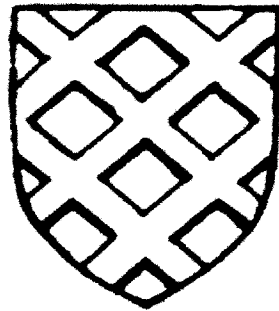


***ETCHINGHAM***

***Annual Report 2018***



**Annual Parish Meeting**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**at**

**8.00pm**

**in the Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft  
Etchingham**

## ***Etchingam Parish Council***

### **Chairman's Report 2017-2018**

The Parish Council have met every month, August excepted, since the last Parish Assembly, although our meeting in December was not a regular meeting but specially convened to discuss the budget. The Parish Clerk explains in her report the reasons behind the increase we found it necessary to make.

In the course of the year we have completed the repair of the village shop. Rather more extensive repairs were required than we originally anticipated, but the building is now sound and we look forward to seeing it back in occupation. A number of prospective tenants offered themselves, none of them unfortunately a grocery business. The Parish Council agreed that we should make the building available to two village businesses operating under the auspices of the CIC. We are grateful to Colin Phillips for his part in the process of selection and would be happy to extend the lease to the CIC if that is appropriate in due course.

Unfortunately for safety reasons we were obliged to take out of use parts of the playground equipment and we are in the process of arranging for them to be replaced. We share the disappointment of certain parents that we have not been able to move more speedily but the paramount consideration has to be securing the right long-term replacements.

We suffered a major disappointment in June when the petition about speeding, which had been organised by Lizzie Lawrenson and her group, and had our full backing, failed to secure any action from County. As a result the Parish Council is looking at a number of specific issues, for example to see whether the footways can be widened where they are most narrow, and is looking to commission an engineering study of what is possible with a view to making a bid under the Community Match scheme. Speedwatch was active for the greater part of the year and has had measurable success. Unfortunately two of the key figures have been taken ill and the group has ceased to be so active. We wish Jill Copland and Colin Boylett a speedy recovery.

Sheepstreet Lane and Church Lane were in use as a diversion route for much of the summer and autumn last year and as a result suffered a good deal of damage, not least to the verges. County's initial reaction was that while unsightly, they were not unsafe however they are a real problem for pedestrians in particular. For the moment, the Parish Council has identified specific places where the risks seem obvious and where we have identified potential undermining of the carriageway. We are going back to County to ask for these to be tackled. There is an increasing use of very large vehicles on lanes that were not designed to take them. In part this is because Railtrack will not strengthen the bridge over the railway, but it is also true that we have a number of businesses in Sheepstreet Lane that are serviced by large vehicles. An immediate solution is therefore unlikely to be found. However, some of the traffic appears to be generated by four construction projects and the problems will undoubtedly ease when these come to an end.

Parking continues to be a problem. The good news is that Civil Parking Enforcement is likely to be introduced in Rother, but it is not likely to come before 2020. There will be a full consultation beforehand and, immediately after its introduction, a full review of all existing parking schemes. Our District Councillors have ensured that parking charges will not be imposed in Etchingam while the present scheme remains unrevised, since the policy proposed is to charge in time limited areas. We have two, but the time limits were specifically designed to benefit the village and to impose charges on those making use of them while commuters continued to enjoy free parking all day was accepted to be inequitable. Car parking in Church Lane continues to be a problem, but we have been unable

to get the police to act. However, persuasion seems to have made most commuters see sense about not parking near the junction with the High Street.

There seem to have been fewer planning applications this year and most have been relatively uncontroversial. In general our views have been accepted, but we were overruled on the site between Brambles and Atherstone on Burgh Hill, where permission has been given for a single dwelling. The major replacements for Oakridge and what is now known as Limden House are under way and we had no problems with the proposed conversion of a farm building at Shortridge Farm, the proposed replacement of the Pavilion, the extension to Brockhurst and the rebuild of some of the bed and breakfast accommodation at Shoyswell Lodge. While in general we are supportive of local business, on balance we thought the proposal to create a wedding venue at King John's Nursery was likely to generate too much light and noise in a very quiet countryside area to gain our support. We have also been pursuing concerns about noise out of hours at the industrial site on Church Lane.

We gave our support to Burwash Parish Council when they objected to the proposed Denton Homes development in Shrub Lane. The Planning Committee overruled their officers when refusing this as it was visually intrusive on the AONB, but what became clear in the course of the discussion is that because Rother has only a three year supply of housing (not its fault as planning permissions granted are not actually being built) village development boundaries are no longer sacrosanct and while protecting the AONB remains persuasive with Planning Inspectors at Appeal, it is not always the overriding consideration. That makes it all the more important that Etchingham gets its Neighbourhood Plan agreed. The village needs to determine where best to allocate the housing numbers we have to achieve by 2028, otherwise matters may well be taken out of our hands. It is also likely that Rother will have to update its Local Plan as early as 2019 and revise it every five years thereafter. An agreed way forward for the village is therefore imperative and the Parish Council hope that everyone in the village will participate constructively in the ongoing discussions.

A national review of footpaths is under way. We are displaying the existing network, which is likely simply to be carried over but would encourage parishioners to identify regularly used paths that are not on the definitive map and need to be added. Cllr Frank Brophy continues to be active in seeking to establish a public footpath to the waterfall in Burgh Wood and has found the relevant landowners receptive to the idea. We are very grateful to Frank for all the work that he puts in on our footpath network.

I had hoped by now that we could report that we were near completion on the Cricket Field project, but despite all the efforts of Frank, Geoff Lucas and our Clerk, progress, while real, has been slow. We are now very close to moving forward, but because costs in the interim have risen we shall need a larger loan from the PWLB and that is in active negotiation. Once that has been agreed, we shall negotiate the Lease with the landowners and work can then go ahead to create a modern sports field for the village.

As the village will be aware, the Council nominates two of the Trustees of the Etchingham Trust which is responsible for the running of the village halls. The Trust Report on another successful year will be found elsewhere, but I would thank our nominees, Paul Stott and Nicky Menzies for all their hard work. Nicky is responsible for much of the fundraising, and Paul as the Trust's Vice Chairman regularly reports to the Council on its work. The long saga of the Lease, somewhat to the Parish Council's surprise, is not yet at an end, although we understand that the wording is now broadly to the satisfaction of both parties and on that basis, the Parish Council has agreed to act as guarantor as well as being the custodian trustee for the Trust. The crucial point as far as the Parish Council is concerned is to secure the future of the village halls should the school close (not an eventuality that

we envisage, but the Lease runs until 2040). It is now agreed that the freehold of the southern bay of the building will pass to the Trust in that event and that the village will have an option to purchase the Ahrens hall and the central bay at a price that will recognise the capital contribution made by the Trust to those buildings.

We regret that during the year, the village stores closed and it has not proved possible to find a successor. We have therefore agreed that the building will be let to two local businesses and they hope to be up and running by 1 May. During the year the empty building was substantially overhauled and put in an excellent state of repair. More needed to be done than was originally anticipated and our reserves bore the brunt of the necessary expenditure. It will be necessary therefore to strengthen our reserves in the coming year.

In our budget we have also made provision for a sizeable number of grants to village organisations and also to some local organisations e.g, the Battle Bus and Air Ambulance and charities that are of benefit to the village. Inevitably the bills facing the village have been rising, and provision had to be made for another rise in Council Tax. We reviewed the entire budget in December, but the unexpected bills referred to earlier have left us with little leeway. We have therefore asked Band D householders for another £16.23 a year.

Finally I should like to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council for another hard year's work and to offer particular thanks to Paulette Barton, whose energy and efficiency are a byword (that is why she has also been standing in as Clerk at Burwash) and whose unfailing good humour makes it a pleasure to be Chairman of your Parish Council.

