



EAST SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Spring 2014

YOUR COUNCILLORS: **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mrs Jenny Whittle
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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Richard Thick
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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

Mrs Janet Burnett
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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;

14th May 2014

4th June 2014

2nd July 2014

6th August 2014

EAST SUTTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**14th May 2014 8:00pm at the Filmer
Hall. Come and have your say.**

HMP East Sutton Park

As you are probably aware the Government is proposing to close East Sutton Park and Askham Grange prisons, the only 2 women's open prisons in the country. In place of these 2 prisons, the Ministry of Justice say they will provide open 'hubs' outside the perimeter of women's closed prisons. The Government's stated objective is to reduce re-offending, locate women closer their homes and help them find employment on release. East Sutton Park is already meeting these targets so why close it?

Their re-offending rate is less than 5% whereas the average for women's prisons is 45% or 57% for those serving sentences of less than 12 months.

There are no other women's prisons in Kent to which a resettlement 'hub' could be attached so prisoners from Kent would not be closer to home under these proposals.

Many of the women at East Sutton Park find that being at a distance from the location and lifestyle which contributed to their offending is the very fact which helps their rehabilitation. East Sutton Park is already providing education and training and finding employment for its residents. Women from the prison volunteer in local charity shops and work at Farmers' Markets and in the Prison Farm Shop. Some have paid jobs locally and in London. It is unclear how the proposed resettlement hubs will function and if they will provide the true open conditions which lead to real rehabilitation. It seems that each hub will hold about 25 women which makes it extremely likely that the women will still have to access the closed prison for healthcare and other facilities. East Sutton Park prison has developed very close ties to the local population over the years and values the support from local residents. **The Parish Council has opposed the closure, if you also wish to object to the closure sign the e-petition on the gov.uk website - <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/57071>. Write to your MP and anyone else you believe could help .**

Resignation of Councillor

John Worsfold has decided not to stand at the current elections to serve another term as a Parish Councillor. John has been on the Council for many years and has served terms as Chairman. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his hard work and dedication to all things East Sutton over the years.



NEWS FROM ST PETER AND ST PAUL

East Sutton Church has already said farewell to their Curate, the Rev'd Chris Lavender at the end of 2013, and have just said goodbye to their Vicar, the Rev'd Brian Curnew just after Easter this year. They are now beginning the process of appointing a new Vicar for the Headcorn and the Suttons benefice. That will inevitably take some time because, apart from the procedures involved, they need to have the right person: they need to ask for applications, and will have to whittle them down to a short list for interview, and then choose the right person from those. A timescale can not be put on it, but it will, of course, be as soon as possible. Once a new Vicar is in post, consideration will be given with the church hierarchy, whether a new Curate can be appointed.

Borough Councillor retirement

The Parish Council has been supported over many years by Jenefer Gibson as their Borough Councillor. The Parish Council would like to offer its sincere thanks to Jenefer for all her support and to wish her well in her retirement.



Bequest from Robert Argles

As previously reported the Parish Council received a bequest from Robert Argles.

The bequest has already helped towards the new kitchen in the Filmer Hall. The Parish Council has used the remainder to purchase a picnic table and a bench to be placed in the play area ready for use this Summer.

**SOLAR FARM
INFORMATION MEETING
HAS BEEN BOOKED FOR
3RD JULY 2014 AT 7:30pm**



**THIS IS BEING RUN IN
CONJUNCTION WITH HEADCORN
AND ULCOMBE PARISH COUNCILS
AND WILL BE HELD AT HEADCORN
VILLAGE HALL.**

**Cllr Ireland has a meeting with Kent
Highways on 13th May 2014. If there is
anything that you would like raised at
that meeting then please contact the
Clerk**

WAR MEMORIAL

The Parish Council has recently arranged for the cleaning of the War Memorial and is now looking at work to be completed on the lettering, in time for the first World War centenary this year



Filmer Hall Quiz Night

6th June 2014 .

£12.00 per person including supper.
Contact The Clerk for more details

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Open Church first Saturday of the month (May to September)
- Summer garden Party 30/8/2014