

Polegate Town Council

Newsletter
August 2013



Please park perfectly in Polegate

Here at the Council offices we receive any number of queries, comments and complaints about litter, benches, roads, overgrown hedges and the like. But one of the most frequent complaints relates to parking. Parking on yellow lines, on pavements, across dropped kerbs and driveways, and abusing the two hour restrictions on parking bays are just a few of the justified complaints.

Parking in the Wealden District has not been decriminalised. This means that town and parish councils within the District cannot employ wardens and all offences relating to parking will be dealt with by the police. If you have any queries about parking in Polegate please contact PCSO Janine Daly on 07787 685751. If the matter is of a more pressing nature—for example, someone has parked in a dangerous position—call Sussex Police using the non emergency 101 telephone number.

If you are a car user living in Polegate, you can set an example to less courteous road users by observing the restrictions imposed by yellow lines and the two hour limits in the parking bays around the town.

Cracking down on bad driving

Whilst we're on the subject of cars, Sussex Police have now made it even easier to report instances of anti social driving via its 'Operation Crackdown' initiative.



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 to police, so that it can be dealt with in the most appropriate way. Incidents can be reported via a

dedicated website—www.operationcrackdown.org—or by phoning 01243 64 22 22.

If you are reporting an incident to police, please try to obtain the vehicle registration number and the make, model and colour so that police can identify the vehicle and make contact with the offender.

CCTV in the spotlight

Did you know that Polegate Town Council pays for the CCTV coverage in the High Street? Due to budget cuts it was recently suggested that the Council should cease to fund the system, but Council have resolved to continue paying for it for the present. However, future cuts may mean that



services such as this can no longer be funded. The Council would welcome your views on the subject.

Shedding light on street lamps

Who owns the street lights in Polegate? As a question, it may not be up there with 'What is the meaning of life?', but it is still a question we are asked fairly regularly. And the answer is... 'it depends'.

Generally speaking, Polegate Town Council owns the street lights in residential side roads. Lights on the main roads (Dittons Road, for example) and on the new housing developments are adopted by East Sussex County Council Highways.

Polegate Town Council is currently looking at all the lighting columns in the town, replacing those that have reached the end of their useful lives, and substituting existing photo-electric cells with new units that allow for part night lighting.

Take us for granted!

Are you aware that Polegate Town Council operates a grant budget, and that each year £4000 is allocated to local charities who apply for funding assistance?

The Council accepts grant applications all year round until the funding budget is spent. In 2012/13 grants were awarded to Polegate Community Centre to fund the purchase of a hearing loop, and to Wealden Citizens Advice, which operates a fortnightly outreach service at the Council offices.

If you operate a local charity and wish to apply, please visit our website at <http://www.polegate-tc.co.uk/files/Grants%20Policy%20May%202012.pdf>

Loos news



The public toilets in the High Street are, at the time of writing, still open. Polegate Town Council supports the retention of the toilets

and is looking at ways to ensure either that Wealden District Council continues to provide the service, or that an alternative plan is adopted should the District Council pursue the proposed closure. We will keep residents up to date via this newsletter, the website and notice boards.

Let us spray...

Last year, in common with many other areas of Sussex, Polegate experienced what can only be described as a plethora of weeds in gutters and on pavements as a result of cut backs (no pun intended) at County Council level. In order to assist our community Polegate Town Council has resolved to pay for two extra sprays to supplement the County Council's weed killing programme. The Town Council is able to do this under something

called 'The General Power of Competence', which allows properly authorised town and parish councils to do things they have previously been unable to do under their existing powers.

Electoral registration—the future

Important changes to the system of electoral registration are set to come into force in July 2014, say Wealden District Council.

The current system of household electoral registration will be replaced by Individual Electoral Registration (IER). Under the new rules every person eligible to vote will have to register individually, and will need to provide personal information (for example, date of birth and National Insurance number) which will be verified against the Department of Work and Pensions database before the person is added to the electoral register.

You do not need to do anything now. There will be plenty of publicity next year, both national and local, to ensure a smooth transition from the old system to the new.

Polegate through the lens

It's time to get snapping. Photographer Dan Dunbar is inviting local residents to submit photographs on the theme 'Polegate and local village life'. The competition runs until the 25th October, and the twelve photographs



judged to be the best will be included in a calendar to be sold in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice. Full details can be found on the Town Council website, www.polegate-tc.co.uk by following the link to 'PhotographyCompetition'.

Full Council reminder

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Monday the 30th September at 7:30pm in St George's Church Hall, Eastbourne Road, Polegate. Please keep an eye on our website and notice boards for the venues for future meetings.

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