



ASSETS, COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Feather Bench Ceremony - 28th September 2019

The official opening of the art installation on 28th September was very well attended as over 100 people stood in the cemetery to listen to the short ceremony. The gusty wind interspersed with bright sunlight seemed somehow appropriate for the occasion. It was good to see so many people there, united in a common cause, and later chatting over refreshments at the Old School.

This project arose from the desire amongst Cuckfield Parish Councillors to provide an art installation to acknowledge the many stillborn babies, and those who only lived a short time, who were born at Cuckfield Hospital and buried in unmarked graves in the cemetery. The burial records from 1855 to the current day are held by the Cemetery Registrar, P & S Gallagher, and some years ago they were digitised so can also be seen at Cuckfield Museum and on the Parish Council website www.cuckfield.gov.uk. They make sad reading and the practice of burying stillborn babies without specific marked graves continued until the 1990s.



Christian Funnell was chosen as the artist after one of our councillors was impressed by his piece 'The Shoal' at Seaford. Christian came to meet councillors in Cuckfield to discuss the project, which is when he suggested the idea of a feather – something that can float freely and has a symbolic meaning in many cultures with spirituality and the soul. We hope that this feather bench will give all those families who grieve a sense of well-being and comfort.

Christmas Street Festival - Friday 6th December 2019

A reminder to hold the date for this year's Christmas Street Festival. Anyone who wishes to have a stall this year should contact adrian.podmore@cuckfield.gov.uk, and anyone who would like to offer assistance in the planning of this event, or on the evening itself, should contact frances.laing@cuckfield.gov.uk.

Churchyard and Cemetery

The Parish Council is presently investigating the preservation of the two Lychgates at Holy Trinity Church and the maintenance and repair of the cemetery paths. Both projects will be long-term. Professional advice is being sought from surveyors and conservationists.

Vandalism and Criminal Activity

The Parish Council shares the local community's concerns about the recent vandalism experienced throughout the village. If anyone has any constructive suggestions to help reduce these incidents, please contact: clerk@cuckfield.gov.uk.

All criminal activity, which includes vandalism, should be reported to the police on telephone number 01273 470101 or by email: 101@sussexpnn.police.uk.

The Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) designated to Cuckfield visits the village on a regular basis.

Wheelie bins

A number of residents and visitors to the village have complained about wheelie bins being left on pavements. It is felt they are not only unattractive but unsafe if left on the side of the road indefinitely. Residents who reside in the conservation area, in particular South Street and Broad Street, are kindly requested to consider placing their wheelie bins on the kerb on collection days only.

Recreation Grounds

Please be reminded that Worsley Recreation Ground, High Street and Whitemans Green Recreation Ground are both owned by Mid Sussex District Council. All enquires and any issues should be reported to MSDC.



ROADS AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

London Lane Improvements

The long-awaited improvements to London Lane commenced on 24th July with completion on 30th August. The main work involved the widening of the pavement from around Glebe Road to Chatfield Road. For safety reasons the work was carried out with a road closure in place for this period. SGN were also in London Lane for approximately three weeks to carry out gas main and service replacements. In order to keep traffic flowing, parking restrictions along the diversion route, High Street and Broad Street, were necessary. The diversions and parking restrictions caused some unavoidable inconvenience to residents. Early examination of SID reports suggests there is a slight decrease in the average speeds being witnessed along London Lane since the road re-opened.

Get ready for winter in Cuckfield

- Priority one roads will always be gritted in periods of ice and snow
- Priority two roads will follow once the above are clear in prolonged periods of ice and snow. Other roads will then follow on.
- You will not be sued if you clear snow outside your property to gain access to the road
- Make sure you know where the nearest gritting bin to your property is located. There are thirteen in Cuckfield and all will be filled before the start of winter.
- Be aware of elderly or vulnerable neighbours who may need help with shopping or doctors' appointments.
- CPC has a list of volunteers who are contactable 24/7 in cases of emergency
- For more information refer to:
www.cuckfield.gov.uk/administration/winter-plan

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mid Sussex District Council is about to commence consultation on its latest Strategic Housing and Economic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) – part of the agreement with the Planning Inspectorate at the District Plan Examination last year. The District has to find additional houses as a result of the increased target, and Cuckfield, as a Settlement 2 category settlement, is slated as taking an additional 222 dwellings. Following the SHELAA process, the open field adjacent to Horsegate House off Hanlye Lane has been identified as an 'allocated' site and marked as 'developable' for part of this. This goes against the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan policies and assessments. Cuckfield Parish Council is therefore currently preparing a response to the consultation on this proposal.

A six week public consultation opened from 9th October 2019. All members of the public who wish to pass comment on this Site Allocation Plan should go to the MSDC website for information (weblink not available at time of going to press). Details of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment reports can be found via this link:
<https://bit.ly/30VNBRb>



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Cuckfield Parish Council – Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 10am - 3pm

For full details of all our Councillors please see our website:
www.cuckfield.gov.uk/administration/the-council

www.cuckfield.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/CuckfieldParishCouncil

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