CLlr John Barnes

Chair of Etchingham Parish Council

**Etchingham Parish Council 2018:**

**Mr John Barnes – Chair**

**Mrs Annette Childs – Vice Chair**

**Mrs Mary Barnes**

**Mr Simon 'Sid' Barrow**

**Mr Colin Boylett**

**Mr Frank Brophy**

**Mr Geoffry Lucas**



## ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL – FINANCE REPORT

The unexpectedly high cost of the repairs to the shop, during which time there could be no income from a replacement tenant since The Shop & Deli closed in August 2017, has had to be financed from General Reserves together with an amount from the Capital Reserve, The decision was not taken lightly but these works had to be done to secure the fabric of the building and will represent an increasingly valuable asset to the community for the future.

I think that most of you will be aware that a brand new business plans to open the doors once again on 1<sup>st</sup> May – not a general store, as I know many hoped but this proved impossible to achieve in the current financial climate – but a joint venture of *Find Health and Beauty* (Cali Westwood) and *Wealden Cakes* (Karen Campbell). Both businesses are established in Etchingham and now need to expand because of extra customer demand. Both the CIC and Parish Council thought long and hard as to the right way forward and feel sure that the right decision has been made. CIC has been instrumental, supportive and incredibly helpful to Council during this whole process for which Council is very appreciative.

Some of the playground equipment at both Queen's Garden and VIPER had to be taken out of use following the Annual Safety Inspection in November. These are valuable resources for the village and the budget has tried to reflect the expenditure on replacement equipment as necessary for Queen's Garden and, it is hoped, to a lesser degree on VIPER where there may be a possibility of remedial work being done under guarantee. We still wait to hear the outcome of the guarantee on the VIPER equipment and are waiting for a final quote for the Queen's Gardens work. Once a contractor has been selected and the costs known then a Community Grant will be sought from Rother District Council as there is now money available, on a match funded basis, to repair and replace playground equipment where once it was only available for completely new projects. Any other avenues to help fund this work will be thoroughly investigated to keep direct costs to the Council at a minimum as Reserves are currently much depleted.

To the Council's regret and frustration, work has still not begun on the Cricket Field and thus no repayment required against the PWLB Loan raised as the time-lag in completing the archaeological investigations to fulfil Planning Approval Conditions was considerably longer than anticipated. The approval is now in place however and it is hoped that work can commence soon. However, the unavoidable delay in getting the necessary Planning Approval has seen costs rising and the Council Reserves decreasing so it seems likely that this will necessitate going back to the PWLB to request a higher loan than previously anticipated. Assuming the Lease Option is granted and work can begin, repayments of the PWLB loan will fall due in this Financial Year.

The Council have budgeted very tightly for anticipated expenditure and it will be necessary to work towards creating appropriate reserves, building them on an annual basis to ensure replacement and refurbishment work can be undertaken across the Parish without undue pressure on future reserves as they are built up again to levels in keeping with Best Practice.

Income remains low as there has been a marked drop in Bank Interest and the Council Tax Reserve Allowance has been removed all together. In addition, and of higher impact, the shop has been closed since August 2017 so no rental income has been achieved however, as reported above, this is soon to be resolved as the 'shop' re-opens next month.

Once again Council is pleased to offer grants across as wide a variety of community needs and activities as possible but does appreciate that there will be disappointment where an application has been declined or grant offered is lower than requested. During the course of the year should there be an urgent and/or unexpected financial crisis to a village group the Council will always do it's best to help if approached.

Points to note are that a grant is being made to Hurst Green & District First Responders again as they not only include Etchingham within their District but have been successful in securing a defibrillator for public use, at no cost to Etchingham, which is now installed in the re-furbished telephone box on Market Square. The Neighbourhood Plan progresses well and has been successful in achieving funding elsewhere although there is likely shortfall to be covered at a later date, this will be manageable

As required by Law, the Accounts of the Parish Council are subject to an Internal and External Audit at year end and copies of all financial information will be available from the Parish Clerk.

Paulette Barton

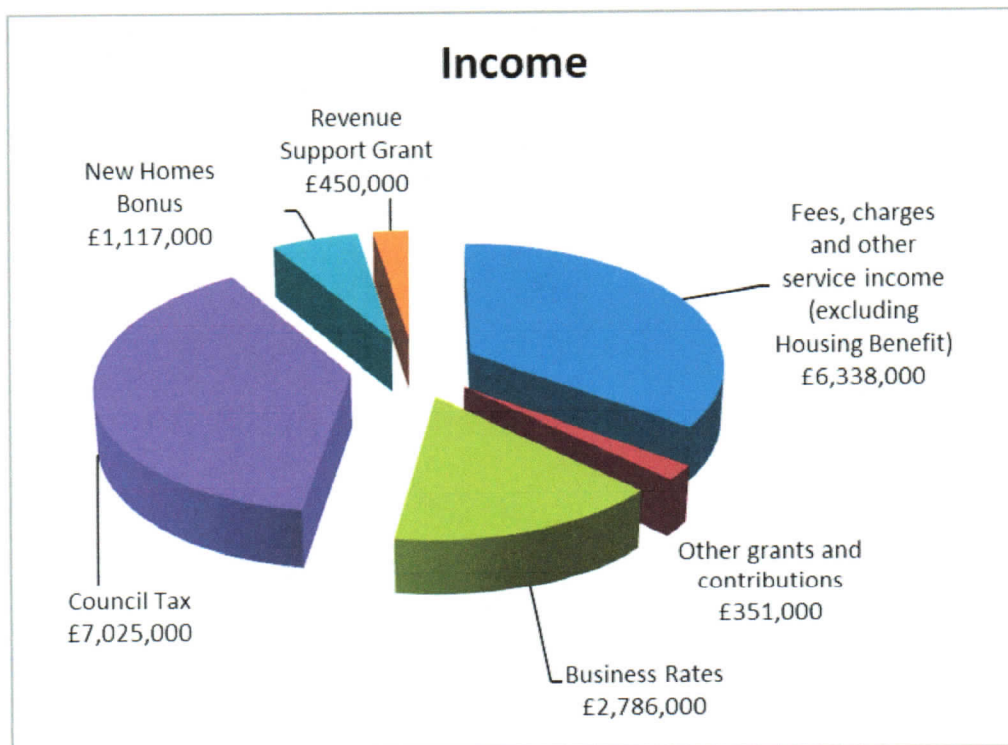
Etchingham Parish Council Responsible Financial Officer

April 2018

## District Councillor Mary Barnes

### Report for 2017/18

1. Since 2011, the Government has cut its general grant to Rother District Council by more than £6 million. The general grant is primarily funded from the national pool of business rates. This amount of £6 million includes the reduction of £620,000 in 2017/18, reducing the Government's support grant down to £450,000. In 2018/19, the support grant is down to just £72,500. By April 2020 the Government will not pay us any general grant.
2. What this means is the income to Rother District Council has changed a great deal. It used to be that a significant part of our funding came from Government grant but now it makes up only a small proportion of the money we receive.



3. When we take into account other changes to our spending and income generated from other sources, we expect there to be a shortfall in our income peaking at £1.7m in 2021. To address the shortfall, a number of projects were started in 2017/18 to cut costs and increase income. These projects include adding information technology to get more automation, systematically reviewing each of our systems and processes to improve efficiency, devolving or selling some land and buildings and investing in new assets that will bring in more income. Each of these projects has a financial target. They are all on target, to date.
4. More detailed information on the Council's finances can be read in our Medium Term Financial Strategy. Our Sustainability and Efficiency Plan sets out how we will decide

which services to prioritise and how lower priority services might be delivered over the next three years. You can find both documents on the Council's website at <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/1059/Budgets-and-accounts>

