

Civic News

The official newsletter of East Grinstead Town Council

Town Council calls for balanced growth

“Quality of town’s life paramount”, says leader James Baldwin

THE Town Council, working with East Grinstead residents, hopes to have seen off the “unsustainable” threat of 5000 new houses and an “unworkable” relief road as an option for the District Council’s Core Strategy says Council leader James Baldwin.

As Mid Sussex District Council begins to finalise its Core Strategy for the District until 2026, he pledged to continue the Council’s fight for a more realistic approach to development in East Grinstead. “The Town Council has always sought to balance the need for growth with the need to protect East Grinstead’s existing quality of life,” said James.

In their final submission for the Core Strategy in October, which followed a public meeting, James and his Council colleagues called for:

- * an absolute maximum of 2000 new houses up to 2026, with an emphasis on family homes for local young people in shared ownership schemes.
- * an expansion of local jobs to limit commuting and provide more local prosperity.
- * action from the County Council on the town’s chronic congestion with junction improvements and other changes to the road network.

“Our submission makes clear that there’s still more work to be done by MSDC in gathering evidence for the conclusions on the Core Strategy before they can finalise their plans,” said James. “This work covers employment, traffic, protecting the environment and infrastructure needs. We will be looking very carefully at the final version of the Core Strategy, and will want to comment in detail when it comes to be examined in public.”

New Year message from Town Mayor



2009 will no doubt be remembered by most people for the worst recession that many of us have ever experienced. It is often in adversity that you see the hard work of many people in our community. Despite personal financial worries we still see so many volunteering to help those less fortunate than themselves. At times like this you could excuse people for putting themselves first, but I have been impressed with how much the residents of this area give.

It is also true that tough times can bring people together for a common cause. This has been clearly demonstrated by the work of our independent traders. They have not only campaigned vigorously against issues such as the crippling car parking charges forced upon us, but have put forward positive suggestions on how this should be handled. They have also

created two new town events in *Spring Sunday* and *'Twas the Sunday before Christmas*, which I hope many of you enjoyed. The effort they, along with the tourism team, Business Association and Town Council, have put in has been staggering. So, although it has been a difficult time for us all, it has also shown what is good in people and this town. We have celebrated 400 years of Sackville College and can pride ourselves on winning a Silver Gilt in South and South East in Bloom. It shows that East Grinstead can still rise to the occasion even when it isn't easy. This means that this town is in a good position to enjoy all that 2010 has to offer. We can see the light at the end of the financial tunnel. We have a lot to look forward to and we certainly have a local population ready to grasp what is there. I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

News in Brief

Spring Craft Fair 2010

CHEQUER Mead is taking bookings for a Spring Craft Fair to be held on 20 March. Single stalls are £18 and doubles are £30. Contact Hannah Kester for booking forms on 01342 325577, or email info@chequermead.org.uk.

New Town Guide

TOWN historian Mr M.J. Leppard has written a new guide to East Grinstead. Costing 75p from the Library, Museum or the Town Council's East Court offices, it contains a brief history of the town and a street map as well as a list of useful organisations and phone numbers.

Tea dances at Meridian Hall

THE Town Council is to introduce monthly tea dances at the Meridian Hall starting on 2 March, in collaboration with dancers Adrian and Jill Lucas. The couple, who took over a social dancing club at the Parish Halls three years ago, have been running occasional tea dances on a Sunday afternoon. But the demand is now so high they have decided to hold one on the first Tuesday of each month, starting with a free session on 2 March from 2 to 4.30pm. The dances will not be suitable for complete beginners, said Jill, who advises anyone interested to try a free dance class at 8.30pm on 27 January in the Jubilee Community Centre, Charlwoods Road, which will be followed by a 9 week beginners' course at the same time and place.

* For more details ring Jill on 01342714448 or email Jill@lucashome.com.

Footpath restored

THE Council's outdoor staff have resurfaced the muddy West Sussex County border path at the bottom of the East Court estate with stones, after complaints from residents that it had become a 'quagmire'.

Hospital history safe at town museum

THOUSANDS of items which tell the story of the Queen Victoria hospital's 146 year history have been transferred to the safekeeping of the Town Museum in Cantelupe Road.



More than 70 boxes of medical equipment, paintings and other memorabilia were delivered to the museum free of charge by Martell's, which has stored them for the last 18 months. Cllr Bob Mainstone, the Town Council's representative on the trustees committee, said the move would preserve a collection of "international importance" and make it available to a wider public.

"We are delighted that so many items detailing the long history of the town's hospital will now be properly preserved and catalogued. The QVH is internationally renowned for its pioneering work in plastic surgery and it is vital that this historic collection is not split up - not least because its eventual display will prove an enormous attraction to visitors," said Bob.

