

Pulborough Parish Council News

by Cllr Martin Dale

Neighbourhood Plan

Happy 2014 to one and all! This is going to be a very busy year for the Parish Council and our residents with the beginnings of our Neighbourhood Plan. I say 'our Neighbourhood Plan' intentionally, because it is very much your chance to directly help and assist the Council in formulating a statutory plan on how we want our village and community to change over the period to 2031. Action in Rural Sussex have been hired to assist us through the long, hard process of producing the Plan and the first meeting of the Steering Group (formed by Councillors and representatives from a mix of groups throughout the Parish) was held in mid-December. It will be their job to oversee the general direction of the Plan and make sure everything is kept on track. The Steering Group will also appoint individual Focus Groups to investigate a wide variety of topics and assess how things can be improved and where changes need to be made.

We now need for anyone interested in being a part of the Neighbourhood Plan to come forward and add your thoughts and opinions or any expertise and knowhow you might have. This really will be your Plan – produced by the Council and residents jointly, and it cannot be adopted without the approval of the residents in a referendum. It is therefore very important that anyone wishing to be involved please contacts the Parish Office to register your interest or to receive more information on what a Neighbourhood Plan entails.



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Village Policing

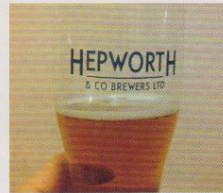
The Council received news in late November that our PC, Colin Parker, is retiring this month. He has served our village for several years but is to be succeeded by PC Darren Algar who we are sure will look after our community with the same due care and attention.



On another note, the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner is still progressing with the plans to close the village Police Station, but we are yet to receive news of how a new home in the village will be provided. One avenue that has been explored is a permanent office at the Village Hall, but this was found to be unworkable.

Planning

Hepworth's Brewery in Horsham is currently looking at the possibility of relocating to a new site at Brinsbury College where there would also be a small shop for members of the public to purchase their produce. The Parish Council will be evaluating any application carefully in 2014 and the possibility that it could provide some local employment opportunities as well as the chance to see some much needed road safety improvements to that particular stretch of the A29.



We have seen several applications submitted during 2013. Some of these are still open and include plans to construct several houses along Station Road at a point that the Parish Council believes to be an extremely dangerous location for pedestrians and traffic; and the proposed demolition of the old Swan Corner Shops adjacent to the Landmark office and its redevelopment with a small block of flats.

Finally, you may have also noted in the press that an application was permitted by West Sussex County Council in early 2013 for an oil and gas exploration well located just outside the Parish Boundary at Broadford Bridge, near Adversane. It is expected by Celtique Energie that the drill rig will arrive at the site during the first quarter of this year.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council, please telephone 01798 873532, or e-mail the Parish Office at clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk