

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

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to members 21/3/24, 28/3/24, 4/4/24, 18/4/24, 25/4/24, 2/5/24. 9/5/24
- **County Councillor's reports** –May report forwarded to Members 30/4/24, April report forwarded 9/5/24.
- **Draft Rother Local Plan 2020-2040 – Public Consultation – 30th April 2024 to 23rd July 2024**– email forwarded to Members 2/5/24.
- **RDC Members Bulletin – March & April 2024** – forwarded to members 8/4/24 and 30/4/24.
- **Meet Your MP email** – forwarded to members 16/4/24.
- **Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity** – thank you letter 11/4/24 for donation of £250.
- **St Michael's Hospice**- thank you letter 21/3/24 for donation of £250.

Station Road Resurfacing

We have informed residents that the resurfacing is scheduled for July / August 2024 (School summer holidays, after the A21 Safety Works are completed) and will be at deeper levels where required. The area to be resurfaced is the whole of Station Road and Brightling Road from the level crossing to the entrance to the Darvel Community. Nick and Cllr Paul Redstone have informed residents. Whilst we wait for resurfacing, we have been told that three areas of Brightling Road will be patched.

Street Lighting

One of our streetlights columns in Rotherview was hit by a vehicle late in the evening of 18th April. As a result and force of the impact, the lamp fell off and damaged a third-party vehicle parked in an adjacent private drive. The driver did not stop, and has not reported the damage. We have notified our insurance company and reported the matter to the police, who are investigating some lines of enquiry, but it is slow progress unfortunately. The lighting engineer came out promptly the following day to make the column safe. We later retrieved the lamp and it was repaired and replaced within a few days. The damage to the column has also been repaired.

We also received a complaint about a streetlight causing light nuisance into a property in Knelle Road. This was investigated and the engineer was able to adjust the angle slightly, to the householders' satisfaction.

Daffodil bank on High Street

Whilst we have been cutting the grass on the bank since the daffodils were planted for the Millenium, ESCC – who own the bank / pavement – now require us to formalise this with a licence. We have been sent the licence to sign, and are in the process of obtaining the paperwork that ESCC require from our contractor. The agreement with East Sussex CC for the PC to take on the grass cutting was to ensure that it was not cut too early in the season, to allow the daffodils to continue to flourish.

RBS 10K Run and boot fairs

RBS annual 10K run will take place on Friday 21st June, starting and finishing at the Recreation Ground, as in previous years. The junior race starts at 7pm and the 5K and 10K runs start at 7.30pm. RBS is looking for marshals to help on the night if anyone would like to be involved.

Four boot fairs have been booked for the Recreation Ground on 19th May; 9th June 21st July and 18th August.

Ash trees in Station Road car park

As previously agreed, one (dying) tree has been felled and another tidied and dead wood and some of the ivy removed. It was inspected at the same time, to ensure the tree was sound.

Coronation Community Orchard Grants Scheme

Applications are invited from organisations for grants of £500 to £5,000 to cover costs of planting at least 5 fruit or nut trees. Successful applicants will receive 75% of grant awards up front, and the final 25% to be claimed once the orchard has been planted, which must be no later than 1st March 2025. Further details here <https://www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/coronation-community-orchard-grants-scheme/> Would anyone like to pursue this further for any of our land – perhaps a small area could be found in Bishops Meadow?

A21 at Silverhill

Residents have voiced concern about National Highways' decision to increase the speed limit on Silverhill from 40mph to 50mph. We have been liaising with National Highways. Huw Merriman has also been contacted and has offered to broker a meeting with National Highways if it would be helpful. It was agreed to see how the 'Meet your MP' event goes next week to perhaps gauge the level of concern.

Clappers Height Barrier

As agreed at the last meeting a replacement car height barrier has been made and fitted by Ripley's Forge. It is safer and easier to operate than the old barrier.

D Day 80 – 6th June 2024

Hurst Green Parish Council has confirmed that a vintage rally, food stalls, fireworks and beacon lighting will take place at the Stage Field 7-10pm on D Day (6th June). This is our local beacon, and we have advertised the event to parishioners. Please could Members let us know if they are able to attend to represent the Parish Council.

The Summer Event group is progressing work with Robertsbridge Bonfire Society to produce a summer event on Saturday 22nd June with a D Day theme (Ria Paine, Bonfire Chair, has been invited to update Members at the PCM on Monday 20th May).

Knelle Road / Langham Road Match Fund Works

We were advised in March 24 that ESCC were satisfied with BBLP scope of works, with expected construction date early 2025 and a Road Safety Audit expected shortly. BBLP (contractor) is providing monthly updates to Stakeholder and Engagement Officer, ESCC who will keep us

updated. In May 24 we received a further update apologising for the delay and telling us that ESCC is investigating the high cost proposed by contractors, but it was confirmed that the Parish Council contribution will be capped at the original sum of £5,000.

Village Steward

Gavin has decorated both sets of toilets (Recreation Ground and Station Road). As part of his contracted hours he has also been unlocking the Station Road toilets every day since 1st April, when the Rother cleaning contract ended. (A private contractor is cleaning and locking these toilets, on a trial basis). Sadly the Recreation Ground toilets suffered some minor vandalism after he had refurbished them but luckily it was low level, mainly mess and inconvenience, which we were able to deal with quickly. It was, nevertheless, reported to the police, so that any patterns are noted, and to encourage occasional police patrols.

Meet your MP

Huw Merriman MP is holding a 'Meet Your MP' event at Robertsbridge Village Hall 12-1.30pm on Friday 24th May. He has invited Parish Councillors to also attend, a couple of Councillors have confirmed, more would be welcome. We will be providing tea / coffee for anyone attending.

CPRE Sussex Survey on sewage spills and Development pressures

We have been invited to take part in this survey, which hopes to gain a powerful picture of the experience on the ground of sewage spill, over-capacity water treatment works, and inadequate infrastructure investment. Sean is collating local information to respond on behalf of the PC.

Salehurst Cemetery

Activity - since the last meeting (18th March 2024) - there has been one ashes interment, and arrangements are in progress for two more. There have been two purchases of Exclusive Rights and two more pending. Five applications have been received/approved for new memorials and one new memorials have 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:

ESALC The Future Shape of the Planning System 14th March– Karen and Gill

Crisis Communications 20th March - Karen

New Councillor training 3rd April – Kirsty

RALC Meeting 10th April – Karen and David

Rural Parish Conference (MP) 19th April - Roger

ESALC Clerks Forum 23rd April - Karen

NALC Emerging Trends in Local Government Finance 24th April – Karen

Training/events booked:

ESALC Introduction to Planning 16th May - Natalie

Karen

Gill

Karen Ripley
Parish Clerk

Gill Colquhoun
Assistant Clerk