5. Last year we reported that demand for some of our services rose and it continues to rise in the area of housing and homelessness. In response to concerns about the cost of housing and the lack of affordable housing, we are undertaking a scrutiny review to understand the issues and develop recommendations regarding how we might increase affordable housing provision. We continue to work hard to address local concerns, along with our partners:
  - a. Last year homelessness applications were up by a third and households accepted as homeless were up 103% over the previous year. This year, applications remain at the same high level and homelessness acceptances are up another 26% (based on the first half of 2017/18). The impact of new legislation means we predict more increases in households registering with us in 2018.
  - b. Rother does not have enough affordable housing, especially social housing and low rent private sector housing. Due to demand, private sector rents have risen and are well above housing benefit allowances, for example. This is making it more and more difficult for us to help vulnerable households into the private sector.
  - c. As a result, on 31 December 2017 we had our highest ever recorded number of households placed in temporary accommodation at 42 households. When we have to place a household in temporary accommodation it is not usually in Rother because there are very few suitable places. This year we started a pilot arrangement to lease local temporary accommodation.
  - d. Last year (2016/17) 83 new affordable homes were built. In 2017/18, 35 new affordable homes were built, these being in Bexhill and Northiam and we are on target for a further 76 new homes to be built by the spring of 2018 in Bexhill, Burwash and Peasmarsch.
  - e. We are pleased to report that reports or complaints about housing disrepair against private sector landlords have gone down. Last year we had record levels at an average of 19 reports a month. This year it has gone down to an average of 13 reports a month.
6. In response to residents' concerns we have created a new part-time role of community warden to work with the police to enforce low level anti-social behaviour. This is on a trial two-year basis, after staff training.
7. We are undertaking a scrutiny review on the implications of moving to civil parking enforcement (CPE) throughout Rother so that we can form a view and give a response to East Sussex County Council. This work is due to go back to scrutiny on 19 March, through to Cabinet and thereafter Full Council on 21 May 2018. A number of stakeholder events and presentations have taken place that indicates businesses and residents would welcome East Sussex County Council adopting CPE.
8. The waste contract is coming up for renewal in 2019 and work is currently progressing in procuring a new contractor along with Hastings Borough Council and Wealden District Council. The future collection service is likely to consist of fully co-mingled dry recycling service, with chargeable garden waste and residual waste, collected fortnightly.



9. Our staff and grants have supported 28 tourism and cultural events across Rother in Rye, Robertsbridge, Battle, Burwash, Etchingam and Bexhill. In the first six months of the year, our arts and tourism grant support brought in an additional £170,000 into Rother. We supported 12 sport and health events up to December, including new opportunities for older people and disabled people to try out new activities and events around walking, running and cycling.
10. Over 31,800 residents receive a My Alerts email, an increase of 8% on last year. This means around 70% of Rother households get our My Alerts service. Clicks through from the emails to websites with more information have increased by 31%.



## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 2018

Apart from taking up the state of the roads on a regular basis, I have taken part in three major campaigns, only one of them wholly successful. Two are ongoing.

Robertsbridge Community College is the secondary school for the greater part of the village and is currently very successful. Its future was prejudiced by a decision to confine entry to the school to its planned admission number, which was bound to plunge it into debt and was, in my judgement, too low for the school to deliver all aspects of the national curriculum on a sustainable basis. With the local Member for Robertsbridge, we sought an increase last year, and although we did not secure immediate action, it was agreed to review the PAN and this year we have heard that it has been raised substantially to a point where financial and educational viability are assured.

I have also campaigned in alliance with our MP and the County Council to secure changes to the national Funding Formula for schools. This was a success as far as the County was concerned, bringing a substantial increase in funding for East Sussex in general. Every school should have benefited but Etchingham so far has not and that issue is being pursued. Even more serious is the inbuilt bias in the proposed formula against relatively small primaries like Etchingham. I am continuing to make sure that our MP is fully briefed on the subject and that he works with County and other rural Members to secure the changes necessary.

Finally, the local group campaigning for road safety measures for the village, and particularly our children, was able to secure a hearing for what was a very well informed and thoughtful petition. I gave it my full support, but while we received a sympathetic hearing, we did not obtain any priority for the measures required. However, the Parish Council will be commissioning a study from County and will look to secure funding under the Community Match scheme.

Two other matters also engaged my full attention, the future of the bus service, which Seaford had improved, but which had to be re-tendered when Seaford withdrew last autumn. The good news is that County succeeded in securing a tender that will ensure that a service continues. County continues to have to make substantial cuts in service provision and as part of the £17 million savings required in 2018/19 £2 million has to come out of community services.

One of the casualties is the mobile library service. I served on the Review Board and, to be frank, the case for retaining it was not strong given the low level of use, barely in four figures overall, and probably only just over 700 people using it exclusively. We were down to one vehicle that is all too frequently breaking down; and visits once every three weeks. Not a great service therefore. A new vehicle would have a prohibitive cost. As part of a forward looking strategy that is investing a good deal in the excellent electronic library (I do recommend that everyone explores the possibility of making use of it) provision has been made for meeting the needs of the housebound (those in

homes like Dudwell St Mary have a good service already) and if we can find the necessary volunteers for community provision, either making use of a fixed base or a collection point. Etchingam and Hurst Green Parish Councils are to explore whether they can run a scheme jointly, but it will need a fair number of volunteers if it is to be successful.

I have written already about the major problems facing the County Council in common with all other local authorities. Effectively Government support, other than for schools (where in effect we are no more than a distribution centre) and certain specific grants/funds, will be gone by 2020. Funding will then be almost entirely by Council Tax and Business Rates. The decision as to how the latter will be distributed equitably has yet to be taken, but is crucial for East Sussex as there is no way in which the rates generated within the County would bridge the funding gap left by the withdrawal of Government grant. In terms of the provision of services nationwide, council tax is playing a far greater role and income tax (apart from health) a much diminished one. In many ways this is defensible as a more visible link between tax paid and services provided strengthens both willingness to pay and accountability. But both Council Tax and Business rates are in need of review and modernisation if they are to play such an important role. But that is something to put on the MPs' agenda rather than discussed in a Councillor's annual report.

We have been permitted again this year to raise Council tax by almost 6 per cent without going through the referendum process, with 3 per cent of that sum specifically going into Adult Social Care. Effectively it has been calculated that our spending power will increase by about 2 ½ per cent, which sounds good until you take into account pay increases (including the National Living Wage), inflation, the Apprenticeship Levy, and a number of additional statutory responsibilities (young adults with special needs for example) without any additional funding from the centre. However, the greatest pressure of all is from demographic pressures. In Rother our working population is in slight decline, our over 85s nearly 14 per cent up in the next two or three years, and there are additional children for whom school places will have to be found (County has to find not only the capital for additional buildings, but home to school transport). The position across the County is much the same and of course it is our increasingly elderly population that is generating the pressures on adult social care and the NHS.

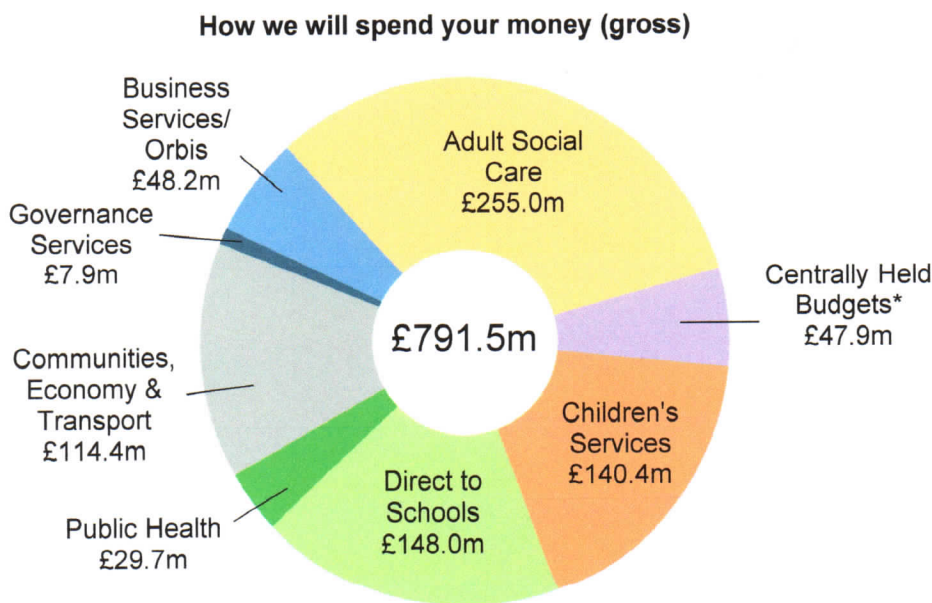
Acute care is the expensive end of the business of dealing with those of our population who have health problems; hence we are working hard through East Sussex Better Together to integrate health and social care with a view to keeping people in community settings as long as possible and ensuring that they only have to go into hospital when they specifically need to do so. The aim is to make hospital much less the first port of call and, as far as possible, the last resort. We are investing a great deal in the programme and working closely with both the CCGs and the acute hospital trusts, but it is quite a struggle for the NHS to transform itself while it still has to spend large sums on keeping the system going in the meantime. Double running on a single budget is hard work. However the Better Together Fund has helped fund genuine progress across the whole system and under leadership from local government, East Sussex has made more progress in this uphill task than most other areas.

