

Sussex Police

# Operation Crackdown

You will now find it easier to report incidents of anti-social driving in Sussex. Sussex Police has re-launched Operation Crackdown - a system that enables anyone to report anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles, either online or by phone. Anti-social driving can be driving that is careless, deliberately aggressive or dangerous. If you see this type of behaviour it is important that you report it, so it can be dealt with in the most appropriate way.

Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative supported by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP), Sussex Police and all local authorities in the county. It was first launched in 2002 as a way of reporting abandoned vehicles in Sussex, and was expanded in 2007 to cover anti-social driving reports.

The system for reporting anti-social driving has now been made simpler, to encourage members of the public to easily and quickly report this type of incident and users can now keep track of the progress of their case with a specific reference number provided.

Incidents can be reported, either via [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) or by calling 01243 64 22 22 for those who don't have access to the internet.

Members of the public who are reporting incidents must remember, where possible, the registration number of the vehicle, the make, model and the colour, so the police can identify the vehicle concerned and make contact with the offender.

Every report received through Operation Crackdown is viewed and a decision is made against a set criteria on how best to deal with it. In the majority of cases a letter of advice is sent to the driver or rider, but a report to Operation Crackdown can also lead to arrest and possible conviction, depending on the seriousness of the offence.

Don't forget to follow and like us on the social media below.

Many Thanks for your support

Regards  
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Jim Stobart Road Safety/ASD Co-ordinator  
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Tel 01273 404571 Ext. 44053 Mobile. 07775544466  
Follow us on twitter @OpCrackdown  
Like us on Facebook

## Finally.....How to contact Parish Council

Visit our website at [www.catsfieldpc.co.uk](http://www.catsfieldpc.co.uk)  
Email your comments regarding any Village matters to: [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto: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

9

# The Catsfield Flyer...

## Welcome to Issue 9 of Parish Council's Newsletter 2013

### Children's Play Area Project

During the Summer you may have noticed some changes in the Play Area. This is in line with the pledge mad by Catsfield Parish Council in the Local Action Plan, to refurbish and improve the Children's Play Area. Up until June 2012, Parish Council had been committed to repaying a 5 year loan taken out to complete the internal fittings of the new Community Pavilion and did not want to take on further financial burden. But now....it's all systems go!



Our children love to explore nature, run, roll, climb and swing. Sometimes all at once! By providing them with quality outdoor play experiences they can learn, achieve, take risks, and develop skills which are critical for the healthy development of our young children and the community. Our current equipment has become a little dated to say the least – the newest piece of equipment was purchased back in 1998 – some 15 years ago so it has served our children well over the years.

In September 2012 with the help of Scott Lavocah the project began. Scott has been the driving force behind several successful projects in the Village and with the added bonus that he is the Parks and Leisure Services Manager at Rother District Council.

The play area is aimed at 0-11year olds so the first port of call was to Catsfield School. Ali Norwood – a Mum from the school - who was involved with the new play area at Battle Recreation Ground – went equipped with catalogues and photo's to survey a group of children on their 'wish list' of equipment and came up with – nothing we would have chosen! With a little tweaking we were ready to obtain quotes. Three suppliers were invited to quote for the supply and installation of the play equipment. Their quotes came in the region of £55,000 to £60,000 - and this did not include removing the old play equipment and preparing the ground ready for the installation!

With this information we – as in Scott - began applying for funding. Parish Council had already agreed to contribute £15,000. The bid for £25,000 to Rother District Council's - Community Grant Scheme was successful but unfortunately another major grant to 'Awards for All' did not meet their requirements. Therefore, with a reduced budget of £40,000 we agreed to revise the plans and ask the three suppliers to re-quote and after careful consideration Playdale Playgrounds Ltd were selected to take on the task.

Hardy Landscapes has been busily removing the old play equipment, digging out the old concrete and safety surfaces, taking out the bushes and vegetation, trimming back any dead branches on the trees and finally landscaping the ground ready for installation.



Playdale are scheduled to start installing the equipment the week commencing 9th September. It will take them the best part of two weeks with a scheduled re-visit in October to set-up the final piece of equipment. With a little bit of turfing and scattering of some grass seed we should hopefully be open for play towards the end of September. It is hoped new fencing will follow shortly.

## Parish Council 'Round-up'

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

County Councillor Kathryn Field was re-elected as the County Councillor for Battle and Crowhurst during the May elections. The ESCC elections had resulted in 'No overall control' and all decisions would now have to be negotiated. Cllr. Fields updates included the Bexhill-Hastings link road - securing £56m of government funding.