Safety first for Primary pupils

CHILDREN from four primary schools in the Imberhorne and Baldwins wards have been presented with fluorescent armbands by the local Neighbourhood Panel. One thousand youngsters were given the 'snap-it' bands, which curl around the arm in one movement and glow at night. The safety initiative was paid for by town councillors Lee Marmara, Christine Mainstone, Bernard Gillbard and Bob Mainstone out of their ward budgets.

Cllr Bob Mainstone explained: "The Imberhorne/Baldwins Neighbourhood Panel has achieved a lot in a short time. When we first met our targets were mainly involved with trying to solve problems such as litter, parking, and speeding. Now the panel has become more interested in schemes which will bring something positive to the area and we have recently worked closely with the local schools' councils to find out what ideas young residents have for their community.

"The idea for the arm bands came from the children and we are very pleased to be able to provide them. Residents who would like to join the panel are very welcome."



EAST COURT MANSION



THE MERIDIAN HALL



A Spectacular Location For Weddings, Civil Ceremonies, Wedding Receptions & Family Gatherings

For further information please contact East Grinstead Town Council on 01342 323636

'I do' - for another three years

EAST Court has been granted a renewal of its licence to carry out civil wedding ceremonies for another three years.



The 18th-century Grade II listed building, and the Meridian Hall next door, have proved increasingly popular with brides since the licence was first granted by West Sussex County Council three years ago, said spokesman Keith Astley. "It's an ideal venue with plenty of parking, and we hold around two dozen weddings, and a

similar number of receptions every year. priced Saturday wedding receptions at £60 a hour for an eight hour minimum booking in 2010, and Sunday wedding receptions charged at only £40 an hour. We are also very flexible - we have a list of highly-experienced caterers, or people can self-cater if they want to. And when it comes to photographs we have some of the best views in Sussex."

*There will be a Wedding Open Day at the Meridian Hall, East Court, on 28 February. Couples considering where to hold their reception will be able to meet caterers and see some of the many options available for dressing the room.



Shot-at-dawn soldier remembered

THE name of an East Grinstead soldier executed for cowardice in WW1 has been added to the town's High Street war memorial following a campaign by East Grinstead Town Council backed by MP Nicholas Soames.

After serving on the Western Front and taking part in the Somme offensive in which more than 400,000 British soldiers were killed, Private Reginald Tite refused orders to advance and after going missing was arrested and charged with cowardice.

Suffering from what today would be diagnosed as post-traumatic shock, Private Tite told the court in his defence: *'I wish to state that I am very queer when I am in the line. I can't sleep and can scarcely eat anything. When there is a bombardment on I seem to take leave of my senses. I run about from one bay to another and I have to clear out of the line altogether.'*

Tite was found guilty, and on 25 November at Wormhoudt, France, the 27-year-old was taken at dawn, blindfolded and tied to a wooden post to face a firing squad formed of his own comrades. Reginald and the 305 other British and Empire servicemen executed by the British Army for military offences during WW1 received a formal pardon in 2006.

In addition to being named on the East Grinstead War Memorial in the High Street, Private Tite is also individually remembered, at the Shot at Dawn Memorial Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

News in Brief

The gift that goes on giving

A legacy left by a 16th century salt merchant and philanthropist, is still benefiting needy East Grinstead residents, 82 of whom were given grants from the Henry Smith Charity in the run-up to Christmas.

On his death in 1628, Smith left £2,000 for the purchase of land which would yield an annual income to help the poor, with which his trustees bought land in Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster.

The Charity's investments now generate around £25 million a year for some 1,000 organisations across the UK, and this year East Grinstead recipients received grants of £30 per couple or £20 for individuals.

A memorial to Smith can be found in Wandsworth parish church.



Chequer Mead goes green

CHEQUER Mead theatre has been given a Certified Carbon Footprint certificate by Reducing Carbon (UK) Ltd in recognition of its 'green' initiatives. Recent measures taken to reduce its fuel consumption include the replacement of all the old metal windows in the building with double glazing, a move which will lead to "substantial" reductions in the long term cost of heating said manager John Durrant. The Gallery lights were replaced last summer with a new fuel efficient system designed to please environmentalists and exhibitors alike. And anything which can possibly be saved from landfill including glass, paper and card is being diligently recycled by theatre staff. "We are doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint and we are delighted our efforts have been recognised with this award," said John.

* For a host of 2010 theatricals treats - which include a two-week return run for the sellout *Les Miserables* - see the website at www.chequermead.org.uk or pick up a free programme at the theatre.



