



LOXWOOD

Parish Council

~Newsletter~

Welcome to the third edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

Apologies to those residents who have told us that they did not receive a copy of the last Newsletter in July. The printers send out the Newsletter to households in the Parish using address labels produced from the District Council's electoral register. If your neighbour is a newcomer to the Parish and has not yet registered as a voter, they will **not** be sent a copy of the Newsletter – so please ask them to let us know and we will ask the printer to add their address to his list.

Some people have also told us that they were confused by the reference in the Church Magazine for August to the new e-mail address for the Parish Office. In fact the article and reminder slip in the Church Magazine referred to the Parish Office for the Church. This is a completely separate organisation from Loxwood Parish Council. So if you want to contact Loxwood Parish Council (a branch of local government) please continue to contact us at: loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council held its regular monthly meeting in July, and held a special meeting in August (when it is normally in recess) to consider a large number of planning applications affecting the Village.

In addition to possible development at Dunsfold aerodrome, it was reported that there might be development on the eastern side of the A281 main road. Although these sites are outside the Parish of Loxwood, the additional traffic created by any new development there may affect Loxwood and several other villages. The Parish Council will maintain a watching brief on the situation.

The Council has set up a Recreation & Leisure Working Group to look at current facilities in the Parish and to consider what new facilities might be provided. The sports ground in Plaistow Road is some distance from the centre of population and if youngsters wish to use it, or the North Hall grounds, many of them have to cross the busy main road. As a first step the Council is looking at whether or not there are any suitable sites closer to the Village centre.

RoSPA has carried out a safety inspection of the children's playground at North Hall and their report is being studied in detail. Loxwood Primary School has written to thank the Council for the gift of the games equipment, which had earlier been bought by the Council for use by the sadly defunct Loxwood Youth Club.

The County Council is to close the bridleway running westwards from the junction of Drungewick Lane with the B2133 for up to 6 months, so that the surface can be repaired. The Dog Warden has cleared the twhitten between Spy Lane and the main road and put up new notices warning of the dangers and penalties for dog fouling.

Speaking when the meeting was adjourned, Len Milsom from the Loxwood Society said the Society was willing to help organise an entry in the "**Village of the Year**" **Competition 2008** if someone would lead the process. The Society was trying to get a team together and hoped that younger people would offer to assist. As Len said, the team needs "doers" rather than "talkers"! Anyone interested should contact Len on 752032 or preferably www.loxwood.org.

LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Members' Code of Conduct and Public Registers

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its meeting on 8 May 2007 the Parish Council resolved to adopt with immediate effect a replacement Code of Conduct which sets out the conduct which is expected of Councillors and Co-opted Members of the Council.

Members have completed registers of their financial and other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct and the Registers of Interests can be inspected by the public at the Parish Council Office, North Hall, Loxwood, by prior appointment with the Parish Clerk, Peter Evans. Tel 01798 812026, e-mail loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk

YOUR HEALTH SERVICES – THE FUTURE

- West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT) writes:

Formal public consultation about the future of health services in West Sussex has now begun and will continue **until 14 November 2007**. It gives residents and staff a range of opportunities to learn more about the proposed changes and to express their views.

The consultation revolves around three options for the configuration of hospital services. All three envisage a major general hospital (there is none in the county at present), with a local general hospital and a community hospital in two of the options and two local general hospitals in one of the options, supported by a network of health services in the community.

The **major general hospital** would provide acute medicine, accident and emergency services, inpatient paediatrics, emergency surgery and consultant-led obstetrics.

The **local general hospitals** would provide an urgent care centre, surgical beds and surgery day cases, a range of diagnostics, outpatient clinics and rehabilitation and beds for people with some medical conditions.

The **community hospital** would provide a minor injuries unit, some diagnostics, community and rehabilitation beds and integrated teams to support independent living.

Under Option A, Worthing Hospital would become the major general hospital, with St Richard's, Chichester, becoming a local general hospital and the Princess Royal, Haywards Heath, a community hospital.

Under Option B, St Richard's would become the major general hospital, with Worthing and the Princess Royal becoming local general hospitals.

Under Option C, St Richard's would become the major general hospital, with Worthing becoming a local general hospital and the Princess Royal a community hospital.

Each of the three options is considered 'clinically sustainable, deliverable and financially sustainable' - the three criteria that had to be met before the options were confirmed for consultation.

West Sussex PCT has put in place a team called the Fit for the Future Consultation Support Unit to provide help and information about the consultation. The Consultation Support Unit is the first point of contact for all enquiries and responses to the consultation and will be open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10am-4pm, and Tuesday, Thursday, 10am-6.30pm. There will also be a 24-hour answerphone to leave a message.