When the County Council began its budgetary process (Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources) last summer, it was thought that we might have to make £22 million in cuts on top of the £112 million we have made since 2010. As always we have managed to find genuine efficiencies and to make the reserves that we need to hold long term work better for us. We have also made changes in the way we fund our debt. But that still left us with £17 million to find and it is a sign of just how large a proportion of our budget now goes on Adult Social Care that almost £10 million will have to be found in that area. Consultations are still ongoing about different ways in which to deliver certain

essential services more cost-effectively. But inevitably the need to meet our statutory commitment to those with the highest needs has to take priority over preventive services and this cannot go on much longer without leaving us severe problems further down the road.

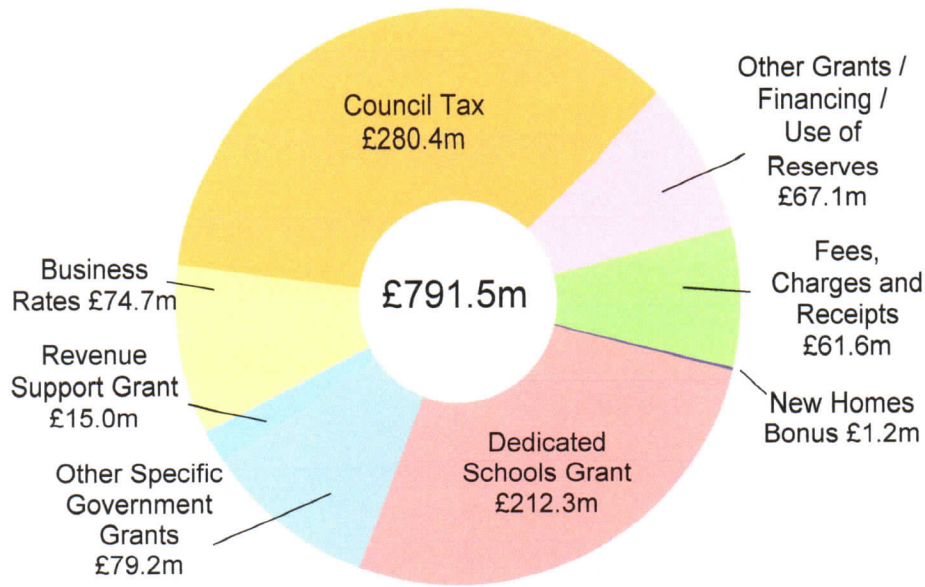
There is some good news. The new Highways Contract after an inevitably bumpy start, has bedded down and savings have been made. The switch of much of our road maintenance programme to capital spending has brought about a major improvement in our B & C roads network and some from our £10 million investment over two years in minor roads. And our interventions with Troubled Families are amongst the successful programmes in England. Our fostering and adoption programmes are also amongst the best in England and our Children's Service second to none.

I attach a number of diagrams that show where we get our money and where we spend it. Please remember, however, that in education particularly we are doing no more than passporting the money.

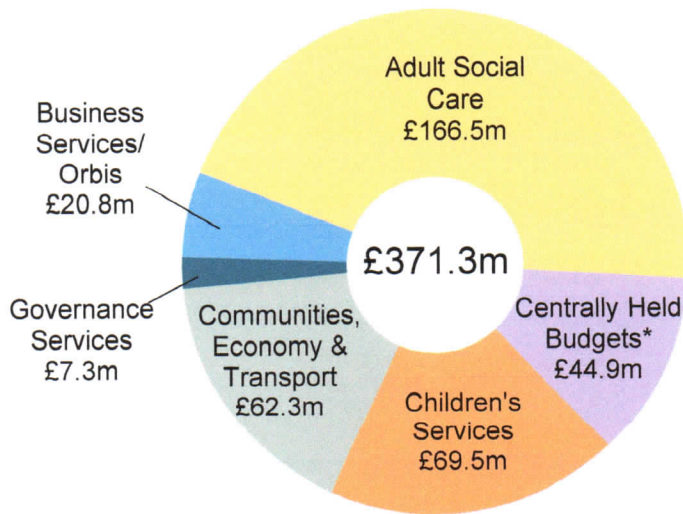




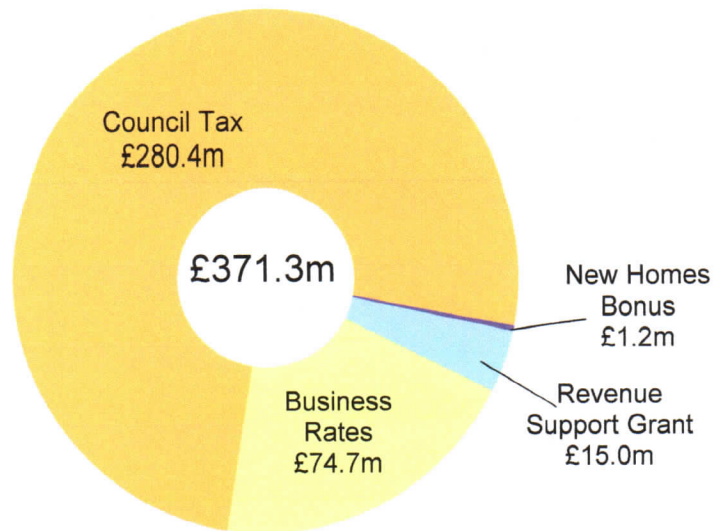
**Where the money comes from (gross)**



**How we will spend your money (net)**



**Where the money comes from (net)**



John Barnes  
East Sussex County Councillor  
April 2017

# East Sussex Fire Authority Council Tax and Budget Information 2018/19

East Sussex Fire Authority has agreed an increase of 2.94% in Council Tax. This means that Band D Council Tax will increase from £88.40 to £91.00 in 2018/19, providing a 24/7 emergency response for just £1.75 per week.

What you pay for fire and rescue								
Council tax bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Annual cost	£60.67	£70.78	£80.89	£91.00	£111.22	£131.44	£151.67	£182.00
Weekly cost	£1.17	£1.36	£1.56	£1.75	£2.14	£2.53	£2.92	£3.50

The decision comes as part of measures to help provide financial stability for the Fire and Rescue Service at a time when funding from central government has been reduced even further.

## We make our communities safer



Fire Authority Chairman, Cllr. John Barnes, said:

“East Sussex Fire Authority is committed to providing an effective and efficient prevention, protection and response service to the communities it serves. We will be spending more on match funding the installation of sprinkler systems in local high risk / high-rise residential buildings which will help prevent fires, protect our residents and improve the safety of our firefighters.”

“We continue to work closely with South East Coast Ambulance Service in delivering life-saving services and we are working hard to improve safety within businesses and also reduce accidental dwelling fires and false alarms in our area.”

We are continuing to work to make our communities safer at home, at work and on the roads. To find out more about how we are doing this read our Integrated Risk Management Plan on our website: [www.esfrs.org/riskmanagement](http://www.esfrs.org/riskmanagement)



[www.esfrs.org](http://www.esfrs.org)



## Our plans for the future (our revenue budget)

The additional income from Council Tax along with planned savings of £0.7m from changes in crewing, reductions in pensions costs and contract savings will help us to balance the Authority's budget and will enable us to continue to invest in the Service's life-saving work as set out in our Integrated Risk Management Plan. Our revenue budget (for day-to-day spending) will increase by £0.8m in 2018/19.

