

# Polegate Town Council



**Newsletter  
February 2015**

## **A date for your diary**

All residents on the Electoral Roll for Polegate Parish are cordially invited to attend Polegate's Annual Town Assembly. The meeting takes place at 7:30pm on Monday the 2nd March at the United Reformed Church Hall in Victoria Road.

The meeting is an opportunity to find out what your Council has been doing over the past year, and to put questions to your Councillors.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

## **Christmas crackers!**

All of us here at the Council hope you had a good Christmas and New Year. It's always a busy time for us and Christmas just gone was no exception. The Dickensian afternoon, now firmly established as a Polegate tradition, attracted a goodly number of visitors, and thanks are due to the organising committee and all those involved. Next came the Mayor's Christmas party, hosted by Town Mayor Cllr Michael Clewett and attended by almost a hundred of Polegate's retired residents. And last but not least, the Councillors went out and about to look for the best festively dressed shop and house. This year's worthy winners were High Street card and book shop On The Go, and Mr and Mrs Paterson's home in Heron Ridge. Collections taken at the various festivities amounted to almost £700; a cheque will be presented later this month to Children with Cancer, the Mayor's chosen local charity for the year.

## **New lamps for old**

Sound familiar? Anyone who has ever seen the panto Aladdin will remember how the sorcerer tried to trick our eponymous hero into handing over the lamp containing the genie. Here in Polegate we're getting new lamps for old, and there isn't a genie or sorcerer in sight!

East Sussex County Council and their sub contractors are busy replacing old lighting columns with shiny new ones. There is also an ongoing programme to replace

existing bulbs with low energy LED lights, and to introduce part night lighting to those roads where it has not yet been implemented.

Because repair and replacement of street lights is a continuing process, the Council has set aside sufficient funds to cover the cost of future requirements.

## **No change to Polegate precept**

We're pleased to announce that the Polegate element of your Council Tax will remain unchanged this year. Council resolved to set a nil increase, which equates to £96.98 a year for a Band D property in the town—the same as last year.

At the time of writing we do not know whether Wealden District or East Sussex County Council plan to increase their portions of the Council Tax.

## **Loos update**

The High Street toilets are now officially the property of Polegate Town Council. The Council plans to carry out some refurbishment work on them later this year, and is currently in the process of obtaining quotes from suitable contractors. Work is expected to take a couple of weeks and the toilets will be closed when this takes place. We will endeavour to give residents plenty of notice before this temporary closure.

## **Halls for hire**

The Town Council has a number of rooms/offices for rent at reasonable sums. The old Council chamber at Wannock Road is available on weekdays between 9am and 1pm for sports, leisure and recreational purposes for £15 per hour. The Wannock sports pavilion can be hired for sports (with use of showers) for £30 per session, subject to availability. The Town Hall chambers can be hired on weekdays between 9am and 1pm for £10 per hour (minimum two hours). So, if you want to hold a meeting or a yoga class, give us a call on 01323 488114.

## Polegate crossing latest



You may recall from our spring newsletter last year that Network Rail agreed to transfer ownership of the town's landmark signal box to the Signal Box Preservation Society. In mid February the box will be decommissioned, which means that it will no longer be staffed and the level crossing will be controlled from a command centre at Three Bridges.

In the absence of Network Rail staff on the ground it is vitally important that all users of the crossing know what to do in the event of an emergency.

If there is a problem at the crossing—for example, if a car breaks down on the tracks, the barriers fail to open properly or in the event of any other emergency—telephone Network Rail on their 24 hour emergency number: 08457 11 41 41.

If you witness someone deliberately misusing the crossing, then phone British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40, or alternatively Sussex Police using the 999 system.

## Wind Farm approved

The wind farm at Shepham Lane, initially rejected by Wealden District Council in May 2013, has been approved by Jessica Graham BA(Hons) PgDipL, a planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The Inspector considered that the public benefits

Your Town Councillors and their phone numbers: Chris BERRY 486705; Edward BOARD 486508; Don BROADBENT 482896; Michael CLEWETT (Mayor) 486647; Malcolm CUNNINGHAM 486260; George GIBBS MBE 484109; John HARMER 485801; Joseph O'RIORDAN 486021; Hugh PARKER 486478; Margaret PIPER (Deputy Mayor) 485611; Mark PYBUS 482128; Daniel SHING, Stephen SHING 489265; Jill VOYCE 486429; Tim VOYCE 486429

of the wind farm outweighed the combined weight of adverse impacts, but did attach a number of conditions to the approval. Amongst these conditions are a 25 year limit on planning permission, no construction until the design, colour and finish have been approved, a restriction on distance between the turbines and nearby hedgerows, and limits on noise levels at surrounding dwellings, schools and businesses.

The full Appeal Decision may be viewed on the Planning pages of Wealden District Council's website, using reference number WD/2013/0346/MEA.

## A drive for safer roads

It's a sad statistic, but the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Wealden District in 2013 was the highest recorded since 2009. Wealden District Council, mindful of the public's concerns, has produced a report entitled 'Driving the Message Home—A Review of Road Safety in the Wealden District.' The Review looks at the possible causes of vehicle collisions and makes a number of recommendations. These include proposals to ask its partners— police, fire and rescue service and the County Council—to look at the issue via enforcement, education and the prioritisation of road safety and maintenance.

A copy of the Review is available to view at Polegate Town Council offices. Alternatively you can download a copy from the Wealden website. Go to [www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk) and then type 'A review of road safety in the Wealden District' into the search box.

## Let's tackle the tippers!

Unfortunately there seems to be more and more fly tipping in and around Polegate. Fly tipping is a particularly anti-social act. It's also a crime that carries a fine and, in more serious cases, a prison sentence.

If you spot any fly tipped rubbish, please let Wealden District Council know on 01323 443322, or via email. If you witness an offence of fly tipping, please try to note the registration number of the vehicle concerned.

This is your town—let's work together to keep it tidy!