



Civic News

The official newsletter of East Grinstead Town Council

Council leads the way for a Greener Grinstead *“Town needs to pull together to prevent climate change”*

THE Town Council has set up a Green Working Group to tackle environmental issues and encourage residents to take action on climate change. The new Green Group, under the leadership of Cllr Heidi Brunsdon, consists of councillors and local residents who are passionate about green issues including the reduction of the greenhouse gases which drive climate change. “Experts all agree that overall the UK will become between 2 and 3.5 degrees C warmer by 2080, with greater warming in the south and east reaching as much as 5 degrees higher,” said Heidi, explaining why climate change is so important. Higher summer temperatures will become the norm with very cold winters become increasingly rare. Our winters will become wetter, winter rainfall may increase by up to 30% and we’ll see increasingly frequent repeats of this winter’s flash-flooding and all the problems it has caused. Our summers by contrast will be drier, with rainfall decreasing by as much as 50%: while coastal areas will experience severe flooding and loss of property.” However, Heidi says, there are simple steps we can all take to reduce our carbon footprint. Her top carbon-busting Green tips are:

1. Fit energy saving light bulbs - they will save you money. Available from online suppliers or in high street stores.
2. Reduce your dustbin waste and demand for landfill by 31% by buying a food composter such as a Green Cone or Green Johanna and start using all your kitchen and biodegradable scraps to produce quality compost for your garden. West Sussex County Council is running a fantastic scheme for each householder to purchase a composter at rock-bottom prices, with a free Kitchen Caddy offer subject to availability. Visit: www.greencone.com or telephone 0800 052 0462.
3. Don't leave TVs on standby when not in use and power down home computers overnight.
4. Fit a FREE Water Hippo or a Saver Flush Bag in your toilet cisterns and save up to 2-3 litres per flush! Details available from South East Water at: www.southeastwater.co.uk or telephone 0845 301 0845.
5. When buying new electrical goods such as a dishwasher or washing machine choose one that is A rated for energy and water consumption.
6. At home, switch off lights in empty rooms.
7. When recycling, remember to put all items out for kerbside collection. Mid Sussex will collect paper, cardboard, some plastics, junk mail, tins, and even glass co-mingled, reducing the need for energy-wasting trips by car to the dump or bottle bank.
8. For short journeys consider walking or cycling rather than driving - this is pollution free, and regular exercise will also help tackle the nation's growing obesity problem.
9. If car use is essential, keep tyres pumped up as inflated tyres use less fuel: and driving more slowly produces less pollution and less carbon.
10. Choose garden plants which can tolerate the warmer, drier summers and the warmer, wetter winters that are forecast.

“I want to see the whole town really pulling together on this,” said Heidi. “And if anyone is interested in contributing to the Green Working Group, or if they have any useful tips to share for a greener lifestyle, please contact the Council at: towncouncil@eastgrinstead.gov.uk.”

Make a diary date in 2008

TOURIST officer Simon Kerr has added a new electronic diary to the East Grinstead Town Council website so that visitors and residents can find out 'what's on'. Anyone with events which are open to the general public can contact Simon with details for the new diary at email tourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk: alternatively give him a call on 01342 410121 or drop your details by post or in person to the Tourist Desk in the library.

* Take a look at the new town diary under Events on the Town Council website at <http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/events/>

News in Brief

Gallery Goes Green

CHEQUER Mead is appealing for cash to improve its Gallery lighting with a more energy-efficient system. The £12,600 appeal was launched with donations in the memory of long-term theatre volunteer Keith Brown, who died at Christmas. "We are very conscious of environmental issues," said manager John Durrant. "We already recycle all paper and card which comes through Chequer Mead, and changing the Gallery lighting will improve displays and conserve energy."

Recycle and reuse

GARDENER Malcolm Collier is over-wintering plants from the town's summer hanging baskets to increase the stock available to the Bloom Committee next Spring. Rather than see viable plants composted for lack of storage space, Malcolm has salvaged and repotted them in his large greenhouse. Council spokesman Martin Duckworth said: "We want to top our Silver medal-winning performance of last summer, and the more plants we have available, the better chance we will have to make an impact on the judges."

