Sussex & Surrey Associations of Local Councils

May Newsletter

Clerks - please circulate to all your councillors

SURREY ALC NEEDS YOU!

Due to a change in roles and the elections in May 2015, Surrey ALC will be seeking new Directors. We would like to allow plenty of notice to our members and invite you to send in your expressions of interest to become a Director.

To be a Director of Surrey ALC Ltd. you must be a parish or town councillor and will be expected to attend at least 4 meetings of the Surrey Board a year. These meetings take place in Surrey (venue circulates to accommodate all) and usually run from 1pm-4pm. The Surrey Board meets to discuss and agree the way in which Surrey ALC's services are run, feeding issues from parish level up to Surrey ALC and back down to ensure that Surrey ALC & members are well informed. Directors are also invited to attend (free of charge) all Surrey ALC events i.e. The Surrey Local Councils' Updates.

The election of Directors will take place at the AGM in October 2015 however those that express an interest in standing will be invited to attend meetings of the Board in July & September to meet Officers and Directors.

If you are interested in joining us or would like to find out more information please contact Isabelle.mouland@ssalc.co.uk or call on 01273 830203.

SSALC Presidents and Vice Presidents

In this edition of the Newsletter I thought it might be helpful to write a few words about the Presidents and Vice Presidents who support SSALC.

Following the retirement of Lord Lytton from the Sussex Presidency, it was decided to appoint a separate President in both East & West Sussex; Vice Presidents are also appointed in the Counties and the current incumbents are shown below :

East Sussex
President, Lord Ampthill [Rye]
Vice Presidents, Mrs Marion Shepherd DL [Horam], Dr Alex MacGillivray [Barcombe], A.R. [Bob] Peters, MBE [Ringmer] *Bob Peters has indicated he wishes to stand down this year having served as a parish and district councillor since 1958.*

West Sussex
President, Michael Chater OBE [Itchenor],
Vice Presidents, Rt.Hon Earl of Lytton DL [Shipley], Dr John Godfrey DL [Arundel], Alan Grant [Adversane]

Surrey
President, Dame Sarah Goad, DCVO, JP, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey [Bletchingley]
Vice Presidents, Mrs Betty Ames [Alfold], Mrs Christine Howard [Shamley Green], Mrs Liz Cutter [Burstow], Brian Ellis [Cranleigh]

The Lord Lieutenant has informed the Surrey ALC Board that she will be stepping down from office in August this year and relinquishing the Presidency. The Board will start the process of considering names of those it wishes to approach to fill the gap left by Dame Sarah.
You will see that we try as far as possible to achieve a geographical distribution to ensure coverage in the parished areas of the Counties.

If your Council is planning an event at which you feel the attendance of the President or a Vice President would be beneficial, please contact the SSALC office giving as much notice as possible. For example the Southwater event featured on page 14 of this edition.

Trevor Leggo, CEO, SSALC

CO-OPTION FOLLOWING AN ELECTION

Section 21 of the representation of the People Act 1985 provides that where an insufficient number of candidates is validly nominated at an ordinary local council election to fill the vacancies on the council, those who have been validly nominated are automatically elected as councillors and take up place 4 working days after the date that the election would have been held. Provided that those elected constitute a quorum the council may co-opt any person/s to fill the vacancies. If the Power of co-option is **not exercised within 35 days** the principal authority may then exercise its powers to hold a further election or to take other appropriate action to fill the vacancies.

A principal authority has wide reserve powers to do anything necessary to constitute a council properly (s.39(4)(b) of the 1983 Act), including the temporary appointment of district councillors to act as parish councillors pending a further election (s.91 of the 1972 Act). Before exercising the power of co-option the vacancies must be advertised as soon as possible to attract possible candidates for co-option.

Applications are received by the Clerk who puts on the next full council agenda "co-option to fill the vacancy(s) on the Council" and the applicants are invited and advised this is when the co-option will take place.