What we spend				
	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2018/19 %	
<b>Employees</b>	27.3	27.2	71%	
<b>Running Expenses</b>	9.7	9.4	25%	
<b>Capital Financing</b>	1.4	2.1	6%	
<b>Gross Service Expenditure</b>	38.4	38.7	102%	
<b>Income &amp; Specific Grants</b>	-1.6	-1.7	-4%	
<b>Contribution to Reserves</b>	0.6	1.1	2%	
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	37.4	38.1	100%	
How we are funded				
	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2018/19 %	
<b>Government Grants</b>	4.6	3.7	10%	
<b>Business rates</b>	7.4	7.9	21%	
<b>Council tax</b>	25.4	26.5	69%	
<b>Total Funding</b>	37.4	38.1	100%	

## Investing for the future (our capital budget)



As well as our day-to-day spending, in 2018/19 we will be investing: £2.1m in new fire appliances and other vehicles, £0.7m in improving our buildings and commencing a £2.6m investment in Preston Circus Community Fire Station.

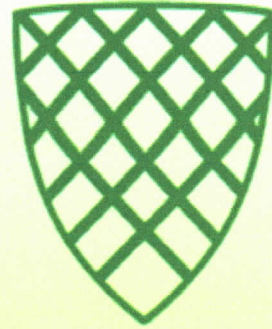
We are working with other public services to see how we can use our buildings more effectively. Last year we moved to share a headquarters with Sussex Police which has allowed us to work more closely with them, reduce our running costs, and has allowed the sale of our old HQ generating a significant capital receipt. Utilising capital receipts and existing funds there will be no need for new borrowing in the next five years. Read more in our Fire Authority papers: <https://www.esfrs.org/about-us/east-sussex-fire-authority/fire-authority-meetings/>



[www.esfrs.org](http://www.esfrs.org)

# ETCHINGHAM

## NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Considerable progress has been made, towards the drawing up of the Plan, since the last Annual Parish Meeting, although things did grind to something of a halt over the period from Christmas to March. Things are now moving forward again, however, and we are now looking forward to an open "drop-in" meeting, to which all of the village will be invited, on the 28th April.

One of the fundamental things that needed to be done quite early in the proceedings, was to draw up the vision and objectives of the Plan. The Steering Committee decided on the following:

‘Etchingam will continue to be an active and friendly village community. We will strive to maintain and enhance our outstandingly beautiful landscape and conserve our rich heritage of wildlife. We will encourage local businesses and foster a thriving and sustainable village, with opportunities for all generations in the future.’

This was based largely on the general feelings of the people of the village, as expressed in the completed questionnaires, that were sent out at the beginning of the process.

Another essential was to set up four "Focus Groups", to work on the issues that will form the basis of the plan. Those groups were established, as follows:

**Farming, environment and countryside** - to look at the present structure and use of the countryside surrounding the village, and considering those important aspects that need to be preserved.

**Community, infrastructure and local economy** - to look at the facilities that we have in the village, and how they might be improved, along with reviewing such things as business and employment opportunities.

**Housing and development** - whose main task concerns possible new house-building in and around the village.

**Transport and traffic** - which is concerned with current issues such as the volume of traffic through the village, parking, the state of the roads and pavements, and how such matters might be improved.

The Focus Groups have worked very hard, and they are well on the way to preparing reports which will comprise the main content of the Plan. There is one exception to that, and that is the Housing and Development Group, which has completed the research into the possible sites for new houses (20 of which we are required by Rother

District Council to find space for in the village, in addition to the re-development of the Bracon's site).

The purpose of the meeting on the 28th April will be to show the village the results of this research and to try to discern, from the response on that day, what the residents feel should be included in the final Plan.

Once this procedure has been completed, the Steering Committee will work very hard to try to bring the whole procedure to a conclusion, as quickly as possible. There are, however, so many formalities to be met, that it is unlikely that this will happen much before the end of the year.

Frank Smith  
Chairman - Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

April 2018





## COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Council portfolio for Community Safety covers several areas that relate to the safety and wellbeing of village residents, as detailed below.

### ***Police:***

As you will probably be aware, villages no longer have a dedicated PCSO, all the PC's and PCSO's for each district cover the whole of that district and are allocated to where they are needed each day. So, although you do not see the regular presence of a PCSO in the village you can still contact a PCSO or PC by using the Police Non-Emergency number **101** and asking for a local officer to contact you, if you prefer to use email; [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

As always – if reporting an urgent matter, do not hesitate ~ call **999**

More information and help available on the Sussex police website [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

### ***Neighbourhood Watch:***

Etchingham does not currently have a fully active Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating, I do however still receive NHW information from the Rother NHW Co-ordinator and will put anything that is relevant to Etchingham on the e-bulletin and village notice boards.

### ***Community Speedwatch:***

See the separate report for Speedwatch

### ***Flood Warnings:***

We have been lucky in recent winters, with no serious flooding, during the most recent winter we have only had a couple of Flood Alerts, and none of the more serious warnings.

If any alerts or warnings are issued I am registered, on behalf of the Parish Council, to receive all warnings and updates as soon as they are issued. I can then make sure that residents in parts of the village that are at risk are aware of the current situation. As alerts or warnings are received the details are posted and regularly updated on the village website, the details are also sent out on the e-bulletin when possible and are usually posted on some of the village Facebook and Twitter pages.

If you have any queries on community safety issues, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Cllr. Colin Boylett, portfolio holder for Community Safety.



## ETCHINGHAM COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Co-Ordinator; Colin Boylett 01580 819532 07484 635014

[etchinghamspeedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:etchinghamspeedwatch@gmail.com) <https://www.facebook.com/etchinghamspeedwatch>

<https://twitter.com/etchspeedwatch> <https://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk>

Community Speedwatch is not about getting people reported and fined, it is an educational tool designed to educate drivers to drive at appropriate speeds in speed limit areas by regular deployment of Speedwatch operators with speed detection devices. However, any vehicles recorded at more than the allowable limit of 35mph are referred to the Police and the vehicle owners receive a Police warning letter, persistent offenders may also get a visit from a Police Officer and possible further action may be taken.

The Etchingham group has been operating for over four years now but unfortunately for the last couple of months sessions have been suspended until I feel able to get back to roadside sessions, although operators do have the option to collect the equipment from me and run sessions without me, so far arrangement has not been possible. I am hoping it will not be too long before I can get back to doing a few sessions.

There are a few changes in the pipeline for the Community Speedwatch system that we use to manage sessions and maintain records. There have been a number of instances with some groups where drivers have challenged volunteers regarding their role and the legal status of the operation, so there are plans to introduce official ID for Co-Ordinators to verify the groups' relationship with Police etc. if challenged.

Also, all locations used will now be re-assessed for safety after five years, because things can change that might affect the safety of operators.

**REMINDER** – The speed on the road signs is the **LIMIT** not the **TARGET**!

Cllr. Colin Boylett – Portfolio holder for Community Safety and Speedwatch Co-ordinator.





# ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Say **NO** to Cold Callers

Parish Council was approached regarding possibly setting up an official “No Cold Calling” zone, at the present time Parish Council does not intend applying for a full “No Cold Calling” zone, but feel that now would be an appropriate time to remind residents of the door stickers issued by Trading Standards to deter cold calling doorstep traders, a sample is shown below, and get as many people as possible in the village displaying them.

The stickers are approx. postcard size and are designed to be stuck on the inside of a suitable window or glazed door panel in clear view of anyone approaching your front door. The stickers are fully supported by Trading Standards, County Council, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police.



*Image shown reduced in size.*



There is a clear plastic film on the warning side of the sticker that needs to be peeled off (see diagram), and then the sticker can be placed on the front of your house on your door or window from the inside.

