

Sussex Police - Ten year Anniversary of PCSOs in Sussex

Providing a visible and reassuring presence for the public and strengthening strong working relationships within the community -that's what Sussex Police promised 10 years ago when the first Community Support Officers took to the streets of Sussex!

Sunday (3 March) marked the 10th anniversary of PCSOs in Sussex and their role has gone from strength to strength; the Force now employs 362 officers across the whole of Sussex, many in specialist roles including wildlife officers and school liaison.

In 2003, 21 men and women became the first ever intake of PCSOs in Sussex Police. Ten years on, six are still employed by the Force, four of whom are still in their original roles!

Asst Chief Constable Robin Merrett, who heads Neighbourhood Policing for Sussex Police, said: "The best way to sum up the difference that PCSOs have made is that it is difficult to imagine how we ever managed without them, both within policing and our communities.

"As I travel around Sussex to attend meetings with the public, I am regularly told incredibly positive stories about the work a particular PCSO has undertaken. Examples include assisting individuals who have been persistent victims of anti social behaviour, or listening to the needs of a community and then doing something positive with the information. People have told me how their local community has been transformed as a result of a PCSOs work.

"PCSOs play a vital role in Neighbourhood Policing Teams; they are a visible and accessible presence. I am confident that PCSOs across all districts serve Sussex Police and their local neighbourhoods professionally and with dedication, taking responsibility for getting things done.

"As we celebrate 10 years of PCSOs in Sussex Police I would like to personally thank all of these officers, past and present, for the work they have done and the success they have delivered."

Former motorcycle mechanic PCSO Daryl Holter was one of the first recruits to join Sussex Police on March 3, 2003 and he says that making a difference, helping people, and preventing and detecting crime are what has kept him in the role for the last decade.

"The role has developed enormously in that time," said Daryl, who now specialises in wildlife crime and is a PCSO tutor. "When I first arrived I hit the ground running, however I learnt very quickly that to solve a problem was not a one man job and to deal effectively with issues it is a real benefit to work with others.

"I soon identified that working with partner agencies, authorities, local groups and those on ground level were key and this is one area that has developed through time. The role has developed due to making myself accessible, together with listening and reassuring the public I serve. Ten years later I have an excellent team that I work with and have created strong links within my communities."

Throughout the course of next week, numerous events will be taking place to mark the anniversary and herald the success of PCSOs in Sussex over the last 10 years. This includes a film of PCSOs, officers, police staff and members of the public talking about how the role has evolved, what a PCSO means to them and human interest stories.

A large number of photographs and stories have been collated from across the Force which will be added throughout the week to the Sussex Police Facebook timeline. And there are also a number of street briefings/'Meet the People' events taking place across the Force, supporting the Talk To Me campaign (#talktome), outlined on our website.

Finally.....How to contact Parish Council

Visit our website at www.catsfieldpc.co.uk
Email your comments regarding any Village matters to: clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk
Write to Parish Council at **The Village Hall, Church Rd, Catsfield, East Sussex. TN33 9DP**
Read the information on Parish Council's **notice boards**
Phone the Parish Office on **01424 893526**

Issue

8

The Catsfield Flyer...



Welcome to Issue 8 of Parish Council's Newsletter 2013

Spring is here.....

The Annual Parish Assembly will be preceded by the
AGM of CATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

At 7.00pm in Catsfield Village Hall

The Chairman of the Parish Council invites all residents
from the Parish of Catsfield to attend

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, 25th April 2013

at 7.30pm in Catsfield Village Hall

A G E N D A

1. To welcome and receive any apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 26-Apr-2012
3. To discuss any matters arising from these minutes.
4. Parish Council Annual Report: *Chairman Cllr. John Overall*
5. County Council Report *Cllr. Kathryn Field*
6. District Council Report *Cllr. Angharad Davies*
7. An update on the Children's Play Area Project
8. Reports from the groups and societies of Catsfield
9. Open Forum.

Light refreshments will be available.

ALL RESIDENTS FROM THE PARISH OF CATSFIELD ARE WELCOME.

Parish Council 'Round-up'

What has been on Parish Council's Agenda since the last Newsletter.....?

