

East Grinstead *Civic News* Town Council

January 2012

Edition 54



**Tell us what
you want,
what you really,
really want...**

*"Our future is
in our own
hands and we
must make the
most of this
opportunity."*

Council leader Norman Webster



FOLLOWING a survey into East Grinstead residents' hopes and ambitions for the next two decades, the Town Council is urging everyone to take part in the second round of consultations which is taking place now. Councillors who took to the streets for three consecutive Saturdays in November to canvas the opinion of residents received 640 feedback forms, including 176 filled-in online. And with the replies now collated, it seems the highest priority for most people is the redevelopment of the town centre, followed by highways and business development. Environmental concerns came in fourth place, followed by housing, sustainability, leisure and health.

The survey was carried out to inform the Neighbourhood Plan which is newly introduced in the Localism Act 2011, and allows for a Neighbourhood Plan to be drawn up by a community. The town's Plan will have to fit in with the broader objectives of the District Plan within a national framework. But once East Grinstead's has been decided on, it cannot be disregarded by Mid Sussex District Council, said Town Clerk Julie Holden. "The emphasis of Neighbourhood Plans must be to encourage growth, therefore a Neighbourhood Plan cannot simply say 'no'. But once our Plan is agreed, we will set the ground rules which developers will have to stick by in terms of the type of development they can build, its environmental impact and its sustainability.

"The referendum will be a straight yes or no option. It will be to adopt or reject in entirety. This is why the majority views are needed and the options are being put out with the impact of this. For example if money is to be spent on infrastructure, the Town will need to identify how many homes will be needed to raise sufficient money from the Community infrastructure levy to pay for this. The bottom line is clear. No money, no investment - and the money will come from the levy on developers for new build.

"But if they don't want Mid Sussex District Council making decisions about the future of East Grinstead over the next two decades, a 'yes' vote is absolutely paramount."

Three towns Three days One Marathon

EAST Grinstead will be playing host to the opening leg of a three-day Marathon spread over the first of the May bank holiday weekends next year. The Three Towns Marathon will begin in East Grinstead on Saturday 1 May. The second leg will be at Burgess Hill on 2 May and the final race to the finish line will be at Haywards Heath on 3 May. Final details of times and routes have yet to be finalised but Olympic gold medallist Richard Leman and members of the current GB Hockey Squad will be attending, with the town's Paralympic contender Richard Schabel.

East Grinstead's historian retires

MR Michael Leppard, the town historian and the man behind the founding of East Grinstead museum, has decided to step down. Paying tribute to his work, Chairman of trustees Mike Hollins said: "Michael was the font of all knowledge. He campaigned for the museum, established it and then sustained it for more than 35 years, all as a volunteer. We hope we can still rely on his historical expertise which is unmatched. He has made a unique contribution to the history of the town."

The Way We Were...



TOURISM officer Simon Kerr is appealing for photographs or documents recalling the town's royal connections over the past 60 years, for an exhibition to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next summer. Anyone who can lend memorabilia, or identify people in the picture above, can contact Simon at the town library in West Street or phone 01342 410121.



Artist's impression unveiled

PLANS for a Travelodge hotel over a retail shop have been put forward for the site formerly occupied by Caffyns garage. The new building will accommodate a 79 bedroom Travelodge on the upper floors and a major retail unit on the ground floor. As Travelodge does not provide facilities for food and drink, other than basic tea and coffee, the scheme offers potential for town centre cafes, restaurants and bars to promote their own businesses. The hotel and retail unit will also attract new clientele into the town which will benefit local traders and services. Town Clerk Julie Holden said: "The scheme has been needed for some time to renovate a very conspicuous area of the town. Hopefully the new hotel and retail unit will be a successful and a smart new addition to East Grinstead's town centre."

FOR more stories, regular news updates and alerts, dates of Council meetings, agendas, minutes and councillors' full contact details see the East Grinstead Town Council website at www.eastgrinstead.co.uk



Business as usual for Farmers Market

THE weekly Farmers Market will stay in the High Street thanks to the intervention of the Town Council. The future of the produce stalls was in doubt after the former manager pulled out. But traders have been now been assured the market will stay this winter, and the situation will be reviewed next spring. Town tourist officer Simon Kerr said: "The regular stalls are very popular with their customers and we will hope to attract even more traders next year."

Olympic Torch coming to East Grinstead next July

EAST Grinstead has been chosen as one of the towns on next year's historic round-Britain tour of the Olympic Torch.

The torch will leave Land's End on 19 May, one day after the flame arrives from Greece, and will then be carried by 8,000 'inspirational torch bearers' on a 70-day journey of celebration around the UK.

Town Clerk Julie Holden called East Grinstead's inclusion on the torch route "an iconic moment in the town's history, which will live on in the memory of everyone who witnesses it".

Full details have yet to be released, but the torch will pass through the town sometime on 17 July.

The public will be encouraged to line the route, and welcome the torchbearer, and afterwards the town's school children will be invited to take part in a sports event at the East Court estate.

Deputy Mayor Liz Bennett, who as next year's Town Mayor will perform the official welcome, said she was thrilled at the prospect of taking part in such an historic event.

"The Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Games will make next year one to remember for all of us, and I will be proud and honoured to represent the town during the events planned to mark both these landmark occasions," she said.

The torch, which is being made by east London designers Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, will travel for 12 hours a day, for 70 days, before arriving at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July for the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

Thousands of people throughout the UK will have the chance to cheer it on its way, along a route which will be marked by concerts, shows and other celebrations.