You can contact the Consultation Support Unit by:

Freephone: 0800 707 6975

Fax: 01903 247 591

Email: fitforthefuture@westsussexpct.nhs.uk

Text message: 07824 499 266

Or by post: Creating an NHS Fit for the Future

FREEPOST SEA 1064

West Sussex Primary Care Trust

The Causeway

Goring-By-Sea

Worthing

West Sussex BN12 6ZZ

Further information is available on the website <http://www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk>

LOXWOOD W.I.

We have had very interesting talks about subjects varying from 'Mapping the Ocean Floor' to the 'Flora and Fauna of Madagascar', and from the 'Origins of Folk Stories' to 'Decorative Ribbon Weaving'. Our Summer Outing in August was to Wisley Gardens.

We look forward to talks on 'Weather Lore' and 'Flower Arranging in the Autumn' and 'Cruises' and 'Homeopathy' next year.

During the year we have helped at the Village Fete and at the Loxwood School Fair, as well as serving Teas to Coach and other parties who take trips on the canal.

New members and visitors are always welcome to join us at 2pm at North Hall on the second Friday of the month.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Keith Morgan, Head of Environment Policy Services at Chichester District Council, writes:

In May 2006 Chichester District Council published a Submission Core Strategy as part of its Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will replace the Chichester Local Plan in setting out planning policies and proposals for the area. The Submission Core Strategy set out the spatial vision, objectives and policies for managing development across the Chichester District.

The Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination, with a six-week period allowed for representations to be made with regard to the document. The Public Examination was held in November/December 2006 with the Inspector's Final Report received in June 2007. The Secretary of State has made a direction under Section 22 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for the Council to withdraw the document.

Copies of the Inspector's Report and the Press Release can be obtained from the Council's website at www.chichester.gov.uk, or seen at the Contact Centre, East Pallant House, Selsey Area Office, Midhurst Area Office, Petworth Area Office and any libraries in the District.

POISONOUS PLANTS

Loxwood as with many other villages has unfortunately become increasingly subject to infestations of some poisonous plants. Following concerns raised and some confusion as to what exactly they look like, we have decided to add these articles even though the season for dealing with them is nearly over. The plan is that we will all know what to look out for early next spring.

Giant Hogweed is an extremely unpleasant plant that grows on the banks of streams and rivers in Loxwood. The Environment Agency has sent us the following information for landowners, walkers, and anyone coming into contact with the plant.

What Is Giant Hogweed?

It can grow to between three and five metres in height. Individual plants can take up to four years to reach this height and flower. Other than in size, it bears a close resemblance to Cow Parsley and Hogweed. Giant Hogweed has a reddish purple stem and spotted leaf stalks, with fine spines that make it appear furry. The leaves may expand to 1.5 metres (5ft) in width with flower heads commonly 250 mm (10ins) in width.



Why is it a Problem?

Giant Hogweed contains a substance within its sap that makes the skin sensitive to ultra violet light. This can result in severe burns to the affected areas, producing swelling and severe, painful blistering. The blisters usually appear 15 to 20 hours after contact with the sap and exposure to sunlight. Damaged skin will heal very slowly, leaving residual pigmentation that can develop into a type of dermatitis that flares up in sunlight for which there is no straightforward treatment.



Wear long sleeved clothing when working in areas where Giant Hogweed is present. In the event of contact with the sap of this plant, the skin should be covered to reduce the exposure to sunlight and washed IMMEDIATELY and thoroughly with soap and water.

Giant Hogweed produces approximately 1500 seeds per flower head in late summer. Due to the safety implications, footpaths and other amenity areas can be rendered unusable by the presence of this species.

Giant Hogweed also acts as a host for the Carrot Fly and the plant disease *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, both of which attack a number of horticultural and arable crops.

Control of Giant Hogweed

This can be done through digging and spraying but should only be done by someone who holds a Certificate of Competence for herbicide use, therefore if you see Giant Hogweed, please contact the Environment Agency.

A strimmer or chipper should never be used on Giant Hogweed material as this can cause sap to become airborne, resulting in injury as described above.

Given the difficulties involved in the eradication of the plant, and unless you hold the relevant certificates and have the experience to deal with Giant Hogweed, we advise you to notify the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 or enquiries@environment.agency.gov.uk should you see any.

Common Ragwort

Another noxious weed common in the area is Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), the only ragwort species specified in the Weeds Act 1959. Other species of *Senecio* are not so widespread as common ragwort. Flowering is from late June onwards to early autumn when the characteristic yellow inflorescences usually extend between 30-100 cms in height.



Why is it a problem?

Common Ragwort is poisonous to livestock and a potential killer. Eating Common Ragwort can lead to liver damage which cannot be treated. Cattle and horses are particular susceptible, although sheep can also be affected. As with Giant Hogweed there are a number of control options but we are advised that anyone who sees Common Ragwort should report it to DEFRA (08459 33 55 77, email helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk), which has the power to serve clearance notices.

However if the Common Ragwort is on roadside verges then it should be reported to the local council,

on motorways to the Highways Agency (08457 50 40 30 or 0121 335 8300, e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk), and on railway embankments, to Network Rail (08457 11 41 41).

