

Weekly RPC Clerk's Update: 18-31 December 2018

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- Velo South meeting with L Goldsmith, Leader of WSCC for 7th January has been cancelled since Mrs Goldsmith wished to meet with councillors only. The Council felt this to be inappropriate as it is in contradiction to their transparency policy of meetings being open to the general public. All other councils initially invited, have been informed.
- Lloyds Bank has been in contact with reference to paperwork lost by them.
- Waverley BC (WC/18/1966) and Horsham DC (DC/18/2702) Planning Departments have been contacted requesting an extension for submission of comments date so both these applications can be on January Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting Agenda.

E-MAILS/COMMUNICATION

18.12.2018 E-mail from WSCC – Rights of Way

"Dear Parish/Town Clerk,

Please can you make your Councillors aware of the information below?

Rights of Way Routine Inspection and Maintenance Schedule

The new [Public Rights of Way maintenance schedule](#) is now on our website. This shows when WSCC's routine maintenance contractor will be visiting your parish to carry out priority works to Public Rights of Way (PRoW). This is work for which WSCC is responsible, including signage, small bridges, steps and surface vegetation clearance (not covered by our Summer Clearance Programme). The work required is identified during the routine inspections, which take place every 15 months and precede the visit by the maintenance contractor. You will be notified by email when the inspections are due.

Areas are changing slightly from 1 January 2019. Katrina Harper, Area 2 Access Ranger, is reducing her hours (she will still be working Monday to Wednesday) and Kevin Dewitt, Area 4, will be increasing his hours (to work full time, Monday to Friday), so your Access Ranger may change. I have attached a map showing the new areas. Please do not give the Access Rangers contact details out to the public – please use prow@westsussex.gov.uk or 03302 226691.

Landowners also have responsibilities towards PRoW, including for stiles or gates and for ensuring paths are clear of side or overhead vegetation. All issues identified during inspections are prioritised and landowners are contacted for high priority issues for which they are responsible.

The above work is supported by our Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance Programme, Annual Surfacing and Major Bridge Programmes, as well as tasks carried out by our fantastic Volunteer Team. A summary of the PRoW work carried out by WSCC in your parish during 2018 will be sent to you in February next year.

West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028

Thank you to all who responded to the West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028 consultation last year. All comments were reviewed and considered. The final [Plan](#) has been published and is available on the WSCC website. If you would like a hard copy please contact me.

Best wishes and a merry Christmas
Jane



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Jane Noble

Senior Access Officer
Rights of Way - Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

19.12.2018 e-mail from WSCC – Budget survey

“Dear Town/parish Council,

Local authorities across the country face unprecedented financial pressures and West Sussex County Council is no exception.

The amount of money we receive from central government to fund services has fallen dramatically over the last eight years.

This means we face some stark choices over the next four years, as we tackle a funding gap of £145 million - before we take into account money raised in council tax.

As a result, we need to find innovative ways to generate income and protect as many of our services as possible but the reality is that we simply can't carry doing all the things we have done, in the same way.

It is important you are kept informed of what is happening, and we are open and honest about what we have to do.

Please complete this survey to tell us how much you know about our budget challenge. This will help us to provide you with relevant updates in the future.

You have until Sunday 30 December to give us your thoughts.

It should take no-longer than five minutes to complete and if you are interested in finding out more, please don't forget to sign up for updates at the end of the survey.

kindest regards,
Helen Butcher
Consultation and Engagement Officer
Corporate Communications and Engagement Team”

NB THIS CONSULTATION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 13 JANUARY 2019.

19.12.2018 E-mail from Action in Rural Sussex – Village Hall week 2019

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Sussex Community Buildings Advisory Committee Bulletin
22nd – 28th January 2019
Get ready to celebrate!

Following the first successful Village Halls Week in 2018, the [ACRE Network](#) will be running another **#VillageHallsWeek** in 2019.

The week-long campaign celebrates the diverse network of 10,000 community buildings at the heart of England’s rural communities and the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep them open for all.