At its next full council meeting the Local Council receives the applications submitted, some Local Councils invite each candidate to have 3-5mins to speak on what they will bring to the Council. The council the votes on a new member - in public by show of hands unless a councillor requests a ballot and the council resolve for this to take place. It must be a signed ballot, a councillor can ask for the vote to be recorded. The new member is voted on by having the majority vote. If there are more candidates than seats you keep voting until you have one left, for example -

3 candidates for 2 seats - 10 voting members on the council -
Tom Jones receives 3 votes
Tina Turner receives 3 votes
Kate Moss receives 4 votes - takes the 1st seat
Another vote then takes place to fill the 2nd seat -
Tom Jones receives 3 votes
Tina Turner receives 7 votes - takes the 2nd seat
In the event of a tie the Chairman can exercise a casting vote. Before taking their seat new Councillors must sign their declaration of acceptance of office & fill in their register of interest form which the clerk then passes to the District/Borough Council.

It is important that's this process is followed. When not followed correctly the Local Council could leave itself open to challenge - in some cases this has happened and caused major issues between Local Councils and their electors. Legal Topic Note no.8 on Elections explains this process and more, it can be found on the Legal Topic Notes page of our website.

CALC Toolkit: NALC Star Councils awards 2015

Get recognised! NALC announce new Star Councils awards 2015

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has a rich history of running awards, so we're pleased to see that this year, they have announced an exciting scheme with more award categories and a ceremony taking place in October.

In fact, The NALC Star Councils awards are set to be the biggest event in the local (parish and town) council calendar in 2015. They are a fantastic opportunity for our national body to recognise and celebrate the achievements of member councils and county associations (CALCs) like ours – both within and outside of the sector.

The awards will be highly publicised and we hope to see lots of nominations submitted.It is easy for the work of local councils, councillors and staff to be underappreciated, so we are delighted that NALC will be highlighting and publicising the important role that local councils play - and the power and influence that they have on communities across the county.

Please make sure that the work of your council and its staff is recognized, by getting your nominations in to starcouncils@nalc.gov.uk.by **30th June 2015.**

The Star Councils awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with the NALC AGM in London at the end of October and details of the event will be publicised at a later date.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Individual achievement

1. Young Councillor of the Year (Aged 18-30)
2. Clerk of the Year
3. Councillor of the Year
4. Chair of the Year
5. Council Worker of the Year

Specific Achievement

6. Digital Communications of the Year
7. CALC outstanding project of the Year
8. Local Council outstanding project of the Year
9. Council of the Year

NALC Updates and Legal Topic Note Updates (Since Our Last Newsletter)

LTN05 Parish and Community Council Meetings - February 2015
LTN 14 Byelaws - February 2015
LTN 15 Legal Proceedings – April 2015
LTN 31 Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971 - April 2015
LTN 79 Staff Pensions – April 2015
L01-15 Freedom of Information Datasets – February 2015
L02-15 Introduction of the smaller authorities (Transparency Requirements) - March 2015
F03-15 Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 Commencement Orders - April 2015

NALC Website Password Reminder – www.nalc.gov.uk

SUSSEX COUNCIL -
Username: sussmember
Password: roing76

SURREY COUNCIL -
Username: surreymember
Password: kocin95

As you know, NALC is supporting Locality in delivering the 15-16 My Community Rights programmes as funded by DCLG which parishes are eligible to apply to.

Up and down the country, thousands of communities are taking action - from regulars running their local pub and protecting other assets such as the local pier, to plans for new development, the creation of new jobs and apprenticeships and services.

The following support programmes are currently available and open to applications, with some looming application deadlines:

Community economic development – Co-operatives UK will support 50 communities to develop economic plans to address local economic priorities like job creation and enterprise. Closing date for applications 8 May 2015.

Community ownership and management of assets – Locality will support 50 local authority/community partnerships to support the transfer of multiple or complex publicly owned assets into community ownership. Applications close when programme is full.

First steps and our place – Locality will support 115 more neighbourhoods to use the Our Place approach, enabling councils and other public sector providers, voluntary and community groups, local businesses and the community to work together to tackle important local issues from job creation to health priorities and 115 communities will receive support from the Community Development Foundation to take the first steps in identifying important local issues and developing Community Action Plans. Closing date for applications is 8 May 2015 for First Steps and 15 May 2015 for Our Place.

Neighbourhood planning and the Community Right to build – Locality will give grants and technical support to communities to shape new development in their area through a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order, and to gain planning permission for new community led buildings. No closing date for applications.