DIARY OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2010

2010

14 Jan	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
21 Jan	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
25 Jan	(M)	Planning
01 Feb	(M)	Council (Precept)
15 Feb	(M)	Planning
08 March	(M)	Planning
11 March	(Th)	Public Services
18 March	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
18 March	(Th)	Charities
25 March	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
29 March	(M)	Planning
06 April	(T)	Council
07 April	(W)	Annual Town Meeting
19 April	(M)	Planning
10 May	(M)	Annual Town Council
11 May	(T)	Planning
01 June	(T)	Planning
10 June	(Th)	Public Services
17 June	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
17 June	(Th)	Charities
21 June	(M)	Planning
24 June	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes

Notes: All meetings are held in the Council Chamber, East Court Mansion, at 7.45 p.m. and are open to the public and press. All full Council meetings include a maximum of 30 minutes set aside at the beginning for public question time. All committee meetings begin with a maximum of 15 minutes for public questions.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

East Grinstead Town Council, East Court	01342 323636
West Sussex County Council Area Highways	01243 642105
East Grinstead Learning Centre	01342 321874
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Cantelupe Road	01342 321638
Library, West Street	01342 410050
Help Point at the Library	01342 300780
Queen Victoria Hospital, Holtye Road	01342 414000
Downland Housing Association	0845 6887717
Kings Leisure Centre, Moat Road	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court	0845 6070999
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
East Grinstead Visitor Information	01342 410121
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Museum	01342 302233
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080

HELP!

Services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council can all be accessed from the Help Point in East Grinstead Library. So if you have a query, or if you are not sure whom to contact, then please drop into the Help Point during opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9.30 - 5.30
Saturday 9.30 - 12.30

Telephone enquiries are welcome on
01342 300780 or by fax on 01342 410262
 e mail: east.grinstead.help.point@westsussex.gov.uk



IT'S YOUR COUNCIL.

TELL COUNCILLORS WHAT YOU THINK!

Contact any of the Town Councillors shown in the listing with your views on the items in this edition of *Civic News* or on local issues bothering you, or write to the Council at
 East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead, RH19 3LT.
 For up-to-date information and news about the Town Council visit our website at www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk
 e mail: towncouncil@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Herontye

Stephen Barnett 10 Woods Hill Close 326001
 [LD] Pl, PS, A&T, F&GP Ashurst Wood RH19 3RJ

Ian Dixon Chevalhurst, Dunning's Road 317213
 [LD] PS, A&T East Grinstead RH19 4AD

Rob Musk Scandia, Hurst Farm Road 313310
 [LD] Pl, A&T* F&GP East Grinstead, RH19 4BL

Town

James Baldwin Scarletts, Sandy Lane 321347
 [LD] A&T, F&GP* East Grinstead RH19 3LP

Jim Joyce-Nelson 1 Dexter Drive 314727
 [LD] Pl, PS, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 4SU

Virginia Waddingham 11 Beckett Way 326627
 [LD] Pl, PS East Grinstead RH19 4SF

Worsted

Margaret Collins, DL Bodinnick, Lewes Road 324296
 [LD] PS, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 3UD

Baldwins

Bernard Gillbard 7 Meadowcroft Close 325184
 [LD] PS#, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 1NA

Christine Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
 [LD] Pl, A&T# East Grinstead RH19 2DY

Lee Marmara Mill House, The Feld, 301265
 [LD] Pl, PS, A&T, F&GP London Rd, East Grinstead RH19 2QL

Ashplats

Liz Bennett 39 Cope Close 301007
 [C] PS, A&T East Grinstead, RH19 3EF

Paul Johnson Kingsmere Cottage 311359
 [LD] Pl*, PS, F&GP Stoneleigh Close East Grinstead RH19 3DY

Lee Quinn 6 Dallaway Gardens 317817
 [C] Pl, PS East Grinstead, RH19 1AZ

Peter Reed 38 Fulmar Drive 311926
 [C] Pl, F&GP East Grinstead, RH19 3NN

Imberhorne

David Banks 29 St Johns Road 312258
 [LD] Pl, A&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 3LG

Heidi Brunson 83 Blount Avenue 327200
 [LD] A&T, F&GP# East Grinstead, RH19 1JN

Bob Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
 [LD] PS *, A&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 2DY

Barry Starmer Kimberley, Pine Grove 300534
 [LD] Pl #, A&T East Grinstead RH19 2BB

Indication of Committee: Pl - Planning, PS - Public Services, A&T - Amenities & Tourism, F&GP - Finance & General Purposes *Chairman, # Vice Chairman.

All phone numbers are 01342 and are Councillors' private numbers.
 C - Conservative LD - Liberal Democrat

Talk of the Town

TOWNSPEOPLE will be invited to share their memories of East Grinstead life as part of a £40,500 oral history project funded by the Heritage Lottery.

The cash will be used for two mobile recording units which will tour the town and its surrounding villages in the coming months to gather stories which will form the basis for a community play.

Anyone who is interested in training for the Talk of the Town project, or taking part in the play, which is being planned by Claque Theatre, should visit the website at www.egplay.org.uk.