ROAD SAFETY

Are you fed up with speeding, thoughtless driving, tailgating, mobile phone use at the wheel or abandoned vehicles? Then don't tolerate it – report it!

Operation Crackdown, a new web-based reporting system for bad driving was launched at the end of August by Sussex Police in conjunction with local authorities and other associated organisations across the county. It is an expansion of the already well-used Operation Crackdown – abandoned vehicles, and you can report offenders at the contact centre, on 01243 642222, or at www.operationcrackdown.org

People logging onto the site will be able to record careless, inconsiderate, rude and thoughtless driving and riding, under age drivers or riders, drink or drug driving, tailgating, etc using an on-line form or alternatively they can ring the telephone hotline. Full details of the incident could lead to police action being taken against persistent offenders and close monitoring of locations. This is in response to growing public and police concern at the problem of anti-social driving and it means members of the public will be able to be involved in putting a stop to nuisance vehicles.

Remember! Do not attempt to write anything while driving and always stop in a safe place prior to using a handheld mobile phone.

Please contact the Parish Clerk (loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like a leaflet on the scheme.

WEST SUSSEX FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 2007



8 September to 7 October 2007 - Celebrating the Best of West Sussex

The fifth Food and Drink Festival is a celebration of local produce which showcases the outstanding local food & drink produced across West Sussex.

Local produce is gaining in popularity as people become more discerning about the quality of the food they eat and where it comes from. The Festival aims to raise awareness of all the delicious produce on offer in West Sussex.

This year's festival, which runs for a month from 8 September to 7 October, is even bigger than last year's with 135 entries.

Events taking place throughout the festival include:

- Ploughing Match and Show
- Horsham Beer Festival
- Launch Party of the Horsham Old Brew
- 26 Farmers Markets throughout the County
- Ready Steady Cook Challenge - High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex go head-to-head

- Autumn & Game Fair, South of England Showground

A copy of the Food & Drink Festival 2007 programme is available in libraries, Tourist Information Centres and local help points, or by calling 01243 642119. Please note a copy of the programme is required to take advantage of the special offers featured throughout the festival.

LATE NEWS

More on health.....

The North Chichester County Local Committee (CLC) will be meeting at Midhurst Grammar School on **Monday 10th September at 7pm** to gather the views of local residents on the NHS Primary Care Trust's (PCT) health care proposals. Representatives of the PCT will attend the meeting to answer questions on their proposals and listen to any concerns people may have.

The South Chichester CLC will be meeting to discuss the proposals on Monday 1st October at the Chichester Festival Theatre at 7pm.

All local residents are invited to attend these meetings. As this is such an emotive subject, and one which has a direct impact on local residents, the County Council hopes that as many people will attend as possible.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

There are 9 **Members of the Parish Council**: Alison Sanderson (Chairman), David Townsend (Vice-Chairman), Mirus Kuszel, Jane Northam, Priscilla Phillips, Tim Spence, Scott Taylor, Howard Thomas and Charlie Whitmarsh.

The **Parish Clerk** is Peter Evans: 12 Weald Court, Station Road, Billingshurst, RH14 9RS. Tel 01798 812026, e-mail loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk If you wish to contact the Parish Council, please address all correspondence, whether letter or e-mail, to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council minutes and agendas are available from the Clerk, preferably by e-mail, or on the Parish Council pages of the Loxwood village web site, www.loxwood.org.

Ever considered becoming a Parish Councillor?

Whilst at present the Parish Council has its full complement of 9 Councillors there will undoubtedly come a time when due to unforeseen circumstances a councillor may leave office. It would be helpful therefore if we could maintain a list of interested people who could be contacted should an election become necessary (of course we would also advertise in the usual way). Anyone interested in the possibility of becoming a councillor is welcome to contact the Clerk at loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk for more information. You are also welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting as a member of the public so that you can see how we work.

Other Useful Contacts

Chichester District Council: East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY.
Tel 01243 785166. **Website** www.chichester.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council: County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RO.
Tel 01243 777100. **Website** www.westsussex.gov.uk
24-hour information line: 0845 758 1232.

Countryside services, footpaths, bridleways: 01243 777620

Highways repairs and maintenance, pavements, grass cutting: 01243 642105

Police: emergencies 999, non-emergencies 0845 60 70 999. **Crimestoppers:** 0800 555 111

Newsletter articles: any local clubs or societies who would like to publicise their activities in the Newsletter should contact the Parish Clerk on 01798 812026, e-mail loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk. We will do our best to fit your article in at the right time, but the printing timetable is outside our control and we cannot guarantee it. We also reserve the right to edit material for reasons of space, and we cannot accept political material.

Advertising: any traders or businesses wishing to advertise in the Newsletter should contact Rod Goldsmith at Wests Printing Works, Steyning, on 01903 813007, e-mail rodgoldsmith@ic24.net.