



# LOXWOOD Parish Council ~ Newsletter ~

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Welcome** to the sixth edition of the Parish Council Newsletter, and a further change in style. Concerns were raised that presenting the information in newspaper style columns might make it harder to read, so we have taken them out.

The Parish Council has had a particularly busy few months, with both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting taking place, in April and May respectively.

### The Annual Parish Meeting

**This was held** at North Hall on the 15th April, and was well attended by local residents and by members of some of Loxwood's non-profit making Societies.

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting. She then outlined some of the activities carried out by the Parish Councillors over the last year. These included looking at planning applications, pushing for pot hole filling and improved road surfaces in general, and the removal of the B2133 as a designated route to Guildford. Obviously these only represented a portion of what the Parish Council did on behalf of Loxwood residents, but the Chairman told the Meeting that it would take too long to itemise everything individually.

She went on to thank the Parish Councillors for all their time and effort spent on Loxwood business, and for shouldering an increased work load during the long term absence of the Parish Clerk, Peter Evans.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Vice Chairman reported on the current financial position, outlining amounts spent over the last financial year, and some of the projected expenditure for the next.

Parish Councillor Howard Thomas outlined the new SID's initiative that the Council had agreed to join in with. A full report can be found later in the newsletter.

**Loxwood Parish Council held it's Annual Meeting**, on the 6th May. At the meeting, Alison Sanderson was re-elected as Chairman, and Charlie Whitmarsh as Vice-Chairman.

## **LOXWOOD — A Town Planner's View**

**As a result** of the Hall Hurst Farm application and the actions of both the developers and Chichester District Council, the Parish Council decided to seek advice from a Private Town Planning Consultant. The idea being that not only would the Council receive a view of the situation regarding Hall Hurst Farm, but also that they might gain an insight into how better to deal with any similar large scale planning applications that might come Loxwood's way, given that the Council has been lead to understand that the developer has 'options' on a number of other sites in the village. The Consultant reviewed all the documents relating to earlier village plans, the submission for the 2007 LDF document and everything the Parish Council had pertaining to the application to build at Hall Hurst Farm. He also took in to consideration the negative response from the vast majority of Loxwood residents. He toured the village, and then held a meeting with members of the Council. As a result of his fact finding he submitted an advisory report to the Parish Council, a précis of which follows:

With regard to the decision made to allow development at Hall Hurst Farm:

'I have formed the opinion that the decision was not fair and reasonable on the following grounds':-

1. The majority of the site lies outside of the Settlement Policy Area, and is therefore in the countryside and should have been governed by countryside protection policies, i.e. that it should be safeguarded from all but essential development.
2. One of the key reasons influencing the recommendation of approval was that the site would make a contribution to the shortfall of housing land availability within the District. However, any shortfall should be made good on a District wide basis and not through ad hoc decisions by the Council.
3. In connection with the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, one of the reasons given for the Strategy being rejected was the unsound evidence base for housing distribution across the District. This matter has not yet been decided upon, so the decision regarding Hall Hurst Farm appears to have been taken without adequate regard to wider sustainability considerations or in the context of the emerging LDF.
4. There was no balancing between the issues of a departure to policy on the one hand and the ability to secure local benefits on the other.
5. The importance of the farm site as noted in the Loxwood Village Design Statement, was not given sufficient consideration, especially in light of the fact that 75% of the site lay outside the SPA.

In conclusion he believes that: the Parish Council can be justifiably aggrieved with the decision of the District Council. Regrettably the only challenge to the.

decision would be by way of judicial review or by complaint to the Ombudsman. The former would be an expensive and uncertain course and the latter would be ineffective even if maladministration were to be found. He also wanted to point out that the decision has not yet been finalised pending the signing of the Section 106 by the District Council.

## **Loxwood – The Way Forward**

The Parish Council will need to scrutinise the revised Core Strategy when it is finally submitted, in particular the distribution of growth between the north and south of the District as well as any information on the key role of villages such as Loxwood in making provision for future growth.

One consequence of the decision to release the Hall Hurst Farm site being that it will consolidate development on the western side of the Guildford Road and may act as a precedent for further growth on this western side of the village.

The Parish Council has been asked by Chichester District, to put forward the merits of potential future sites within the village, and the Consultant urges caution until there is a clear understanding and appreciation of:-

- The appropriate scales of growth that might reasonably be accommodated at Loxwood;
- The physical constraints associated with the various available sites; and,
- The community benefits that would accrue in association with these sites.