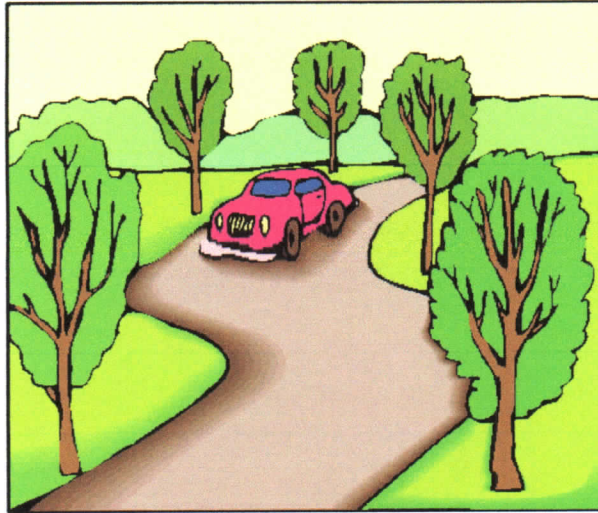
p

We have a batch of the stickers available for anyone in the village who is not currently displaying one, available from the Parish Office, or just contact me with your address and I will make sure you get one to display.

Councillor Colin Boylett (portfolio holder for Community Safety) on behalf of Parish Council.

01580 819532    07484 636014    [colin.boylett@gmail.com](mailto:colin.boylett@gmail.com)

Any queries, contact the Parish Clerk 01580 819048 [paulette.etchinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:paulette.etchinghampc@gmail.com)



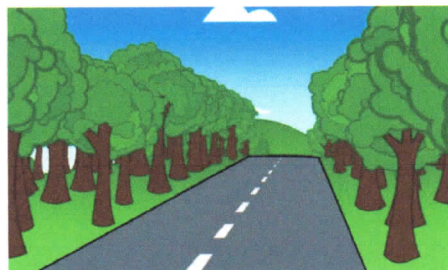
## HIGHWAYS

All repairs and maintenance on the roads in the parish, including the verges, pavements and signage is the responsibility of East Sussex Highways. Previously reports of items requiring repair or attention were made through the East Sussex County Council offices. There is now a dedicated highways website and all reports of items needing repair or maintenance should now be made on the website <http://www.eastsussexhighways.com> .

If you do not have internet access, or you consider the fault/repair requires urgent attention, you can phone your report to 0345 6080193

If there are items relating to roads, pavements or verges that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council send the details to the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors who hold the Highways portfolio, currently Cllrs John Barnes and Colin Boylett.

If it is something that might require discussion at a Parish Council meeting, please ensure it is reported to the Clerk at least ten days before the next meeting to make sure it is in time to be added to the agenda.





# Etchingam

'Etchingam Village Website'

[www.etchinghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.etchinghamvillage.co.uk)

The village website is provided by the Parish Council as a means of communicating Parish Council and village activities and information to village residents, potential new residents and visitors. The pages are updated on a voluntary basis by a Councillor to keep the cost of providing the website as low as possible.

The agenda for all Parish Council meetings is published on the website about a week prior to the meeting, the minutes of all meetings are also on the site, all the agendas and minutes of previous meetings are archived on the site, all meetings for the last five years are archived, so visitors can search for information from historical meetings.

Contact details, telephone and email, for all Councillors and the Clerk are on the site.

Information on village events and organisations can be found on the website, there is a section with details for the Church, and any interesting local information can be added, items for adding to the website can be sent to [etchinghamvillagewebsite@gmail.com](mailto:etchinghamvillagewebsite@gmail.com)

The website does not take commercial advertising, but there is a section for the details of local businesses, if you have a business based in Etchingam, or providing a regular service to Etchingam residents. There is no charge for adding your details, just email the details you want included to [etchinghamvillagewebsite@gmail.com](mailto:etchinghamvillagewebsite@gmail.com), details of businesses not based in Etchingam are included at the discretion of Admin and/or Parish Council.

If your organisation or business has details on the site you might like to check the details to make sure all the details are current, and send an email with any changes.

The website also has a Facebook page where updates are added when new items are added ([www.facebook.com/EtchingamWebsitePage](http://www.facebook.com/EtchingamWebsitePage)) and Twitter account ( @etchweb )

The Parish Council also has a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/etchinghampc](http://www.facebook.com/etchinghampc)) and a Twitter account ( @etchinghampc )

Cllr. Colin Boylett, portfolio holder for Council Communications.



# Rye & Battle Observer

## VILLAGE VOICE COLUMN

Every week in the Rye & Battle Observer you will find the “Village Voice” section, with weekly contributions provided by a local resident in each village with news and information from their village.

For several years I have been the village correspondent for Etchingham and I am always looking for news and information to include each week. I can include any information about your clubs and organisations, events, fund raisers, special news and anything that might be of interest to other village residents. I do not have any limits on article size, so send anything you want. I may need to adjust slightly to meet the newspaper requirements but can normally use anything you send.

If you miss an edition of the paper the Village Voice columns can be read on the Rye & Battle Observer website <https://www.ryeandbattleobserver.co.uk/news/village-voice>

If sending details of your event or fund raiser send the details as soon as you have them available, then I can include in the column well before the event to give people a chance to put the date in their diary, then include again a few times nearer the date, if you wait until the week before it will only get mentioned once.

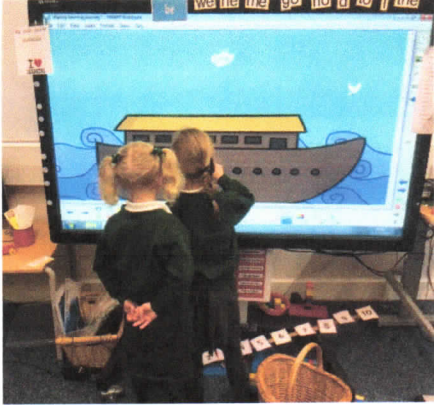
I normally require your information to arrive by 10pm on Monday to include in the Friday edition, e-mail is the best method to use to avoid errors during copying, but you can get the details to me by phone or deliver to my home address.

Colin Boylett 01580 819532 07484 635014 [colin.boylett@gmail.com](mailto:colin.boylett@gmail.com)

2 Park Farm Close, Etchingham.

## ETCHINGHAM C E SCHOOL - 2017 – 2018

Our school, along with our Riverside Federation partner – Bodiam C E School - continues to place high importance on 'Learning to Love Learning.' The curriculum is designed to put pupil voice at its heart and to deliver unforgettable experiences which promote curiosity and motivation for all pupils so that they are 'be the best they can be' in all that they do. Memorable moments this year include the following:



The Rev Sally Epps visited us on our RE Day. She wrote ... 'It is obviously a very valuable and special time and I was so impressed

by the children's engagement.'



A group of Y5-6 pupils showed their understanding of Anglo Saxon Settlements by building Lego models.

Our Y6 pupils enjoyed joining students from Bexhill College in a production of 'The Tempest.' They worked with a professional actor in school to prepare for this.



### SIAMS Inspection

We were delighted to receive an **OUTSTANDING** judgement in our Diocesan Inspection.

The school has a strong and distinctive child-centred Christian ethos and clear Christian values which impact deeply and positively on the school's outstanding provision and excellent outcomes for the pupils.

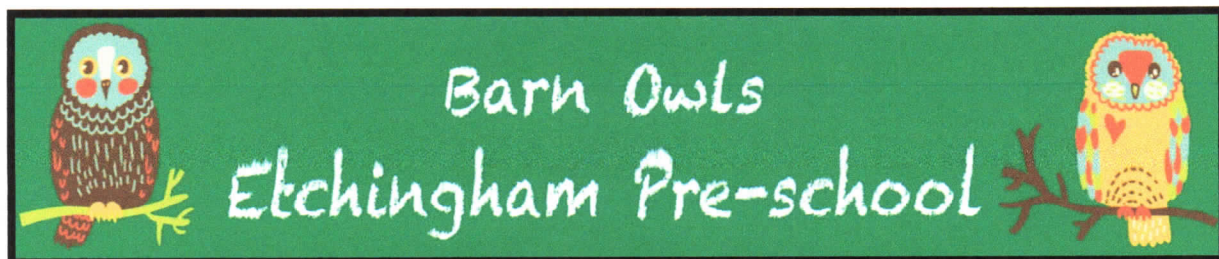


Federation 'Reveal Day' included activities and experiences through which the pupils were able to work out the learning Journey title for Terms 1-2.

