

Polegate Town Council

Newsletter
Spring 2014



Annual Town Assembly set for 7th April at 7:30pm

Polegate Town Council's Annual Town Assembly takes place on Monday the 7th April at 7:30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Victoria Road, Polegate. The purpose of the meeting is to let you as residents know what your Council has been doing during the past year, and there will be an opportunity for you to put questions to your Town Councillors. There will also be guest speakers; a representative from the South East Coast Ambulance Service will talk about the new 'make ready' station at Cophall, Southern Water will outline the provision of waste water services, and Haymaker Solar Farms will provide some information about the solar array planned for Natewood Farm in Hailsham. The meeting is open to anyone, but only those who are on the current electoral register for Polegate Parish are permitted to vote on matters arising during the meeting.

The town's annual report booklet will be available on the night, or from the Council offices approximately one week before the meeting.

Town's toilets to stay open

As you may have already heard, PTC has decided to take on the High Street toilets to prevent them from closure. Council voted to rent the toilets from Wealden District Council whilst negotiations take place for an outright purchase. The Council Tax increase which we reported in our last newsletter will help to pay for the retention of these facilities, which are expected to cost in the region of £11,000 per year to run.

Signal box saved



We are pleased to announce that Polegate signal box has been saved from demolition, thanks to the Save our Signal Box campaign.

The campaign (now renamed the Polegate Signal Box Preservation Society) plans to convert the box

into a museum dedicated to the history of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway.

Driving litter out of Polegate

You'll probably recall that we spoke about fly tipping in our last missive. Many large items are dumped at the roadside by vehicle users, but we shouldn't forget the small stuff. Roundabouts and road junctions controlled by traffic lights seem to be a breeding ground for all kinds of litter—paper cups, cigarette packets, chip wrappers and the like—thrown out of car windows by inconsiderate motorists or their passengers. Until now, Councils have had to prove who threw the litter from the vehicle before they could issue a penalty. But things are changing.

Next year, legislation will be brought into force allowing Councils to issue a fixed penalty notice to the registered keeper of the vehicle from which the litter is thrown, a move welcomed by the Council for the Protection of Rural England, who have campaigned hard for the legislation change.

You can help to keep Polegate tidy. Please take your litter home with you. Most people do.

A date for your diary

The ever-popular Older People's Information Day returns to Polegate on Tuesday the 29th April. This year's event proves to be bigger than ever, with a record number of groups and organisations taking part. Among those attending are Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire and Rescue, the Department of Work and Pensions, Credit Union, energy efficiency advisers from East Sussex County Council, the Polegate Residents' Association, Age Concern and many more.

The event takes place in St John's Church Hall, Polegate, between 10am and 1pm. Entry is free and there will be live music and refreshments. For further information call Wealden District Council on 01892 602757

Chip chip hooray!

Polegate Town Council is pleased to announce that Dogs Trust is holding a microchipping event in Polegate on the 9th of May. Dogs Trust will be setting out a stall in the Town Hall car park between 10am and 4pm and will microchip your dog (or dogs, if you have more than one) free of charge.



The procedure involves inserting a small chip under the skin between the dog's shoulder blades. The unique chip number is then registered on a computerised database. The chip can be read using a special scanner, meaning that, should a dog become lost, it can be returned to its owner.

The event is open to all and no appointment is needed—just bring yourself and your dogs to the Town Hall on May the 9th!

Too good to be true?

...then it probably is. We might think that scams, frauds, cons—call them what you will—only happen in the Big Cities. But we're wrong. Even here in Sussex there are a few unscrupulous individuals who are more than happy to part you from your hard-earned cash. Some of these scams involve people calling door to door, claiming to be collecting for non-existent charities, or offering to carry out unnecessary repairs to the exterior of your home. Some scammers will target their victims via mobile phones or computers, telling them they have won a prize or offering to obtain compensation for a non-existent accident. And others will conduct their dishonest business by post, sending official-looking paperwork to householders, telling them they have won large amounts of cash. All of these people are fraudsters.

The good news is that you can protect yourself

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; Joseph O'RIORDAN 486021; Hugh PARKER 486478; Margaret PIPER 485611; Mark PYBUS 482128; Daniel SHING, Stephen SHING 489265; Jill VOYCE 486429; Tim VOYCE 486429

from these people. Here are just a few useful tips:

Protect your identity—be wary of giving your personal details to anyone. Shred all sensitive documents before disposing of them.

Never send money to anyone you do not know. Never allow anyone to use your bank account to transfer money.

Always ask doorstep callers for identification. Never hand over money without checking out the business they claim to represent.

Do not give personal details over the phone to someone you do not know. Banks will never ask for your PIN number or password, so be very suspicious of anyone who does.

If you think that someone has scammed or attempted to scam you, you need to inform the police. If the fraudster is still nearby or a fraud is in progress, call 999. If there is no immediate risk (for example, if the fraud happened some time ago), then dial 101.

The Metropolitan Police have produced a booklet—'The Little Book of Big Scams' - which explains these frauds in detail and has plenty of sound advice on staying safe from fraudsters. Copies of this booklet can be obtained from Sussex Police, and we also have a few copies here at the Council offices.

Greenleaf appeal dismissed

Knight Development Ltd's appeal against Wealden District Council's refusal to allow a housing development in Polegate has been dismissed. The plan would have seen forty or more houses built on land north of Greenleaf Gardens.

Wind Farm appeal

Regenco, the renewable energy wing of Galliford Try, has lodged an appeal following Wealden District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a wind farm at Shepham Lane. Keep watching our boards and website for further news.