

# Polegate Town Council

## Who does what in Polegate?

Here at the Town Hall we're always happy to receive visits or phone calls from residents about issues affecting Polegate. But we have to report that not all of these visits or calls result in the outcome the caller was hoping for. This is because many of the issues raised do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Some (eg pot holes) are the responsibility of East Sussex County Council; others (eg refuse collection) fall within the remit of Wealden District Council. And still others (penalty notices received in private car parks) are a civil matter between the owners of the car park and the individual receiving the penalty. Whilst we understand that some residents may feel unhappy to be told that 'this isn't Polegate Town Council's responsibility', it is only right that complaints should be directed to the authority, body or individual that has ultimate responsibility for the issue concerned. So, with a view to making it a little clearer as to which Council or body is responsible for what, we've produced the following handy guide. We encourage you to contact the appropriate people direct as this may help to speed up the resolution of your problem.

### **East Sussex County Council—0345 60 80 190**

Education; overgrown roadside hedges and trees; pavements; highways (including pot holes, on street parking, yellow lines, weeds in gutters and gully clearing); street lights; Social Services.

### **Wealden District Council—01323 443322**

Business rates; off street car parking; Council tax; enforcement; housing; refuse collection and recycling; litter (in the High Street only); planning; road sweeping; tourism.

### **Polegate Town Council—01323 488114**

Allotments; benches; Brightling Road leisure grounds; dog bins; flower beds; grass cutting (verges and parks); litter (except High Street); Parish owned street lights, play parks (Wannock, Oakleaf and skate park), toilets (High Street and Wannock); Wannock War Memorial Recreation Grounds; Wooden bus shelters.

### **Highways Agency—0300 123 5000**

All issues affecting the A22 and A27 trunk roads (e.g. lighting, pot holes and verges).

### **Police—101 (non urgent) or 999 (urgent)**

Anti-social behaviour; crime; parking and parking tickets; two hour parking bays.

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Oakleaf play park is one of the Town Council's responsibilities.

### **Network Rail—08457 114141**

Overgrown vegetation in Black Path; Network Rail car park.

### **Austin Rees—01273 260730**

All issues relating to the Co-op car park, including litter and parking fines; litter in The Centre, Porters Way and Porters Way twitten.

### **Clear Channel—020 7478 2200**

All glass and Perspex bus shelters.

We have compiled all the above into a useful A5 sized leaflet called 'Guide to Responsibilities'. You can pick up your copy at the Town Hall.

## **Don't lose your right to vote**

The changes to the electoral registration system mentioned in our newsletter a year ago are now well under way. Wealden District Council's Electoral Registration Officer will be writing to around 120,000 people in the Wealden District to explain the biggest change to the system in almost a hundred years. Under the new rules, all people eligible to vote will be responsible for registering themselves. Wealden's forthcoming letter will answer any questions that are likely to arise. A press and television advertising campaign will also spell out the changes.

## **Lighting changes on the way**

As part of the changes to street lighting, some columns in Levett Road and Stud Farm Estate areas will be changing over to new LED lanterns and part night lighting over the next couple of months.

## Don't miss the bus!

East Sussex County Council is proposing a number of changes to its subsidised bus services and taxi rider schemes with a view to saving almost £1.8 million. Although Polegate is largely unaffected (except for changes to the Taxi Rider scheme) residents who use the bus network in other parts of East Sussex may be affected if the changes are implemented.

The County Council is inviting residents to have their say, either via its website or a printed response form. Copies of the response form are available from Polegate Town Council offices on any weekday between 9:00am and 1:00pm. The consultation period ends on the 28th September. If you wish to complete the form online, go to [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay) and follow the links to the bus consultation.

## Picture this...

Local photographer Dan Dunbar is once more inviting Polegate residents to submit photographs under the theme of 'Polegate and Village Life' for inclusion in his 2015 calendar in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice.

Photographs submitted should have a local flavour, and could feature buildings, scenery, events or anything encapsulating the village life theme.

This will be Dan's fifth calendar. The previous four have raised between them more than £5000 for St Wilfrid's. For more information and an entry form please visit our website.

## Trustees sought

The Council is seeking interested parties who may wish to become trustees of the buildings and possibly the land at Polegate War Memorial Recreation Ground. If you are interested in becoming a trustee please contact the Council offices with your details in order that we can contact you as Council makes its decision on the status of the land.

The majority of the field area has now been registered as a Centenary Field but the play equipment and buildings are being considered for their suitability as a charitable trust.

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

## Lest we forget

The 4th of August 1914 saw the start of the Great War, when men from across Britain enlisted in their tens of thousands to fight in a conflict that many thought would be over by Christmas that same year. The scale of the carnage is, of course, well known, and there are only a handful of towns and villages that were able to welcome back all of their menfolk safe and sound. Sadly, Polegate's men did not escape unscathed; the war saw thirty three of its volunteers to the army and navy killed in action. A plaque in St John's Church records their names, but until now, little more was known about these men who made the ultimate sacrifice.



In a remarkable project, First Polegate Scouts, under the leadership of Assistant Scout Leader Nigel Steer, have carried out in depth research on every serviceman whose name appears on the plaque. The result is the Centennial Polegate War Memorial Project 2014. This booklet contains details of each man, his place of birth and family details, the regiment or

ship to which he was attached, and his date and place of death.

Congratulations go to Nigel and his Scouts for their determination and hard work in completing this project. A copy of the Project document has been deposited at the Council offices and is available for the public to view.

## Polegate's winning gardens

The best kept garden/allotment winners have been notified and prizes will be presented in September. A big thank you to all residents who keep their gardens looking good and help to enhance the town's appearance.

## Wind Farm appeal latest

The public enquiry has now ended and a decision is awaited from the planning Inspector. It is expected that we will hear a result around November/December.