There is also the particular issue of the provision of affordable housing and a need for clarification in relation to the particular scale of affordable housing to meet “local needs”. Indeed, the term “local needs” itself needs to be understood as the operation of affordable housing policy will determine whether the needs of Loxwood are being subsumed by wider needs elsewhere in the District.

## **Speed Indication Devices**

**The speed of traffic** throughout the Parish has long been of concern to the Parish Council, but over the years; several options have been explored, none has received encouragement from either the Police or County Highways. However, we are now getting involved in an initiative from the Police themselves.

In West Sussex, real speed enforcement is being focussed on those roads classified as RED (speed + deaths) and AMBER (speed + injuries). Other roads are classified as GREEN (speed only) on which it is the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Specialist Teams to deal with speeding issues. The B2133 and other roads within the Parish fall into the GREEN category so there’s not a lot of interest from the Police or WSCC. There seem, therefore, to be very few options available for Parishes wanting to address the problems of speeding traffic....

However, both the Police and WSCC support the use of portable Speed Indication Devices (SIDs). These cost £1945 + vat, and the PC is exploring the possibility

of joining with other local Parish Councils to purchase one for use in Loxwood and the surrounding area, should research prove them to be effective. A working group formed of PC members from within the Forum will manage the storage, usage etc of its SID.

It should be noted that the SIDs are simply a 'driver education device'. A SID can be set to show the approaching vehicle's actual speed when it exceeds the set threshold or can just 'flash' (as at Bramley or Adversane) the speed limit but does not record any data: e.g. the number of times the limit has been exceeded by approaching cars..

The Parish Council will run the Loxwood Team, but would appreciate help from anyone able to give up the occasional hour, to keep an eye on the device. Volunteers would not be expected to stand by the device, nor confront speeders. If you are interested in being actively involved in this initiative to reduce speeding in Loxwood, please contact the PC by email; or letter.



## Police Matters

**There have been** a number of burglaries to residential properties and outbuildings, in particular when the premises have been unoccupied for reasons such as a family holiday or work commitments. These incidents have been spread across a wide rural area.

Please keep an eye on any premises that you think may be currently unoccupied for any reason. It is of the utmost importance that everyone remains vigilant and reports any suspicious activity, whether involving persons or vehicles, as soon as possible.

It is evident that quite often suspicious vehicles and/or persons are seen but they are not reported until after a crime has occurred. If you are in any doubt, PLEASE REPORT the circumstances by making contact with Sussex Police either by using the non emergency number:

**0845 60 70 999** or in the case of an emergency by dialling **999**.

Thank you in anticipation for your continued support and assistance.  
PC Hanlon



## A message from PCSO Emily Maple

**The Midhurst and Petworth Police Neighbourhood Specialist Team (NST)** have now adopted certain roles in the operation of the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. PC Hanlon and PCSO Maple will be contacting all local area coordinators to introduce themselves and discuss any new information. Updates will be posted on the Sussex Police website and as a regular article in

this local newsletter.

We strongly urge members of the public to come forward with any neighbourhood concerns or issues that are important to them. So please contact either PC Hanlon or PCSO Maple on 0845 60 70 999 or if you have access to the internet please log on to [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) to e-mail us.

## Out of Hours Medical Help

**New telephone number for the Out of Hours Service: 0300 130 1313**

Patients across West Sussex who need immediate and necessary treatment when their GP surgery is closed will be looked after by one Out of Hours Service instead of three from 1 April 2008.

The Out of Hours Service will help you if you become ill after your local GP Surgery is closed and you need to contact a doctor or a specially trained nurse because of a serious medical need or an urgent healthcare problem.

Specially trained call handlers will answer your call. If you need to speak to a nurse or doctor they will call you back.



A&E Department

If you need urgent hospital treatment, go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department

Call 999 for emergencies such as loss of consciousness, severe chest pain, serious accidents or loss of blood.

## LOXWOOD W.I.



Women's  
Institute

**The main item** concerning our members at this time of the year, is the Resolutions to be put to the Government at the Annual General meeting in Liverpool in June. Every member has the opportunity to air their views. This year our resolutions are as follows:

1. This meeting asks H.M.Government to urge the E.U. to ban bottom trawling which causes catastrophic loss of marine life.
2. In view of the adverse effect on families of the imprisonment of people with severe mental health problems, this meeting wishes H.M.Government to provide treatment and therapy in a more appropriate and secure residential environment.

In April we had slides and a very interesting talk on Villages of West Sussex, including of course, Loxwood. At the March meeting much fun was enjoyed with quizzes and readings.

For the Summer, we are already booked to serve Teas to several parties visiting the Canal, and we hope they have fine weather to enjoy their trips.