The theme of the event is **Social Isolation and Loneliness** and the role that Village Halls and Community Buildings play in helping to combat this issue.

[Action in rural Sussex](#) will be getting behind this campaign, urging our Village Halls in Sussex to celebrate the work they do, whilst using this as an opportunity to thank all the volunteers that help make their building a success.

There is a dedicated Twitter handle **@VillageHalls_Wk** which will be used as the central point for social media activity and **#VillageHallsWeek** will be used on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

for posts during the event week to link activities across rural England together.

In order to get maximum social and traditional media coverage, we plan to theme each day to link in with the overarching issue of Social Isolation. More information on this will be released in early January. Please keep an eye out on our #VillageHallsWeek [webpage](#) for updates. However, in the meantime please take a look at our event ideas below.

1. 'Celebrating our Hall' – Open Weekend: 26th & 27th January 2019

What better time to showcase your hall and its facilities! Why not open up the hall up on the weekend of the 26th and 27th Jan to the community? You could create a fair-style event whereby your hall users could have a stall and advertise the activities they run.

This is an opportunity to raise the profile of your hall, praise your volunteers, celebrate its successes and maybe recruit new volunteers.

2. 'Thank You' Celebration

Host an Afternoon Tea or Cheese & Wine evening to celebrate the amazing work your volunteers do and say thank you with a certificate of appreciation – available [here](#). Alternatively, use an existing event as a platform to say 'Thank You'.

3. Geocaching – The Village Hall Series

The World's largest treasure hunting game is an ideal family outdoor activity, and with the Village Hall Series taking place, why not get involved? More details can be found [here](#)

4. Community Gardening

Do you have a community garden or flower beds around your Village Hall? Encourage your community to help transform their public spaces by hosting a communal planting session. Whether planting seeds or 'in the green', this event can be aimed at all ages to bring the community together and inspire them to learn about plants.

(For non-green fingered readers, 'in the green' means planting bulbs when they are still in leaf, rather than a dried bulb).

Ideal bulbs include (depending on availability):

Snowdrops

Lily of the Valley

Wild Garlic

Winter Aconites
Wood Anemone

5. Good Neighbours Scheme

With Good Neighbours Schemes happening across East Sussex, this would be the perfect time to launch one in your area.

Good Neighbour Schemes are:

- *Local voluntary run groups that offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support*
- *Services offered are determined by each local Good Neighbour Scheme and the needs of their local community*
- *Support is given to a wide range of people including older people, those temporarily in need through illness or recovery, people new to the area, or anyone who may be isolated or lonely in the community*

The benefits of a Good Neighbour Scheme:

- *Good Neighbour Schemes provide a 'safety net' in their community*
- *Support independent living, reduce isolation and loneliness*
- *Can prevent or delay the need for specialist or long term care*
- *They enhance and grow existing neighbourly networks*
- *They can complement statutory services*

Please contact the [AirS Village Agents](#) for more information on this scheme

6. Host a Repair Cafe

A Repair Cafe is where people repair household electrical and mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, etc. They are organised by and for local residents. Repair Cafes are held at a fixed location where tools are available and where they can fix their broken goods with the help of volunteers. The objectives are to reduce waste, to maintain repair skills and to strengthen social cohesion.

Please let us know what your hall plan to do, so we can help promote it and add it to the listing below villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

Planned Events & Activities

- **Community Libraries: 23rd January 2019**

In conjunction with Ringmer Library, we are hosting a free 2 hour workshop on ‘How to set up a community library’.

If you feel your community could benefit from a community library or if your council-run library is under threat of closure, please join us at Ringmer Village Hall for a two hour workshop, facilitated by experienced Equal Access Librarian and the driving force behind Ringmer Village Library, Liz Owen.

Where: St Mary’s Room, Ringmer Village Hall

When: 23rd Jan

Time: 10.30 – 12.30

Please register your interest at [here](#) or email villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

If this event has a positive uptake, we will be replicating it in West Sussex later in the year.

More events to be added soon

Contact Us

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If you require further information or have any questions then please email us at villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

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