



EAST SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Autumn 2013

YOUR COUNCILLORS: **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Jenefer Gibson
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PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman Mr Tim Turnill
Vice Chairman Mr Malcolm Ireland
Councillors Mr Graham Edmed
Mrs Elizabeth May
Mr John Worsfold

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

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East Sutton Parish Council now meets monthly at the Filmer Hall usually on the first Wednesday of the month commencing at 8.00pm with additional planning meetings as and when required. Full details, Agendas and Minutes of all meetings are placed on the notice boards at the cricket ground and the Filmer Hall. Additional information is available on the Council's web site.

www.eastsuttonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

We have meetings scheduled for;
6th November 2013.
4th December 2013
8th January 2014
5th February 2014
5th March 2014
2nd April 2014

SOLAR FARM AT TONG

By now most of you will be aware of the proposal to site a large number of solar panels on approximately 150 acres of agricultural land at Tong Farm. Although the development is in the Parishes of Headcorn and Ulcombe it does affect residents of East Sutton. A very active group has been set up to counter the proposals and your Council held a public meeting at The Filmer Hall earlier this year to update parishioners of the proposals. At the time of writing we understand that any formal application has been postponed until 2014 for more assessments. East Sutton Parish Council has joined the Maidstone Joint Parishes group to gather further information regarding our approach to such applications of which there are several around the town.

Please be assured that if or when a formal application comes forward we will consult with residents and fully represent their views in our submission to Maidstone Planners.

ROBERT ARGLES

We have now received the bequest from Robert's estate. To date a contribution of £750 has been made to Filmer Hall Management Committee towards the cost of refitting the kitchen. The work is now finished and looks very smart!

As regards the balance, the idea of a seat at the upper end of the play area has found favour. This would give an excellent view across the parish and would be appreciated no doubt by walkers and parents. It would also provide an opportunity for a plaque commemorating Robert. Alternatively we could possibly supply another item of play equipment. What do you think? If you have any ideas let Janet know.

PLANNING

Councillors have attended various meetings over the last 12 months arranged by the Joint Parishes group and KALC (Kent Association of Local Government) to discuss, amongst other items, finance and the Local Plan for future development, otherwise known as the core strategy. There is a tendency to leave such meetings bemused. With regard to planning and development there is a proposal to build a significant number of houses around Langley Park, through the back of Otham and beyond, whilst rumours of proposed commercial development at Junction 8 (Leeds Castle) rumble on with a large warehouse development possible in the area to the west of the Great Danes Hotel. You might think that this doesn't affect East Sutton but imagine the extra traffic generated and the increased difficulty in accessing the town or motorway. The last meeting attended witnessed Parish Councillors from the towns rural areas unable to comprehend why so much extra development was being proposed by Maidstone Borough Council and why some of this would be on greenfield sites when other vacant land was still available in the Borough. Even Kent County Council members present could not understand the approach of MBC. We all know that extra houses are needed but if this volume of construction takes place then associated infrastructure must be provided, shops, schools and possibly even the long talked about Leeds Langley bypass. We are faced with further significant encroachment onto our countryside to the south eastern side of Maidstone and whilst East Sutton is not directly affected its influence is bound to adversely affect the environment of our Parish. What are your thoughts? Please let us know.

HIGHWAYS

It's nearly pothole time again. With the onset of colder weather our roads are bound to deteriorate. We have good contacts with Kent County Council Highways so please let Janet or Malcolm know immediately of any surface repairs required and they will notify them.

EAST SUTTON PARK

As this newsletter was about to be printed we learn that East Sutton Park is to be closed by the Home Office. At this stage we have no news as to its future use but we will let you know as soon as there is any more information.

SCAMS

Kent Police have advised that fraudsters are trying to trick people into handing over their bank cards and PIN numbers. Don't be fooled. Remember the Police and banks will never ask for your PIN so never give it to anyone. Please also warn other residents who might be vulnerable to this type of approach.

WARM HOMES

Funds are available for insulation of domestic properties. If you think that you might benefit check kent.gov.uk/warmhomes or call 0800 521660.

FREIGHTER SERVICE

The Maidstone Council Freighter will be at Court Brooms, East Sutton on 16 November between 3.15 and 3.45

East Sutton Social Diary

Church Christmas Fayre at The Filmer Hall – Friday 6th December 2013
Call Peter Malby 01622 843261 or Gill Gray 01622 844973 for details