Pupils got off to a flying start to Term 4 using our newly extended track for their runs!







Barn Owls Etchingham Pre-School is a registered charity managed by a group of six volunteer trustees and a manager, Helen Packham, leading a very experienced and well qualified team of Early Years specialists with capacity to care for up to 40 children aged between two and five years old.

We act as a feeder pre-school for local primary schools including Etchingham and Burwash and our last Ofsted inspection rated us "Good", close to "Excellent". We follow the national Early Years Learning Framework as our curriculum for the development of children in our care, in full consultation with parents. Our building and play areas are situated in Parsonage Croft, next to the Primary School, in a modern building designed for Early Years.

Childcare costs are covered by the government's Early Years Educational Entitlement vouchers and privately-paid parent fees. We have no owner or shareholders and aim to keep cost to parents as low as we can afford - we aim for break-even or at best a small surplus to cover additional costs. Fundraising and grants pay for equipment such as our water-wall, gardening and computer tablets.

Barn Owls belong to the Etchingham community and our charter is to provide excellent Early Years childcare and development to our community.

Alan Davies - Chairman of Trustees

April 2018



# Etchingham Trust for Sports and Recreation

## Etchingham Trust for Sports and Recreation (ETSR) Report to the Parish Assembly 2018

The village halls have now been operating for over three years.

During the period April 2017 to April 2018 very good use of both the Parker and Ahrens Halls has continued to be made by a varied group of regular users, particularly during the school week. The halls continue to host an interesting variety of activities run by our regular hirers ranging from sports to yoga, health and well-being to social groups catering for all ages. We would encourage all users and potential users of the halls to visit our website - [www.etchinghamvillagehalls.co.uk](http://www.etchinghamvillagehalls.co.uk) for more information and to check the availability of the halls if you wish to hire the halls for an event.

We are very pleased to report that, working in conjunction with the school, we have jointly funded the installation of an integrated sound system and a state of the art lighting system in the Ahrens Hall. This will be very attractive to theatre groups and will enhance the "mood" for a whole range of social activities in the Hall.

The practice room continues to be used infrequently and we would like to remind everyone that it offers an excellent space for small meetings including one to one learning opportunities.

Whilst our income during the year has been sufficient to cover the running costs of the halls, the Trustees recognised that it was not sufficient to cover the administrative costs of running the halls and ETSR. In addition, the Trustees wish to buy further equipment and are committed to building a long-term maintenance reserve.

To bridge this gap, we have held a number of very successful funding events and set up the monthly 100 Club Draw.

Run by Paul Stott, the 100 Club has contributed over £2,000 to our funds in the past year, after the payment of prizes totalling just over £1,500. Twenty-three different villagers have been prize winners during the year and several have returned their prize to further help our fundraising efforts. A few spaces remain for new members who would like to join the Draw.

### Patrons

Tom Avery  
Robert Bathurst  
Harry Hill  
The Lord King of Lothbury, GBE  
Charles Moore  
Sir Frank Sanderson Bt. OBE  
Rt.Hon. The Lord Young of Graffham, DL

**Trustees: John Barnes – Chairman, Paulette Barton, Nicky Menzies, Steve Millea, Nicholas Smith, Paul Stott;**

**Catherine Richards - Administrator, contact: Email: [admin@etchinghamtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@etchinghamtrust.org.uk) Tel: 07855 239848**

**Correspondence Address: Etchingham Trust for Sports and Recreation, Etchingham Community Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham  
East Sussex TN19 7BY**

Registered charity number: 1076642



Once again Mary Barnes and Eleanor Knowles hosted a series of plant sales and coffee mornings which raised over £400 and provided the opportunity for villagers to meet in a very relaxing setting. In October, a full house heard Adam Nicholson give a delightful talk on his newly published book "The Seabirds Cry" and all together the evening raised in excess of £1,200. This was the first in a hoped for series of "an evening with...." presentations and we very much wish to repeat this successful format. To complete this trio of fundraising events, Nicky Menzies and a group of helpers ran a fantastic Quiz Evening which contributed a further £900. ETSR would like to thank all supporters for their help and generosity at these events.

Further fundraising will continue during the next twelve months and if anyone wishes to support ETSR by organising an event, please do contact Catherine our Administrator at :- [admin@etchinghamtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@etchinghamtrust.org.uk)

It is very disappointing to again report the slow progress regarding completion of the Lease. The Trust continues to operate the halls under a verbal licence from the County Council. We have been unable to transfer our capital contribution to the County Council and it remains ring-fenced in our accounts-effectively a dedicated reserve. This has not been from want of effort from either the Trustees, our solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council, or officers of East Sussex County Council, who wish to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion. The wording of the Lease is effectively agreed but we are still waiting for it to be signed off by the Diocesan Board of Finance.

As previously reported, the Joint Management Committee with the school continues to meet regularly and takes its decisions consensually. Its discussions have always been amicable and constructive and we would like to give particular thanks to David Churchill for all his work and Greg Coleman who manages the entire building and who has been tireless in seeking ways to reduce costs.

At the AGM in November 2017, John Barnes (Chairman) and Nicky Menzies were re-elected as Trustees, Paulette Barton and Nicholas Smith, previously co-opted, were elected as Trustees and Paul Stott and Steve Millea continue as Trustees and nominated Parish Council Representatives. Darren Langridge-Kemp resigned as a co-opted Trustee and we thank him for his services during the year.

Behind the scenes, Catherine Richards has again worked tirelessly as Administrator for ETSR and has made an enormous contribution towards a successful year for the village halls and the Trust.

Finally, ETSR would like to thank everyone who has supported the halls during the year.





## Report on Etchingam Festival 2017

The Festival had a very successful year in 2017 with good audiences for all concerts. Financially we are currently in a good position as we made a reasonable profit. We therefore decided that we would not ask for a grant from the Parish Council for the 2018 Festival.

We opened the Festival on 1st July with a wonderful evening of piano duets played by Emma Abbate and Julian Perkins with the title "Let's Dance".

The following day we were privileged to have a performance from the highly acclaimed Heath String Quartet. They played an amazing concert of Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn quartets.

The 4th July brought a return visit from delightful Florian Mitrea and the Atea Wind Quintet by popular demand. Florian has been a favourite with our audiences for the last eight years and we hope for many years to come.

On the 6th July we were pleased to welcome pianist Paul Roberts to the Festival for the first time. Paul gave us a very instructive talk beforehand about the pieces he was playing which we all enjoyed.

Our Saturday Opera Supper was once again given by final year students from the Royal Academy of Music with the title "Let's Dance", and was much enjoyed by all .

On the final Sunday afternoon we were wowed by the amazing talent of the children from Trinity College of Music aged from 8-16 years and led by our old friend Richard Evans. We plan to have another concert by Trinity in 2018.

We were pleased to be able to make a donation of £500 towards the decoration of our wonderful Parish Church which we are very grateful to be able to use for the Festival.

This Spring (2018) we are holding two events which we thought might appeal to a wider audience. A Ceilidh on March 17th and a Cuban Salsa evening on 21st April both of which we hope local residents will enjoy.

M.N.

April 2018

## **ROTHER VALLEY LADIES GROUP**

We maintain our group number of 17 members, and during 2017 we had a varied and interesting programme, with outings to Down House, home of Charles Darwin, and to the Mermaid Inn at Rye, there were several interesting talks, a programme of songs from the musicals with the year ending with a Christmas lunch at the Brickwall Hotel.