Reduce your carbon footprint

CONSUMERS can reduce their "food miles" by supporting the Farmers Market which is held weekly in the High Street. A wide selection of locally-sourced produce from nearby farms is now on sale every Thursday between 9am and 2pm.

Sponsor a greener Grinstead

THE Town Council is appealing for local businesses or individuals to sponsor the planting and maintenance of roundabouts and flower beds around the town. The latest patch to be adopted is the large roundabout outside Sainsbury's which has been sponsored by Akorn Recruitment. "This roundabout is the first thing visitors see when they leave the station, and it is good to see a local company taking it on," said Council spokesman Martin Duckworth. # To find out more about making East Grinstead greener contact Martin on 01342 323636.

Spring fun at town museum

CELEBRATE Spring by making seasonal decorations and crafts at the town museum in Cantelupe Road on 10 April. Four to nine-year-olds are welcome from 10.15am until 11.15am, and ten to 13-year-olds from 11.30am until 12.30pm. Workshops are free, but a donation towards the cost of materials is welcome. To book, contact the museum on 01342 302233.

Farmers Market secure

THE future of the highly popular Farmers Market is secure, despite recent suggestions that it may be in doubt. Town Clerk Chris Rolley said: "Town Councillors fought hard for the Farmers Market, it is very popular with residents, visitors and traders, and there is no question at all that it will be carrying on." The Farmers Market is held in the High Street every Thursday from 9am until 2pm.

Council means business...

THE Town Council has created a new database of more than 800 of the town's commercial interests as part of its ongoing drive for more effective representation of a vital sector of East Grinstead life.

Under chairman Cllr Bob Mainstone, the new Business Group held a highly successful meeting in the summer to canvass the views of the business community and draw up an action plan. The long term issues raised included concerns about Town Centre Development, the Area Action Plan, housing provision and population growth, while more immediate problems included town centre parking, coach parking, the Bluebell Railway extension, public toilets and the marketing of the town's shopping facilities. It also became clear that there was no simple method of communicating with the large number of businesses in East Grinstead, and as a result Bob and his team have created a database of more than 800 businesses, and have begun sending them a regular newsletter.

Bob said: "The Town Council has no magic bullets to address the issues identified with the business community, but what it can do is work with the County and District Councils for action. For example, there are ideas about changing the town's parking arrangements to encourage residents to shop locally - we're putting these ideas to MSDC, and we're talking to WSCC about providing facilities for coaches to park while visitors explore our town." He said many people also wanted action on the town's empty shops. "We're tackling this issue on two fronts, by surveying the reasons behind shop closures, and by taking action to improve the windows of empty shops so that they are more attractive to shoppers and can be used in a positive way to promote the town."

Bob's group, which supported the highly successful Christmas Shopping evening in December, is already working with traders to plan the 2008 event. It is also organising a conference in April on planning for the long-awaited arrival of the Bluebell Railway to ensure local businesses make the most of the opportunity.

Town Council backs youth sport

THE Town Council has presented a grant to the Kings Volleyball Club as part of its drive to encourage participation in youth sport. Cllr Christine Mainstone of the Leisure and Tourism committee presented the cheque to club chairman Jo Maltha and coach Adrian Salmon. "The club is delighted with the extra funds, which will help keep the membership fees to a minimum while investing in training and equipment," said Jo. "The Council is wholly committed to encouraging our young people to take part in sporting activities, and I am delighted to present this cheque on its behalf," said Christine. # *Open training sessions take place on Monday evenings at Olympos from 8pm to 10pm. For more details rings Jo Maltha on 0794 294750.*



In Memoriam

TOWN Councillors have given the go-ahead for a memorial wall at the Mount Noddy Cemetery.

The proposed design has already been submitted for a quotation. The wall, which will be built adjacent to Mount Noddy Cemetery Lodge, will be wheelchair-accessible. As no planning permission is required for it, Committee Chairman Christine Mainstone said the work would press ahead as soon as possible and she was hopeful it would be in place by this summer. The Town Council initiative comes after a Best Value Review of its services, in which regular users of the Mount Noddy site, including local undertakers and clergy, indicated the need for a remembrance wall where the names of the dead could be inscribed. The cost of a single plaque will be £250 plus VAT but spaces on the wall will not be time-limited. Additional inscriptions or replacement plaques will cost around £50: maintenance will be the responsibility of the purchaser.

