

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND MISC. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Miscellaneous Correspondence & Information Received

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to Members 22/8/24, 29/8/24.5/12/24,12/9/24 (please ask if you wish to see earlier bulletins from July/August).
- **High Weald Walking Festival promotional email** – email forwarded to Members 29/8/24.
- **ES Highways updates on summer road resurfacing in village** – information forwarded to Members on ongoing basis.
- **ESALC training dates** – email forwarded to Members 29/8
- **Date of finance training** – emails forwarded. Date rescheduled to 21st October.
- **County Councillor's reports** – September report forwarded to Members 12/9/24 (no August report produced)

Summer Event 2024

The Summer Event went ahead on Saturday 20th July (postponed from Saturday 22nd June due to poor weather), led by Robertsbridge Bonfire Society with Cllrs Fran Dulley and Natalie Bishop. Numbers attending were lower than hoped, but it was nevertheless a very pleasant event and those who attended had a good afternoon. The Summer Event for 2024 will be Robertsbridge 800 led by Councillor Longhurst (see meeting agenda).

Station Road Resurfacing

The works are well underway as we write this; the whole stretch of Station Road and Brightling Road from the High Street to Bishops Lane junction, should be resurfaced by mid-September. Various issues caused delays, including a burst water pipe on Station Road close to High Street which delayed supply of tarmac and a gas pipe leak near the village hall. The contractor reported some public tampering with traffic management! Water ingress (since the resurfacing) into properties at Western Villas in Station Road during heavy rain has been very concerning for residents. The contractor has responded well; the results of testing are awaited, to find a solution.

We, and the doctors surgery, asked for a dropped kerb to be installed opposite the doctors surgery at the same time as the resurfacing. When the surface was off, they put temporary ramps down from the pavement, which made it possible for disabled and baby buggy to cross the road, which it isn't normally! Unfortunately, it wasn't approved in time, but we have now been advised that a dropped kerb will be installed in October.

New Street Furniture



Two finger posts have recently been refurbished, one on the High Street and one on Brightling Road (Ludpit Lane). They were returned on 14th August, looking very smart.



We have replaced the defibrillator box on Brightling Road, which was broken and leaking, and the defib at the Halt has a new battery and pads.

We have also replaced the rubbish bin in the Recreation Ground car park (the doors had disappeared) and one in Station Road car park, near the toilets (that had completely disappeared!). Both new ones are composite material, so not attractive to scrap metal thieves!!



Knelle Road / Langham Road junction Match Fund Scheme

Some progress appears to have been made. We have been advised that the cost of the works has increased substantially, but ESCC has capped the PC contribution to the originally agreed £5,000. Designers have started on the scheme but have found that there is insufficient space for tactile paving at the four corners of Knelle Rd/Langham Rd intersection. We have agreed that the scheme progress with the dropped kerbs without tactile paving.

RBS Boot Fairs

The fourth and final in the series of fundraising boot fairs took place on Sunday 18th August at the Recreation Ground.

Flood Barrier demountable gate Exercise

The Environment Agency will be carrying out the next barrier deployment exercise on **Tuesday 29th October 2024 from 9:30**. As usual, they will be using traffic management, starting from Staton Road and working their way round to Northbridge Street.

New Doctor's Surgery

The planning application has been approved; the surgery is hopeful that the funding shortfall will be resolved and building commence next year.

RVR Footpath at Gray Nicolls, under RVR bridge

We were informed on 10th August that there had been vandalism to the railing by the stream; RVR responded quickly and have repaired it.

RDC Consultations

See agenda for current consultation on RDC Council Plan. Other scheduled consultations for later this year are:

- Public Space Protection Order on Anti-Social Behaviour, from 11 October to 29 November, on the draft order created after the current research phase.
- Council's budget for 2025, starting on 4 November and ending on 6 January.
- Housing Development Strategy starting on 8 November and ending on 10 January.

RDC Members' Bulletin

RDC is considering whether to continue producing its monthly Members' bulletin. For those who read this publication what effect would this proposal have on you and which areas do you find most useful / helpful would you like it to be continued in some way? Please send any comments to the Parish Office so we can collate a Parish response.

East Sussex Coronavirus Updates

These have been ended. Individuals are encouraged to sign up for East Sussex Together newsletters here [East Sussex County Council - Sign up for the East Sussex Together Newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)

Loss of village water supplies 1st week of August

Communication by South East Water has not improved despite assurances from SE Water to Cllr Redstone. We had to contact our MP's office to get something done on this occasion; a water station was subsequently set up, but it was really too late.

Village Steward

Gavin has been busy working on varied maintenance issues over the Summer (see separate report), including painting the railings in the High Street, which look much better.

Salehurst Cemetery

Activity - since the last meeting (15th July 2024) - there have been two double ashes interments, and two full burials. There have been three purchases of Exclusive Rights and one more pending. One application has been received/approved for a new memorial and four memorials have been fitted. Major clearance of the overgrowth around the edges of the Cemetery has taken place, and treatment of moles is underway.

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.

ESALC has 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:

RDC Local Plan Exhibition 12th July – Karen, David, Nick, Simon, Sean

Summer Event 20th July – Karen, Fran, Gill, Simon

Robertsbridge 800 meeting 6th August – Simon, Fran, Karen

Clerks Forum 6th August - Karen

Upcoming Training/events:

Finance Planning, Reporting & Budgeting, 21st October 2024, 6.30-8.30pm via Zoom.

Planning Training - Latest Issues in Planning, 25th September 6.30-9pm, Zoom

Karen

Karen Ripley
Parish Clerk

Gill

Gill Colquhoun
Assistant Clerk