

TWINEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

HELLO!

Firstly, with best wishes to all our residents for Christmas and the New Year - how time flies. Secondly, and with our apologies for the long gap in Newsletters, your Parish Council has been very busy in the intervening period.

With over 80% of residents now on our email list, we feel that most people are receiving any urgent updates from our long-suffering Clerk, Dawn. Word of mouth continues to work for many of us too! We have been sad to say goodbye to several longstanding residents including Stephen Edell at The Old Farmhouse who managed sixty years in Twineham. Stephen was able to offer very sound legal advice over the years for which we are most grateful. We are also very pleased to welcome new residents and hope everyone is enjoying life in our pleasant countryside.

The Summer Jubilee did give us the occasion to meet many of our new neighbours. It was a very successful afternoon and enjoyed by the many residents and families who joined in the celebrations. Although the Parish Council will not be organising a party for the Coronation, if there are others in the community who would like to do this, we would be happy to support this endeavour.

Parish Council Elections

On 4th May 2023 there are national elections for Parish Councils. All residents are able to stand for election and we would urge anyone interested to get involved. Please email clerk@twineham-pc.gov.uk for further information. Twineham has five parish councillors and meets for a minimum of six meetings a year, with additional meetings being arranged for urgent matters, such as planning applications. The meetings are held on weekday evenings at Twineham School.

The Council levies a 'precept' (part of your Council Tax bill) which was £9,577 for the tax year 2022-2023. From this we pay our Clerk, Dawn, cover mandatory insurances, various grants, the largest being £750 towards the upkeep of the churchyard, and a variety of other costs including keeping the War Memorial tidy and a contribution to the Jubilee celebrations.

Much of the Parish Council's time is taken up with planning issues and we generally arrange a site visit to enable us to have an accurate idea of the impact of a planning application. Although we do not take the final decision as this is the responsibility of Mid Sussex District Council, we do comment and give our views on all planning applications in the parish (Twineham village, Twineham Green, Hickstead, Bob Lane and the eastern side of Wineham Lane). Sadly, our views do not always agree with those of Mid Sussex!

Mid Sussex District Plan

Some may have seen the concerns that have been raised locally regarding the proposals for new housing that are included in the consultation for the District Plan. This document determines the amount of housing that the District will need to build up to the period ending 2039 - this may seem a long way away, but we do need to be aware about what is in the pipeline.

The expansion of Burgess Hill is already underway with 3500 houses already consented for the Northern Arc and a further 1500 to be built over the Plan period. On top of this there is a proposal to build 2000 houses in Sayers Common. The Parish Council has objected to this latter major development in the countryside. We do not consider this to be a sustainable area for development and, despite assurances from developers, we do not believe that the necessary infrastructure will be provided. The increase in traffic on the rural, currently extremely poorly maintained, highways will be horrendous and will add to the problems already faced by motorists.

If you are concerned by these proposals, please respond to Planning Policy at Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath. Email policyconsultation@midsussex.gov.uk or visit the Mid Sussex website. The consultation closes on 19th December 2022.

Update on Rampion 2

With the site at Oakendene, near Cowfold now the preferred site for the substation for the Rampion 2 off shore wind farm, Twineham Parish Council commented on the latest consultation in connection with the cable route connection to the National Grid at the corner of Bob Lane and Wineham Lane, which included concerns over HGV movements, traffic lights in Wineham Lane, working hours and no use of Bob Lane.

SID – Speed Indicator Device

The Parish Council is considering the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) with the aim of raising driver awareness of local speed limit. This would be erected in Bolney Chapel Road. The cost of the device is £2,700 plus installation costs. The Department for Transport state that “mean speeds reduced by between 0.6mph and 2.6mph. The overall effect was a 1.4mph reduction in mean speeds. All changes in speeds were statistically significant”. There are strict Police guidelines as to where these devices can be placed so options for their siting are limited. There is also a debate as to whether the ‘smiley face’ or the actual recorded speed is more effective, the difference in cost is minimal. Please let us know your thoughts to inform our decision.

Your Parish Council

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Forthcoming Meetings: Monday 9th January 2023, 7 pm at Twineham School