History of the High Weald

THE High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a nationally important landscape covering parts of East Sussex and West Sussex, Kent and Surrey. The story of the High Weald's landscape is inseparably tied to people and in the second of our series we look at the formation of the High Weald's Routeways.



FOLLOW a sunken lane in your parish and you will be treading in the steps of Saxon drovers and their pigs.

The High Weald has a unique, radiating network of ancient routeways, often deeply sunken in places. These routes were first formed when early settlers from the surrounding lands began to exploit the High Weald woods as a seasonal source of food for their animals.

As well as timber and fuel, the woods held another important resource, acorns, which

domesticated pigs, descended from wild boar, enjoyed as a natural food.

From at least as far back as the Neolithic period (c.4300 - 1400 BC) farmers from the South Downs, North Downs and coastal plains would drive their pigs into the woods each year to fatten them on acorns and beech mast. This happened in late summer or early autumn and is known as pannage.

The Weald was the stronghold of pannage in Britain. In 1086, when the practice was already past its peak, Domesday records indicate that around 150,000 pigs would have been driven to and from the woods of the High and Low Weald. Farmers from a particular village returned with their pigs to the same woodland place year after year. These woodland pig pastures were called dens.

The frequent passage of pigs being driven to and from the dens formed tracks known as droves, connecting the dens to their parent villages - often up to 20 miles away. When the dens became settlements in their own right, the roughly north-south droving routes remained and can be seen today in the pattern of lanes, bridleways and footpaths radiating away from the High Weald.

Centuries of use by many trotters, feet, hooves and later, cartwheels, have worn the soft ground away so that today many of the routes have deeply sunken sections. In spring and summer, the High Weald's narrow, sunken lanes with their ancient, wooded banks are transformed into shady tree tunnels. Many are lined in places with wildflower-rich verges, important wildlife refuges - some even designated as Roadside Nature Reserves.

*** To find out more about the High Weald and its history visit www.highweald.org**

Have your say

AS the Civic News went to print, Mid Sussex District Council went out to public consultation with its Core Strategy Development Plan. The Core Strategy is a key document in the Local Development Framework setting out the District Council's strategy up to 2026, including its plans for housing and related development. A copy of the Core Strategy can be seen in full at www.midsussex.gov.uk/corestrategy. The consultation period is until 20 March 2008.

Town Council leader James Baldwin said East Grinstead Town Council will respond to the Core Strategy, and would be working closely with local community groups and organisations. James said: "This is a most important consultation on the future of our town as it will set the framework for its future for years to come. It is about far more than just housing numbers, and I hope everyone takes the time to get involved, and to help build the best way forward for East Grinstead: this is our town and we must have the final say on how it develops."

News in Brief

Waste station in 2009

WIDE-ranging improvements to the Imberhorne Lane Waste and Recycling site should start in October and be completed in time for reopening in May 2009.

Plans being considered for waste disposal services during the six-month closure include temporary weekend services, a mobile collection and subsidised collection of bulky goods. Project manager Philip Bines of Viridor Waste Management said the scheme would provide improved facilities and a clear one-way system, better traffic flow and site access, with a subsequent reduction in waiting times.

New plans for green museum

THE new curator for the town museum is 26-year-old Sarah Corn from Herne Bay, whose plans for her first curatorial post include applying for official Accreditation. "We already tick a great many of the boxes, not least because the building itself was purpose-built to be environmentally friendly," said Sarah.

The low-energy, low-maintenance museum, was opened in 2006. Its highly sustainable design includes long-life cladding, maintenance-free boards and render, recyclable unfinished metal which can be left to weather and windows with a long-life coating. The walls are made of structurally insulated panels which give excellent heat thermal insulation. Acceptance by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council will give East Grinstead Museum national recognition and attract more grants.