There is also an advice service and network - Locality and the Community Development Foundation are providing communities with the opportunity to network and learn from each other through the new My Community Network. They provide a phone and online advice service that gives access to tailored advice to help communities use the range of community rights and other neighbourhood approaches that are available. Details of all the support and grant funding on offer are at: www.mycommunity.org.uk .

Please refer this message onto all member councils in your areas - in particular highlighting the upcoming application deadlines for Community Economic Development, Our Place / First Steps.

Thanks as ever for your huge assistance in doing this,

Chris

Formal Appointments to Outside Bodies

This is a reminder that at your council's Annual Meeting of the Council formal appointments need to be made to outside bodies.
Surrey ALC Ltd, East Sussex ALC Ltd. and West Sussex ALC ltd. (ALCs) are outside bodies and in order for our AGMs to be properly held it is important that formal appointments are made at your annual meetings to the ALCs.

Please see the following important information for making appointments to your ALC –

- Each member council may appoint up to 2 representatives to attend, speak and vote at the ALC's AGM
- Each representative has a vote at the AGM
- Although clerks can attend the AGM they cannot be appointed as the council's representative as they cannot speak or vote, only councillors and chairmen of parish meetings can speak & vote.
- The appointment must be made formally at a full council meeting when appointing on to outside bodies.

Proxy voting – If a member council representative cannot attend the AGM the council can appoint a proxy -

- A proxy voter does not have to be a councillor or chairman of a parish meeting. The member council making the appointment (at a meeting by resolution) can decide who they send i.e. this could be the clerk or RFO. The appointed person carries the vote only and doesn't have a right to speak at the meeting.
- Survey Monkey will be used by the ALCs to gather proxy votes and will be sent with the AGM notice.
- Surrey ALC Ltd, East Sussex ALC Ltd. and West Sussex ALC ltd. are required to spot check whether appointments have been made formally and that proxy voting has been carried out legally.

Passwords to access our SSALC website

Please note that although Sussex & Surrey ALC will not be changing the passwords for members to access the website, **Clerks are strongly advised** to change the secondary log in password for their councillors following the elections in May.
This is to ensure that ex councillors no longer have access to membership documents.

Recruitment

SSALC is receiving a high volume of requests for recruitment assistance to fill parish/town council clerk posts. SSALC has now assisted with over 150 vacancies across Surrey, East & West Sussex.

We would like to remind all councils and clerks that SSALC's recruitment service takes **a minimum of two months** from advertising to making the appointment depending on advertising duration. In order to make the process run smoothly, SSALC's Isabelle Mouland leads on the recruitment service and will format a timetable showing all of the key dates of the process. Once this timetable has been agreed by both the Council and SSALC, the process will start, following the agreed timetable.

If you would like to find out more please see the recruitment service page of our website - http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/additional_services_2015-01-01-RECRUITMENT-ASSISTANCE---SSALC-RECRUITMENT-SERVICE.asp

Or email isabelle.mouland@ssalc.co.uk

VACANCIES

SSALC is currently assisting with the following vacancies-

WINDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL -

Parish Clerk & RFO

37 hours per week

Starting Salary depending on experience

Range SCP37 to SCP51 currently £31,846pa – £45,129pa - Plus pension and expenses

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 22nd May 2015

LIKELY INTERVIEW DATE(S): 1st and/or 2nd June 2015

FOR FULL DETAILS AND HOW TO APPLY - http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/vacancies.asp

FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL -

Parish Clerk & RFO

37 hours per week

Starting salary depending on experience

Range SCP40 to SCP44 currently £38,405pa – £34,746pa

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – 29th May 2015

INTERVIEWS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE – 8th June 2015

FOR FULL DETAILS AND HOW TO APPLY - http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/vacancies.asp

Coming up in the very near future….

Chiddingly Parish Council – Clerk & RFO

Claygate Parish Council – Clerk & RFO

Nutfield Parish Council – Clerk & RFO

Capel Parish Council – Clerk & RFO

SSALC would like to welcome the following clerks to their new roles -

Chailey Parish Council – Bettina Newell
Clymping Parish Council – Val Knight (also clerk to Kingston PC)
Effingham Parish Council – Jon Short
Etchingham Parish Council – Paulette Barton
Lindfield Parish Council RFO – Tracy Ely
Ringmer Parish Council RFO & Fulking Parish Council – Derek Blackhall
Singleton Parish Council – Jane Landstrom
Sutton & Barlavington Parish Council – Trudi Rogers
Thakeham Parish Council – Owen Richards
Westbourne Parish Council – Clare Kennett
Willingdon & Jevington Parish Council – Steve Keogh