District Councillor Angharad Davies - who was elected to County Council for Northern Rother during the May elections - reported on the pressures Rother DC were under to find savings as a result of cutbacks on their government funding. Derek Stevens stepped down as Chief Executive and his post has been divided between the two remaining directors who now take turns to sit in as head of paid service.

Following the installation of the Defibrillator outside the Village Hall, Tim Fellows from SECAMB came along to the Village Hall during March to run through the operation of the AED and to give some basic first aid instruction to a group of 16 Villagers.

Devolution of the Village Hall Car Park....Due to Rother DC merging their Legal Department with Wealden DC's, the long term sickness of the Estates Manager and now another round of redundancies, we are still no further ahead with obtaining the draft lease from Rother DC to take over the running of the Village Hall Car Park.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Cllr. Peter Josling who announced his resignation from PC in May due to personal and business commitments. Cllr. Josling had served on Catsfield Parish Council for nearly 9 years during which time he was a member of the Planning Committee, Standards Committee and Playground Committee - you may recall his plan for a new play area which will be forever known as 'The Josling Towers'! More recently Peter was Webmaster to Parish Council's website and our local Dog Warden. His wealth of experience and knowledge was a great asset to Parish Council. Members and The Clerk would like to thank Peter for his dedication and hard work towards making our Village a better safer place.

Following Cllr. Josling's resignation we advertised a Casual Vacancy and are now pleased to welcome Cllr. Rachel Tottman as our new Councillor. Cllr. Tottman has lived in the parish for 10 years and works as a teacher at Claverham Community College, Battle where she also serves as a Governor. She is also a member of the Catsfield CEP School PTA.

During May we were fortunate enough to have our project approved by the Community Payback Team who sent a team to our Playing Field to paint the storage shed. Whilst there they also cleared the ditches around the Playing Field. The Community Payback scheme is an alternative form of punishment for those who have committed an offence, whereby, instead of serving a prison term, offenders serve as part of a supervised unpaid labour force within the community working on projects nominated by Parish Council on behalf of the Community.

We receive many complaints that hedgerows are overgrown forcing pedestrians to walk into the road. Letters are sent to landowners to remind them that their hedgerow must not overhang a public highway or public footpath, or obstruct the view of drivers.

## Parish Council 'Round-up'

Direct Technical Services provide the maintenance to our street lighting. You may have seen them in the Village recently repairing several street lights which had been identified with problems during a routine inspection.



The Diamond Jubilee Committee agreed to allocate some of the surplus funds from the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2013 to create a 'Diamond' shaped garden on 'The Green' by Brooks field.

Local resident Helena Kicinski was commissioned to design and implement the display.

The History Centre gave us updates on their current project - a World War One exhibition at St. Laurence Church in June 2014. If anyone has any details or information relating to Village life or people during WW1, the History Group would be very interested in hearing from you.

The Village Hall was closed for two weeks during August to carry out routine decorating and under floor repairs to an area of the main Village Hall which had been damaged by the weather. The cost of repair was estimated to be £12-14k and the Village Hall Committee were hoping to obtain grants to support this cost.

Catsfield Primary School PTA's Summer Fete in June had been a great success and with the help of some match funding from two banks raised in excess of £3,000. At the end of term the school held their very first musical production - 'Oliver'.

The following message was received from the Chairman Catsfield Horticultural Society -

*'There was no one more disappointed than I, to have to announce that this year's village fete was to be cancelled. A figurehead is required to lead a team, who will organise the event, and unfortunately we were short of a figurehead. There were many offers of help and assistance, but no one came forward to actually take charge of the coordination. The job itself is extremely rewarding, the fete is al-ways well received and so many will be disappointed this year. There must be someone out there who would like to take on the challenge for 2014. Organisation and delegation skills are all that's required! If you are interested then please contact me, and come to our AGM in October. I look forward to hearing from you!!'* Vanessa—Chairman Catsfield Horticultural Society

**\* Catsfield Horticultural Society AGM - 4th October 2013 - Catsfield Village Hall \***

Another regular topic is.....Dog Poo.....! We are not alone with this problem but wouldn't it be nice to set an example and be a 'No Dog Poo Village'? It doesn't take a lot to clear-up after your dog and it makes our village a nicer place to live in.

Catsfield Playing Field is now formally part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. During 2012, Fields in Trust ran their flagship programme The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. This aimed to protect outdoor recreational spaces across the UK to create a grassroots legacy from the momentous events of 2012: Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**.....and as a final point. We always make every effort to use local trades and suppliers. If you would like to be included on our local suppliers list please let The Clerk know.**