County Councillor Kathryn Field has been keeping us up to date on ESCC matters they have been setting their budget for 2013/14 and looking at areas where they can save £61m over the next three years due to central governments cutback in funding. They are planning to cut £34m from Adult Social Care, £14m from Children's Services and £14m from Economy, Transport and Environment.

Parish Council has been setting its budget for 2013/14. In June 2012 we made the last payment on our five year Public Works Loan which was taken out to complete the Community Pavilion. This has allowed us to lower our Precept from £23,000 to £21,500 but due to Central Government's late changes to the Council Tax Discount Scheme this will not show as a reduction on our Council Tax Bills!

Devolution of the Village Hall Car Park....we are waiting on the draft lease from Rother DC to agree terms for taking over the running of the Village Hall Car Park.

Protecting our environment.....the verge on the corner of Potmans Lane and Church Road has been damaged by someone repeatedly driving across it and creating deep unsightly ruts. After a lengthy negotiation with ESCC and Highways we have finally reached an agreement and installed timber posts around the corner and also by the lay-by outside Twisly Oak Farm to preserve both verges.

The Children's Play Area will be our major project for this coming year..... Quotes are being obtained for a total refit of the play area.....new equipment, more seating..... Applications for grants are currently being made.

The Bus Shelter outside the White Hart Pub has been remodelled due to the constant stream of rubbish being left on the floor and damage to the seating area. Arrangements are in place to stain the shelter when the weather allows.

Traffic jams are an increasing problem in Church Road around Catsfield CEP School during drop-off and pick-up hours. This is a very busy road and because of vehicles inconsiderately parking and ignoring the white lines designed as passing-bays the through traffic is forced to drive on the wrong side of the road or into residents drive ways. Parish Council, Catsfield School, ESCC and Sussex Police are working together to find a practical solution.

Tidying-up the lay by in Catsfield Road.....regrettably not all our plans come to fruition as Highways were unable to devote any funds to improving the appearance of this area but were happy to carry out the work at Parish Council's cost. On balance Parish Council decided the cost was not justifiable and have asked Highways to close off the lay by and make it safe.

This is just a snippet of what has been / is happening.....our latest Agenda and Minutes can be found on our Notice board outside the Village Hall and on our web-site www.catsfieldpc.co.uk or copies are available by contacting our Clerk

Planning Applications

Parish Council has no executive powers in deciding planning applications - this is the prerogative of Rother District Council, which is the Planning Authority. However, it is mandatory for the Planning Authority to consult the Parish Council on all applications in its area. Parish Council can then comment as it sees fit on any application; however, the Planning Authority can disregard these comments if it considers them to be inappropriate.

Parish Council's Planning Sub-Committee contacts the applicant to arrange a site visit to allow Councillors to look at the application at its proposed location. The planning application will be discussed with full council at the next monthly meeting. The applicant is also notified of the meeting and is invited to attend.

At the meeting Councillors will consider all aspects of the application including its position in relation to the existing and neighbouring buildings, its design, whether it creates a loss of privacy or light to nearby properties, its appearance in the street scene, whether it affects local drainage or parking and the overall needs and requirements of the village.

The Parish Council is completely objective and any Councillor who lives close to an application will refrain from passing comment upon it as they may have either a personal or prejudicial interest in the outcome of that application. Councillors take objections to planning applications very seriously. A decision to object is not made without good cause which must be grounded in planning law.

Applicants have a basic right to expect that when they submit a planning application that it will be approved unless there is justifiable grounds to refuse it (not the other way round). Whether Councillors like an application or not is irrelevant. A common misconception that Councillors often hear from neighbouring residents is that you can object to an application if it blocks your view. No one is entitled to a view but you are entitled to privacy.

What Parish Council can bring to the planning department at Rother District Council is local knowledge which can help the planning officer when determining the application.

Once the Parish Council has decided its response the Clerk sends Parish Council's response online to the case officer at Rother District Council.

Most planning applications are determined by the case officer for each application. There are occasions though if an application is contentious that the case officer might refer the application to committee. This means that the case officer will recommend a decision but the application will be determined by a committee made up of district Councillors who meet once a month. They will consider all the representation made by both statutory consultees and local residents and will then vote on whether or not to grant permission.

