,000 under the new Rother and Wealden Rural Business Grants Programme. Capital projects could include farm diversification projects (outside of agriculture), commercial property adaptations, creation and expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses, new equipment, machinery or commercial vehicles. The programme is funded by the UK Government as part of the [Rural England Prosperity Fund](#) through allocations received by Rother District Council. It is delivered in partnership with Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council. Find out more: [Rural Business Grants Programme | East Sussex County Council](#)

Street Lighting

The column/lamp outside the Parish Office was replaced in December and will be painted in the Spring. This means the only remaining light to be upgraded to LED is the one on the High Street opposite Belle Flowers; there has been a delay in production but the supplier has advised that delivery is expected in the next few weeks. The temporary Christmas festoon of lights put up in Station Road for Christmas Capers (contracted by REG) created a heavy load which has blown the transformers on the tree lights, so we need to replace the two transformers. We have also been asked by ESCC to remove the lights to enable pruning works to the tree, so the repairs can be done before replacing the lights.

D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024

We are waiting for Hurst Green Parish Council to confirm the arrangements for lighting The Stage beacon. Cllrs Bishop and Dulley will update the meeting on plans for Robertsbridge. ESALC have asked us to promote a Pin Badge produced for D Day 80. Details here <https://www.empiremedals.com/>

Recreation Ground

Repairs and refurbishment of the playgrounds within the Recreation Ground are now complete.

Annual Village Tidy Day – Sunday 3rd March 2024 - planning /preparations are underway by the Assistant Clerk. The Scouts will be helping again. Cllr Prochak is not available and Anne Wells has decided to take well-earned retirement from the event, so additional help will be needed. We are very grateful to both Sue and Anne for their hard work over many years. RDC will provide bags and gloves and further litter pickers and their contractor will collect the rubbish bags after the event. They require a copy of the risk assessment for the event, which is in progress. Sarah Massini will do the posters again this year. Darvell have been asked to provide cookies again 😊.

Closure of Robertsbridge Recycling Point

Further to removal of the recycling point in the Station car park by Rother District Council, the two Salvation Army bins for clothes and shoes have also now also been removed.

ESCC Long Term Transport Plan 4

ESCC must produce a long-term transport plan for their area on a regular basis. A draft ESCC report has now gone to public consultation and can be seen at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/draftltp4>

Rother PSPO Dog Control Order

The updated Rother dog control order came into force on 14th January 2024. As agreed by Members the order states that dogs must be kept on a lead throughout The Clappers Recreation Ground (as before).

Public Consultation on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Response to the Inspector's Initial Findings Letter on the Examination of the New Local Plan

This runs from 15th January to 26th February 2024. See:
<https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan>

A21 at Johns Cross

Mountfield Parish Council is lobbying for the proposed increase of speed limit through Johns Cross to be overruled, and has requested our support. An online campaign can be found here
<https://chng.it/CcVPvqWt7W>

Village Steward

Gavin is working his hours on weekdays and weekends. (see Village Steward report for details of work completed). His work has been positively received by the local community and the FWG recommend that his working hours be increased from 12 to 16 hours per week.

Salehurst Cemetery

Activity - since the last meeting (20th November 2023) - there have been two ashes interments, and arrangements are in progress for two more. There has been one burial (re-open). one application has been received/approved for a new memorial and one new memorial has been fitted.

Members Training / Briefings / Conferences

Keeping up to date is an important aspect of being a Member and the organised courses are a valuable way of keeping up with current issues and changes, as well as meeting other Members and hearing different views and news.

ESALC can commission courses for a new Members or chairmanship training, or bespoke for a whole council, via Trevor Leggo, who will discuss specific needs and deliver the session. The dates for general briefing/training sessions (open to all/any parish) can be found on the ESALC website at [ESALC](#).

ESALC have announced Breakthrough Communications are working with them to provide a new programme of communications and compliance-focused training courses for parish and town councils across East Sussex. The details can be found here <https://breakthroughcomms.co.uk/calc-training-events/>

If you are interested in any training, please let us know, so we can book you in. It is important that new Councillors take up training and that *all Members* periodically attend update sessions.

Events attended:

Rother Winter readiness event Robertsbridge 21st November – Karen and Gill

RALC Annual Parish Conference 5th December - Gill

RDC Planning online training 12th December 5.30pm - Gill and David

RDC Planning Forum 11th January - Sean

Training/events booked:

Climate Literacy Training by Community Energy South - David

Karen

Gill

Karen Ripley
Parish Clerk

Gill Colquhoun
Assistant Clerk