**\*\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG!\*\*\*\***

## Wey and Arun Canal Trust

**In April** we hope to be fitting the gate walkways to Baldwins Knob lock (BKL) and Drungewick lock. These are the result of a generous donation by a member and will enable us to meet an IWA requirement for lock design. They will also make it easier for boat crews when taking a boat through these locks.

The making of concrete copings and blocks for use at Devils Hole lock has continued at the Tickners Heath depot and will continue on Thursdays over the next little while. The gate to fit on the bridge at Devils hole lock has arrived and is ready for fitting. It will be used at the request of the landowner to replace the fixed bars. The donkey steps on the bridge will also be removed to enable him to use his quad bike on that part of the farm, while stopping the lads using the fields as a motocross track. From our point of view with the gate in place, the causeways to the east of DHL can be removed.

This last month the Sunday group spent some time preparing more metal for recycling and clearing the rubbish from the Drungewick slipway access lane. We will be moving the construction materials being stored in the car park to maximise the area used by the boat passengers.

At the Canal Bridge, Loxwood, following the excitement of putting the precast beams in place on the 8 April, the deck was cast on the 18 April. Given time for the concrete to cure and then a week applying the waterproofing, to be followed by the black top and kerbing, by mid May the traffic should be diverted to the east of the road.



**Loxwood Sports Association**

**Loxwood Football Club** are Sussex County Division 3 champions and have won promotion to League Division 2. Congratulations to the team!

The cricket season is now underway with friendly matches and a full programme of fixtures. See our website for details of home fixtures and come along to watch a match from the pavilion.

The darts season is now over, and the team will be having practice nights during the summer.

There will again be a number of caravan rallies on the back field during the Summer months.

Our other facilities include: Squash Court, Fitness room (Running machine, rowing machine, weights), 2 Snooker Tables, Pool, and a bar and lounge which can be hired for functions and parties.

Web: [www.loxwoodsports.org.uk](http://www.loxwoodsports.org.uk)

Email: [info@loxwoodsports.org.uk](mailto:info@loxwoodsports.org.uk)

Phone: 01403 752973

## North Hall

**North Hall has been** well cared for over the last 70 years - but it does need new toilets, kitchen, a new roof and improved parking as well as other smaller changes. This is the time to ensure that the hall will provide for the needs of the village for the next 70 years.

Many thanks to those who took the trouble to fill in the survey and especially those who offered help. As a result we have 6 new committee members. 105 households responded by returning their forms. 90 preferred the idea of refurbishing the hall. As we have to think about COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION and our CARBON FOOTPRINTS in the future we believe that the Hall will have an important role to play by offering Loxwood residents the opportunity to find leisure activities and interests close to home.

We have a long way to go and there will need to be much fundraising and applying for grants. It was good that so many people offered their help with this (although some chose to remain anonymous!) In order to obtain grants we need to show that North Hall is used by the village, and therefore we are paying special attention to activities that people want to start or join.

Jenny and Karen from Forget-me-Not (01403 752389) are hoping to start a film club in the Autumn. They are especially thinking about films suitable for the family. They are using 'Movies on the Move' a company used by many other rural villages in West Sussex. We are also in touch with a scheme run by West Sussex to bring the Arts to rural villages as many of you asked for this. We are waiting to hear about their new programme for next year.

Residents also showed an interest in a Gardening Club. Simon Thornton Wood, Director of Education and Science at RHS Wisley, will give an evening presentation offering some new ideas as well as old ones. These may link up with the three C's mentioned above. That will be a date worth booking in your diaries!

Other ideas are in the pipeline, all of which will be advertised on the village website well in advance as well as around the village. We are in need of volunteers to design a website for us and a person to do the bookings (phone provided) and produce a calendar each month. Please let the Secretary (751617) know if you are interested.

The Management Trustees of North Hall



## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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

The **Parish Clerk** is Peter Evans: 12 Weald Court, Station Road, Billingshurst, RH14 9RS. e-mail: [loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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 Loxwood village website: [www.loxwood.org](http://www.loxwood.org)

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

**Chichester District Council**: East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY. Tel: 01243 785166. **Website**: [www.chichester.gov.uk](http://www.chichester.gov.uk)

**West Sussex County Council**: County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ. Tel: 01243 777100. **Website**: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://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, or individuals wishing to submit articles for the Newsletter should contact the Parish Clerk on: 01798 812026, e-mail: [loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk). We reserve the right to edit material, and we cannot accept political material.

**Advertising**: any businesses wishing to advertise in the Newsletter should contact the Parish Clerk by email:

[loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loxwoodpc@yahoo.co.uk)