New budget agreed

THE Town Council has agreed its budget for 2008/2009 financial year. The total cost to provide all services will be £704,490. The precept to be drawn on local tax payers will be £660,890, requiring a transfer of balances from reserves of £43,600.

The effect of this precept on a typical Band D council tax payer will be an amount of £62.09 for the year, an increase of slightly less than 10p per week. The budget provides for an enhanced grant for East Grinstead Town Museum, funding to support the work of the Environment Group, the Businesses Association and East Grinstead in Bloom and, most importantly, provision to enable Age Concern to relocate to part of a fully renovated and refurbished Parish Hall. It is hoped that this latter scheme will be completed by summer 2009. The budget also has regard to the fact that following Government legislation the previously received Best Value grant of £30,000 is no longer payable, a change which has at a stroke increased the net cost of the Town Council's services by some 5%.

HALLS FOR HIRE

The Meridian Hall & East Court Mansion
(both licensed for Civil Weddings)
Parish Halls

For information on prices and availability
please call 01342 335054 or email
bookings@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

DIARY OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2008

| | | |
|----------|------|----------------------------|
| 25 Feb | (M) | Planning |
| 06 Mar | (Th) | Public Services |
| 10 Mar | (M) | Planning |
| 13 Mar | (Th) | Leisure & Tourism |
| 13 Mar | (Th) | Charities |
| 25 Mar | (T) | Planning |
| 27 Mar | (Th) | Finance & General Purposes |
| 07 April | (M) | Council |
| 08 April | (T) | Planning |
| 21 April | (M) | Planning |
| 22 April | (T) | Annual Town Meeting |
| 12 May | (M) | Annual Council Meeting |
| 13 May | (T) | Planning |
| 02 June | (M) | Planning |
| 12 June | (Th) | Public Services |
| 16 June | (M) | Planning |
| 19 June | (Th) | Leisure & Tourism |
| 19 June | (Th) | Charities |
| 26 June | (Th) | Finance & General Purposes |
| 30 June | (M) | Planning |
| 07 July | (M) | Council |
| 14 July | (M) | Planning |
| 28 July | (M) | Planning |

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 |
| New Downland Housing Association | 01444 414429 |
| 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 |

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 | 9.30 - 5.30 | Thursday | 9.30 - 5.30 |
| Tuesday | 9.30 - 5.30 | Friday | 9.30 - 5.30 |
| Wednesday | 9.30 - 5.00 | 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] L&T, F&GP Ashurst Wood RH19 3RJ

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

Rob Musk Scandia, Hurst Farm Road 313310
[LD] Pl, L&T # East Grinstead, RH19 4BL

Town

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

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

Virginia Waddingham 11 Beckett Way 326627
[LD] Pl, PS, L&T, F&GP 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] L&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 1NA

Christine Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
[LD] Pl, L&T*, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 2DY

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

Ashplats

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

Paul Johnson Kingsmere Cottage 312585
[LD] Pl*, F&GP Stoneleigh Close East Grinstead RH19 3DY

Alan Lord 22 Elizabeth Crescent 325149
[LD] Pl, PS, F&GP# East Grinstead RH19 3JA

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

Imberhorne

David Banks 29 St Johns Road 312258
[LD] Pl, PS, L&T East Grinstead RH19 3LG

Heidi Brunson 83 Blount Avenue 327200
[LD] PS, L&T East Grinstead, RH19 1JN

Bob Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
[LD] PS #, L&T East Grinstead RH19 2DY

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

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

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

Fairtrade Group goes for gold

THE East Grinstead Fairtrade group is working with local schools and businesses to make people think twice about where their coffee comes from.

At 7.30pm on 29 February at Sackville School, the Group will screen the acclaimed documentary *Black Gold*, featuring an Ethiopian coffee farmer looking for someone to buy his produce at a fair price. The evening will also feature fairly-traded refreshments and the opportunity to buy Fairtrade crafts, clothes and accessories.

Both Imberhorne and Sackville schools are applying for Fairtrade status to join the many other local shops and businesses which have backed the campaign since East Grinstead became a Fairtrade town in 2005.

* For more information, contact

Ali Hill on 01342 328959.