Of the 8,000 torchbearers, 7,200 will be chosen from among people nominated by the public, and half the places are expected to go to young people between the ages of 12 and 24.



Going for Gold...

THE Town Council is looking for sponsorship for civic planters and flowerbeds in a bid to improve on this year's Silver Gilt award in the South and South East in Bloom competition.

The current locations available for sponsors are the roundabouts in the Lewes Road, outside Sainsburys, in West Hill and at the bottom of Blackwell Hollow, and the High Street flower beds and planters. Contact Keith Astley at the Town Council's East Court offices on 01342 323636 for more details.

New grit bins

NEW grit bins have been put at six locations around the town. They are in Kipling Way, Oakhurst Gardens, Browns Wood, Elizabeth Crescent, The Dell and Estcots Drive. Residents are reminded the grit is for use on roads, and not on private driveways, and that once emptied the bins cannot be refilled until any bad weather is over.

Council diary

30 January	(M)	Planning
6 February	(M)	Council (Precept)
20 February	(M)	Planning
8 March	(Th)	Public Services
12 March	(M)	Planning
15 March	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
15 March	(Th)	Charities
22 March	(Th)	Finance & GP
2 April	(M)	Council
3 April	(T)	Planning
4 April	(W)	Annual Town Meeting
23 April	(M)	Planning
14 May	(M)	Annual Town Council
15 May	(T)	Planning
6 June	(W)	Planning
7 June	(Th)	Public Services
14 June	(Th)	Amenities and Tourism
14 June	(Th)	Charities
21 June	(Th)	Finance & GP
21 June	(Th)	Special Council
25 June	(M)	Planning
2 July	(M)	Council
16 July	(M)	Planning
6 August	(M)	Planning

Meetings held in the Council Chamber at East Court are open to the public: They start at 7.45pm until May, after which they will start at 7pm, except meetings of the June, September and March Charities Committee which follow the Amenities & Tourism Committee.

All Council meetings allow up to 30 minutes for public questions commencing at 7.45 pm; committees allow up to 15.

Useful telephone numbers

East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323636
West Sussex CC Area Highways	01243 642105
East Grinstead Learning Centre	01342 321874
Citizens Advice Bureau	01342 321638
West Street Library	01342 410050
Library Help Point	01342 300780
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414000
Downland Housing Association	0845 6887717
Olympos Leisure Centre	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

Contact the Town Council at:
East Court Mansion, College Lane,
East Grinstead, RH19 3LT. 01342 323636.
Or visit our website at:
www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Find help with services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council at the Help Point in East Grinstead Library, West St.

Monday	9.30am – 7pm
Tuesday to Thursday	9.30am – 6pm
Friday/Saturday	9.30am – 5pm
Phone 01342 300780	Fax 01342 410262

Contact your Councillor

Ashplats		
Jacqueline Beckford (LD) PS, F&GP	7 Woodlands Road East Grinstead, RH19 3EH	01342 317864
Liz Bennett (Con) Deputy Mayor, PS, A&T,	39 Copse Close East Grinstead, RH19 3EF	01342 301007
Danny Favor (Con) PS, A&T, Ch^	7 Barn Field Place East Grinstead RH19 3FD	01342 410244
Tony Scott (Con) Pl, A&T^	Flat 2, 26 Railway Approach East Grinstead, RH19 1BP	01342 325045
Baldwins		
Margaret Belsey (Con) A&T, F&GP^	Gotwick Farm, Holtye Road East Grinstead, RH19 3PP	01342 321574
Nick Hodges (Con) PS, F&GP, Ch^, Pl	Wellbourne, 75 Lingfield Road East Grinstead, RH19 2EP	01342 300113
Norman Webster (Con) F&GP*	7 Newlands Crescent East Grinstead, RH19 1LF	01342 317806
Imberhorne		
Heidi Brundsdon (Con) PS*, F&GP	83 Blount Avenue East Grinstead, RH19 1JN	01342 327200
Bob Mainstone (LD) Pl, A&T	Mallaig, Windmill Lane East Grinstead, RH19 2DY	01342 326454
Frank Osborne (Con) Pl, A&T*, F&GP	Wisborough, Furze Lane East Grinstead, RH19 2BQ	01342 322646
Rex Whittaker (Con) Pl^, F&GP	11 The Stennings East Grinstead, RH19 1PF	01342 302515
Town		
Ben Burns (Con) Pl, PS, A&T	3 The Close East Grinstead, RH19 1DQ	07740 075331
Nicola Burns (Con) Pl, PS	3 The Close East Grinstead, RH19 1DQ	01342 315848
Peter Wyan (Con) Pl*, F&GP	7 Clays Close East Grinstead, RH19 4DJ	01342 313985
Herontye		
John O'Brien (Con) A&T, F&GP	5 The Dell East Grinstead, RH19 3XP	01342 321883
John Saull (Con) Town Mayor	Little Beeches, Woods Hill Lane Ashurst Wood, RH19 3RF	01342 822712
Dick Sweatman (Con) Pl, PS^	81 Estcots Drive East Grinstead, RH19 3YW	01342 322743
Worsted		
Garry Sillitoe (Con) PS, A&T, F&GP	3 Farm Close East Grinstead, RH19 3QQ	07771 892113

F&GP – Finance & General Purposes, A&T – Amenities and Tourism,
Pl – Planning, PS – Public Services, Ch – Charity, * Chairman, ^ Vice Chairman.
All phone numbers are 01342 and are councillors' private numbers.
C – Conservative. LD – Liberal Democrat



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