2018, so far has included an illustrated talk on former Yugoslavia and a fascinating talk on herbs and their many uses – we look forward to coach outings, the first to the National Trust property of Knole at Sevenoaks and later in the year to the Brogdale fruit collection at Faversham. Our other meetings promise a series of talks, a demonstration of hand-bell ringing and two local visits, to Bexhill Museum and The Walled Garden, Hawkhurst.

We are very grateful for the support of Etchingham Parish Council which has enabled us to subsidise the cost of our coach outings.

If you'd like to join us you will be made very welcome so do get in touch with Greta Crane on 01580 819304 for further details.

## **ETCHINGHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

This year the Club celebrates 60 years of its inauguration being founded for Village residents of 55 years and over. It was originally called the 'DARBY and JOAN' Club.

Meetings take place at 2.30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Parker Hall, but we endeavour to arrange outings for three of these months e.g Local attractions, Mystery Tour plus lunch and a Christmas Lunch. The 'home' meetings usually take the form of a talk, mostly with slides, followed by a sumptuous tea. Strawberries and cream in June!

Membership is currently £10 per year, and a warm welcome will be waiting you if you so wish to join.

Please telephone Julia Barrow on 01580 819475 for more information.

## ***The Tuesday Group***

The Tuesday Group started in the 1950's as 'Young Wives Group' and meetings were held once a month at Ladyfield, in the High Street, run by Mrs Ransome. The rules were strict and you could only belong if you had been Christened as it was a very Church orientated Group in those days.

As time went on the name changed to 'Wives Group' when the rules became less strict and in fact it was the Ticehurst, Hurst Green and Etchingam Wives Group for a while. It then changed to the Tuesday Group because some of our members are single ladies and the name was chosen because we meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month.

We're very much a laid back, sociable Group and all our meetings centre around food! During the Summer months we like to go out and in the Winter months we invite different speakers to come along or we have a film night in the Social Club. We discuss the forthcoming year's activities at our AGM in April – so by the time you read this our plans will already be underway – and also enjoy an entertaining report on the previous year's activities reliving happy memories.

April 2018

## **Burwash and District Flower Arrangement Club**

The Flower Club was founded in 1961 covering the 3 Burwash villages and Etchingam (though not exclusively, we have members from as far afield as Heathfield). We have over 50 members who pay an annual subscription of £14. This entitles us to 4 free flower demonstrations a year and a reduction in the costs of one or two outings a year with the occasional Open Evening. You do not need to be skilled in flower arrangement and we have 2 Workshops a year where you can learn more, whether you are a novice or experienced.

Our meetings are held on Mondays in Burwash Village Hall at 2.15pm. They are announced in advance in the Broadsheet and Etchingam Parish Magazine. You are very welcome to join us. If you would like more information contact Claudette Neville 01435 883 043

## **PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

### **FAIRFIELD SURGERY, BURWASH**

### **REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY**

All GP surgeries are required to have a Patient Participation Group (PPG) to ensure that patients' views are represented and to be a 'critical friend' to the surgery. We meet every two months in Burwash village: the practice manager and one of the GP partners usually attend our meetings. Minutes are available on the surgery's website.

We launched our Steps map of walks around Burwash and Etchingham in the spring of 2017 to help residents increase their activity levels. We have been very pleased with the positive feedback that we have received and know that, for some residents, the steps map has been a catalyst to improved fitness. This map is available on the surgery's website for anyone who would like to download a copy.

Meeting the health consequences of diabetes is a major challenge for the NHS both in primary (GPs) and secondary (hospitals) care. We have decided that diabetes will be one of our health interests in 2018. Our applications to both Burwash and Etchingham Parish Councils to fund a leaflet about diabetes have been successful. We will be working on this over the next few months and leaflets will be delivered to all households in the three Burwash villages and Etchingham. We are planning to have a health event about diabetes in the autumn, which we hope that residents will attend.

One of the challenges for our group is to ensure that we represent the demographics of the practice's patient list. We were delighted to work with two students from Heathfield Community College as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to set up a Facebook page for the PPG - our first tentative steps into the world of social media! The page is called Burwash Surgery Patient Group and we would be delighted if you 'liked' and 'shared' our posts. We have posted information about a range of important health issues including those that were identified in a small survey carried out by the students as part of their project. We want our page to be useful to residents and we would welcome feedback about the topics that you would find most useful.

We understand that many people do not want to join committees. However, there are other ways in which you may wish to be involved. Do you have skills that would be useful as we develop our social media presence? Do you have young relations who need to do a project for school or college? Our ability to represent your views would be enhanced by the involvement of more patients. Do contact me on 01435 883785 or Claudette Neville, Secretary on 01435 883043 if you would like to become more involved in our work.

Lorraine Lea  
Chairman

April 2018



## ETCHINGHAM MILITARY & AVIATION PRESERVATION GROUP

2017 ended in disappointment for The Etchingham Military and Aviation Preservation Group. Our Landlord at Orchard Farm, Hurst Green gave us just a three week notice that we had to vacate our stores and sales area by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. This was very upsetting as during our two years there we had decorated the stores, sealed the floor, erected display cabinets all around the room and placed carpet to create an exhibition space. The sales area had shelves erected and lighting installed plus had been well stocked with collectables to sell. Our visitor numbers were steadily growing indeed we were starting to enjoy many repeat visits with people returning to purchase our latest sale items.

Not deterred by this short notice our members and friends got to work dismantling & packing the displays ready to move. The sales area stock was boxed and the shelving and tables dismantled. All of this was then loaded into vans and moved to a storage depot where the collections were packed into a container. The display cases and furniture were then de-constructed and taken for storage on a member's drive and covered in tarpaulins.

We are currently looking for a dry space to store the display cases in and so let our member who now has them on his drive be able to park his car within his property again.

In March 2017 we were gifted by The Hospice in the Weald a First World War Sectional Wooden Army Hut. This we will re-erect as a permanent display and storage building. To achieve this we require a piece of land of around an acre. If you have any ideas how to obtain this or could donate a suitable site please make contact with us.

The first Thursday of every month, except January and August, saw our group gather for our meeting nights at The Etchingam Sports and Social Club. At these we enjoyed talks on subjects ranging from the Second World War Supply Convoys into Malta given by Cllr. John Barnes, to A Life in the Merchant Navy provided by Mr. D. Hollingbery and Stunt Co-Ordination in Films Like Fury presented by Jim Dowdall.

Our social events through the year included visits to Gatwick Aviation Museum & Brenzett Aeronautical Museum plus promotional and fund raising stalls at The Heffle Cuckoo Fair, Burwash Fair, The Festival of Transport, Hellingly, Etchingam Village Fete, Tinkers Park Steam Weekend, Horsted Keynes Station Toy & Collectors Fair and Seaford Toy and Antique Sale.

If you feel that you could help us in any way, wish us to home any artefacts relating to periods of conflict or would enjoy being a member of our group please contact Brian Pitt 01424 814118. We are a registered charity Number 113883 so all financial donations can be given under Gift Aid.

Andrew Pope,  
**Group Secretary.**

***And Finally, from the Parish Office.....***

Well, no one could say this has been a boring, uneventful year!

Projects succeed, some proceed at a frustratingly sedate pace and some seem determined to stall altogether. Your Council may not be the largest by number in Rother, nor have the most residents but that has never stopped this village having big plans and good ideas aplenty. With the support of the community, Council will continue to push hard to bring these hopes and aspirations to a successful, tangible conclusion.

As ever there is a huge debt of thanks due to all your councillors, Parish, District and County. There is also a quiet team working away on the Neighbourhood Plan, a lot of background work has been going on which will shortly be presented to village for consultation, all volunteers so thanks are due to them also. Last but by no means least, Huw Merriman, our constantly active, energetic and supportive Constituency Member of Parliament, which is very much appreciated.

So that's another year, a mixed bag of success and disappointment as always but no less enthusiasm looking forward to the next.

Paulette Barton

Clerk to Etchingham Council

April 2018