

## MISCELLANY

I would like to thank Cllr. Deborah (DJ) Sprackling for her service to the Council over the last two years or so, and in particular her hard work in leading the project to upgrade the recreation ground's play equipment. Losing her enthusiastic input to that project has inevitably delayed it somewhat, but other Councillors are now busy moving it on.

The refurbishment of the benches has now been completed and I must again thank Cllr. Cris Allen for volunteering to carry this out and for his excellent workmanship. The resulting improvement in the appearance of Newick is much appreciated.

Thanks must also go to all who helped to make the Newick Festival a great success. Photographs of the event are about to be made available on the festival website [www.newickfestival.org](http://www.newickfestival.org) which will also be able to be reached via a link on the Parish website [www.newick.net](http://www.newick.net). Discussions on what form the next Parish event should take, and when it should be held, are already under way.

The request in the last newsletter for opinions on whether to continue with having the flags on the green throughout the summer, or just put them up for special occasions, brought many responses. The flags policy will be reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its next meeting, taking those responses into account.

The British Legion's request for permission to place a memorial on the Village Green, to all of those who died in the two World Wars and other conflicts, has been agreed to by the Parish Council. The details regarding the size and shape of the memorial and exactly where it should be located have yet to be agreed and planning permission will have to be obtained.

*Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman of the Parish Council*

Newick Festival Flags  
(photo courtesy Mr. G. Collier)



### PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Mr. John M. Lucas (Chairman)  
Mr. Chris Armitage  
Mr. Cris Allen  
Mr. Nick Berryman (Vice Chairman)  
Mr. Ross Houghton  
Mr. Chris Jago  
Mrs. Jean Sheppard  
Mrs. Jenny Smerdon  
Mrs. Melanie Thew  
Mrs. Cathy Wickens

**NB** All correspondence for Newick Parish Council should be sent to the Clerk (see contact details below)

### Lewes District & East Sussex County

#### Councillor:

Cllr. Jim Sheppard Tel: 724478

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#### Newick Parish Council

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## Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2014



### COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the resignation of Cllr. Deborah Sprackling at the end of July, there is currently a vacancy which the Parish Council is seeking to fill by co-opting a new member. This is an ideal opportunity for anybody thinking about joining the Parish Council to find out what it is like before committing themselves to stand at the Parish Council elections in May 2015. If you think that you have something to offer and would like to be involved in shaping the future of your community, please contact the Clerk (contact details at the end of this newsletter) giving brief details of the skills and experience that you could bring to the council. The deadline for making an application is Friday 10th October and the Parish Council will be considering the applications received at its meeting on Tuesday 14th October.

### PLAY AREA AND SKATE RAMP

The skate ramp continues to attract attention. Sadly it is the wrong attention. Complaints are still finding their way to Lewes police in relation to the anti-social behaviour. The Police take these complaints seriously and, again Lewes District Council are reviewing the whole issue. The Parish Council had formed a working group consisting of the skate ramp users. Unfortunately those users seem to have moved on. The Parish Council is actively seeking skate ramp users who are willing to resurrect the working group. Please contact the Clerk if you are willing to help.

The play area is to have a facelift. Additional funds have been identified which will enable the Parish Council to revamp the area. Some equipment will simply be painted and refurbished. However, it is our intention that some equipment will be removed and replaced by a traditional seesaw, a low level modular play system (to include play house), bigger and better multiplay system etc.

Working in conjunction with Lewes District Council, we have invited companies to submit their designs so that we can have a public consultation, hopefully on the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Please keep an eye on the Parish notice boards and website for further information.

We are also looking at the possibility of extending the existing basketball net/goal equipment. We are well aware of the inconvenience of having to retrieve the balls from the bushes.

*Cllr. Chris Armitage, Chairman of Playing Fields Committee*

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# Newick Now to 2030

May we again thank all of those residents who participated in the Parish Council's consultation period on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, whether by completing the questionnaire or sending comments by email or letter? Once the numerous comments had been fully analysed, it was agreed that a few changes should be made to the Plan. However, these were sufficiently minor for it not to be necessary to hold a further consultation period on a revised Draft Plan.

The resulting Proposed Neighbourhood Plan was passed to Lewes District Council (LDC) in late August and was published by LDC on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. LDC's six week consultation period, during which any further comments can be submitted to Lewes District Council, started on that date and runs until 13<sup>th</sup> October. For further information on the procedures applying to this final consultation period please see LDC's website. After that, the Proposed Plan will be passed to the Independent Examiner along with any submissions received by LDC during the above period.

Subject to a favourable recommendation by the Examiner, the next stage will be the referendum, which we hope will be at around the turn of the year.

The Proposed Neighbourhood Plan and the accompanying Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement can all be seen on LDC's website. They can also be seen on the Parish website, along with all of the other documents produced while developing the Plan.

*Cllr. John Lucas, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

## GRANTS

Each year the Parish Council includes in its budget a small amount to be awarded in grants to local organisations that can demonstrate a need for financial support either towards day to day running costs or for a specific project. Further details of the Parish Council's grant awarding policy and an application form can be found on the parish website: [www.newickparishcouncilsussex-public.sharepoint.com/directions/key-documents](http://www.newickparishcouncilsussex-public.sharepoint.com/directions/key-documents)

Any local organisation wishing to make an application for a grant of £250 or more to be paid in the 2015/16 financial year should do so before 31st October 2014. Applications for smaller amounts can be made at any time. For further information please contact the Clerk.

*Sue Berry, Clerk to the Council*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE



Newick appears to have been fairly free of crime in July. There were a couple of minor incidents but that would seem to be all.

June was not quite so good. There were 14 incidents, 1 vehicle crime, 3 burglaries, 2 incidents of criminal damage, 4 incidents of violence and 4 'others'. I don't, as yet, have figures for August.

One of the Parish Councillors has recently updated the Newick Parish website and invited me to update the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) page which I have done. It has several useful contact phone numbers and email addresses. Type Newick Parish Council into your search engine, click on Village and then NHW.

A resident rang me recently to say he had been contacted by a man who claimed to be from the London Fraud Squad. He told him they were investigating an employee who was selling bank details but did not state which bank. He asked the resident to withdraw £1,000 from his bank within the next half hour so the corrupt employee in the bank would think someone had taken out the money. He said he would then call back in an hour to check he had done so. The resident quickly realised it was a scam and rang the police. They were very interested as a man in Lewes had recently been defrauded of £7,000 by the scam.

One last thing, I need two new NHW street co-ordinators. One position has been outstanding for quite a while. It covers the area 2 – 38 Western Road and Acerlands and has about 12 houses. The other area is North Lodge and the High Street and has about 24 houses. If you can help please let me know.

*Cllr. Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator*

*Phone - 01825 724478*

*Email - [jcsheppard3@btinternet.com](mailto:jcsheppard3@btinternet.com)*

## OVERHANGING VEGETATION

Householders are responsible for making sure that their hedges, bushes and trees do not overhang or obstruct any footpaths and now is a good time to check this. Overgrown hedges and vegetation cause real problems for people using the footpaths and pavements, especially if they suffer from impaired vision or need a little more space for wheelchairs, mobility scooters or buggies. This can be dangerous if they are forced into the road to avoid the obstruction.

If you find that your shrubs, hedges or trees are likely to cause a problem for passers by please make arrangements to cut them back as soon as possible.



The Parish Council is working with East Sussex County Council Highways to identify properties where overhanging vegetation is in need of attention and individual householders may receive an advice letter or a visit from the ESCC Highway Steward.

*Sue Berry, Clerk to the Council*