

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

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to Members 19/9/24, 26/9/24, 3/10/24, 17/10/24, 24/10/24, 31/10/24, 7/11/24
- **Invitation to Group Scout celebrations** – forwarded to Members 1/10/24.
- **NALC new website** – email forwarded to Members 10/10/24.
- **Ludpit Lane works** - email forwarded to Members 15/10/24.
- **Salehurst Christmas tree festival** – emails forwarded to Members 15/10/24 and 24/10/24.
- **Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Order (ASB)** – forwarded to Members 21/10/24.
- **Call for sites for nature** – information forwarded to Members 22/10/24.
- **Sussex Police thefts** – Police update forwarded to Members 23/10/24.
- **County Councillor's reports** – October report forwarded to Members 24/10/24, November report forwarded 29/10/24.

Events

Robertsbridge Remembrance 2024 – Sunday 10th November, Remembrance Sunday Parade, Church Service and Wreath Laying at Memorial. And Monday 11th November 2024, Armistice Day Wreath Laying at Memorial. Both events went well and were well attended by the community. The Parish Council paid Sun Belt for the second year to do the traffic management on Sunday associated with the road closures and traffic lights to enable the parade to cross the A21. The cost was £500 (a rise of £100 on last year, but still a discounted price for Remembrance). The Clerk and Cllr Todd managed the smaller road closure for the Monday Armistice ceremony.

Robertsbridge Bonfire 16th November 2024 - This year for road sweeping, Biffa quoted almost double the price for last year. As a result the decision was made to employ another company who had successfully swept after Battle and Heathfield bonfire processions.

Robertsbridge Christmas Capers 6th December 2024 - this year's event is being led by Nicola Moat and Pam Golding, with other volunteers, still under the umbrella of Robertsbridge Enterprise Group (REG). The road closure is in place from 17:00 – 21:00. REG is also doing the Christmas Trees and lights on properties again this year; it will be the last year that Stephen Hardy will be leading but he intends to have someone else to take over (REG) for next year.

Flood Alleviation Scheme (flood defences)

The Flood Awareness Day, in partnership with the EA, will now be held on Saturday 17th May 2025. The EA has carried out a flood barrier deployment exercise on Tuesday 29th October 2024 from 9:30 am. They installed each of the flood gates at Station Road, The Clappers, the Forge and Northbridge Street near the old mill site.

Robertsbridge 800 21st June 2025 - Cllr Simon Longhurst continues to lead on this; sponsorship is in the process of being obtained from local companies to fund the event. Cllr Longhurst will update Members at the PCM.

Staff salary increases

The National Joint Council (statutory) pay award for 24/25 was finally agreed, with a blanket increase of £1,290 per annum across all pay scales. The new scales were implemented in October, with the increase backdated to April 2024. The FWG reviewed all scales and calculations prior to payment.

Station Road Resurfacing

Resurfacing was completed in September, with a second resurface on the stretch from the High Street to Bakery Place to address the issue of water ingress at properties at Western Villas during heavy rain. Thankfully, this has rectified the issue, with no further water ingress. We requested a debrief meeting on 7th November with East Sussex Highways to address outstanding issues to include lining works and the dropped kerb opposite the Doctor's surgery. This had to be postponed as the project manager was on annual leave, we await a new date. However, the new lining has now been completed.

Meetings with Kieran Mullan MP

The Chairman has met with our MP to discuss the A21 / George Hill junction, and he met with the Clerk, Cllr Redstone and representatives from Balfour Beatty and Roadways (contractors) to discuss water ingress on Station Road. Further meetings have been arranged by the MP's office on 6th December with South East Water to discuss SEW response to the loss of water in local villages including Robertsbridge in August, and National Highways to discuss the A21 Safety Package and A21 / George Hill junction.

Knelle Road / Langham Road junction Match Fund Scheme

We have been advised that the works which the Parish Council instigated to improve this junction will likely take place in February Half term over several days to include dropped kerbs, yellow lines and resurfacing at the junction. The cost to the Parish Council has been capped at the originally agreed £5000, although the total cost of the scheme is now expected to be £26,000.

Invitation to Twinning Event at St Brice Courcelle

As no Councillors were available to attend the event, the Parish Council is not being represented and has sent apologies to the Mayor of St Brice Courcelle.

Water cylinders at pavilion

The pavilion has two hot water cylinders, serving the two sets of showers and the kitchen. One was replaced in 2015 but the older one recently stopped working. It was found to be no longer serviceable, so has been replaced (£1,150 + vat). The engineer has advised that it could later be configured to accept an electric solar panel feed (not a solar thermal panel heater) if required.

Heathfield Place: development site

A public consultation showing the draft proposal for the development site at Heathfield Gardens Neighbourhood Plan was held on 17th and 18th October. Several Members attended and it was well attended by local residents. We now await a planning application.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Parish Council has agreed to enter a tree for St Mary's Church Christmas tree festival which will be set up on 12th and a preview event on 13th December; the trees will remain on display the following week. We will use it as an opportunity to promote our Councillor vacancies.

Repair Café

Prior to his resignation, Cllr Palamarczuk circulated a report from the Repair Café to Members, showing detail of types of volunteers, and an upcycling workshop for teenagers. Dates for 2025 have been provided.

The A21 Trunk Road (Scotney Castle to Baldslow) (50 miles per hour, 40 miles per hour, and 30 miles per hour Speed Limits) Order 2024

National Highways have lodged copies of the 2024 draft order and made order no 2024 no 1109 with the Parish Office for public inspection (relating to changes in speed limits along A21). The made order is available for public inspection until 29 November 2024.

Village Steward

Gavin has been busy working on a number of jobs, including painting the metal benches, hand rails and front door to the Parish Office, checking the grit bins, fitting a new defibrillator cabinet in the High Street (Senlac Vets), clearing and sweeping paths and drains, cleaning bus stops and noticeboards, opening Station Road toilets. He rebuilt the small drain by the War Memorial which had collapsed and was causing the pavement to flood.

Salehurst Cemetery

Activity – relatively quiet (administratively!) since the last meeting (16 September 2024) - there haven't been any interments. There has been one purchase of Exclusive Rights and one more enquiry which has now been confirmed. One application has been received/approved for a new memorial. Several installation of headstones are pending.

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/briefing sessions.***

Events attended:

ESALC Planning Update 25th September – Gill

Met with Balfour Beatty and MP at Western Villas 27th September- Karen

RALC Meeting 9th October – Karen

Presentation on launch of rooftop solar research in Sussex and Hampshire 10th March-David

SLR Pre meeting call with Highways – 10th October – David, Karen, Gill

Scout Group Celebrations 11th October - Simon

Heathfield Place Development Exhibition 17th/18th October – Karen, Gill, David, Simon, Sean

Clerks Forum (Online) 22nd October – Karen

Teams call with project manager for Knelle Road project 22nd October – Karen, Gill, Sean

ESALC AGM 4th November – Roger

SLR 7th November – Gill, Karen, David

Councillor Training 7th November - Simon

Remembrance Day Parade etc. 10th November – Chairman represented Council in the parade, Church and wreath laying. Karen assisted with road closures.

Armistice Day 11th November – Chairman laid wreath. David and Karen did road closure.

Rother Parish Conference 11th November – Gill

Upcoming Training/events:

Budget / Precept 28th November - Karen

Christmas Capers 6th December

Karen

Karen Ripley

Parish Clerk

Gill

Gill Colquhoun

Assistant Clerk