Please note that these are the clerk changes we are aware of since the last newsletter, sorry if we have missed any one! **If you are a new clerk or know we need to change our contact details for your council please email carla.staden@ssalc.co.uk asap.**

Three Counties Training

SUSSEX & SURREY ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL COUNCILS LIMITED

AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

East Sussex ALC Ltd. President - Lord Ampthill
West Sussex ALC Ltd. President - Cllr Michael Chater OBE
Surrey ALC Ltd. President - Dame Sarah Goad DCVO, JP, H.M Lord-Lieutenant

CEO - Trevor Leggo
Assistant CEO - Anne Bott

Transparency Code for Smaller Councils

This email was sent by Carla Staden to all clerks on 13th April 2015 - Thank you so much to all of you who have already booked in to attend this very important free event…

Dear Clerks, RFOs & Internal Auditors,

Following the recent Legal Briefing on Transparency obligations for Parish Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 received from NALC, we have set up a 'Transparency Code For Smaller Councils' event.

The event will take place on **Tuesday 19th May 2015 (1000 registration for a 1030 start, finishing at 1230)** at **The King's Centre, 33-35 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9LR**

Venue Information: This venue has been chosen as it is easily accessible by car and public transport for East Sussex, West Sussex & Surrey Councils.

PARKING: Please note there will be limited parking in the centre car park on the day, therefore please use on road parking (map attached). As always we urge delegates to car share so please speak to your neighbouring clerks to see if they are attending.

The new briefing attached is confirming that the Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015/494 will come into force on 1 April 2015 and will make compliance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities issued in December 2014 mandatory for parish councils and other smaller authorities with a turnover not exceeding £25,000.

Mark Mulberry will be presenting at this event, following attendance at this event you will:

1. Know what the legal position is
2. Know when you have to apply the new rules from
3. Know what you have to do in respect of information and how to present it
4. How it effects your current year reporting
5. Understand the importance of internal review and internal audit
6. Understand the importance of good record keeping and audit trails

The event is open to Clerks, RFOs and Internal Auditors.

Please simply email carla.staden@ssalc.co.uk with your name(s) and council(s) if you wish to attend.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! We understand that all of you might not be available on this date, so please note that presentations will be on our website following the event.

Three Counties Training

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CEO - Trevor Leggo
Assistant CEO - Anne Bott

New Councillor Events 2015

In **June & July** SSALC will be holding *16 New Councillor events* throughout East/West Sussex and Surrey. The events will be held for 3 hours and include the following topics:

- **Who are SSALC and what do they do for members**
  What you get for your subscription
  Specialist local council advice
  Details of access to the SSALC website
  Annual training programme
- **Council relationships with:**
  NALC (National Association of Local Councils)
  SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)
  Principal Authorities
  Police
- **Summary of Powers and Duties**
- **Proceedings of Town and Parish Councils**
  Including standing orders
- **Role of the clerk, chairman & councillors**
- **The Council year**
- **Local council meetings**
- **Code of conduct**
- **Financial regulations**
- **Members allowances**
- **Localism Act including the General Power of Competence**
- **Challenges facing local councils + examples**

These events will be a great starting point for your new councillors, designed to give councillors basic training on procedural and legal guidance from experienced presenters.

Bookings will open for New Councillor Events on Friday 8th May 2015 – the booking form will be distributed to all clerks from this date and made available on our website.

Please see the link below for the full list of all new councillor dates, times & venues!
http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/events_training_NEW-COUNCILLOR-EVENTS.asp

Surrey News!

Surrey ALC Events Calendar

May – Drop-in New Councillor Inductions

This year, following the elections, SALC has arranged to hold two Councillor Induction events.
These free 2 hour events (facilitated by Anne Bott/Trevor Leggo) are a lead into our more comprehensive training (please see page 7 for details). These drop-in inductions are designed to provide a basic knowledge of the workings of local councils and to enable new councillors to prepare for their first meetings.
To make these events as flexible as possible we are not requiring bookings or making any charge. We are treating these inductions as part of the Council's subscription and simply ask that new councillors are given the opportunity to drop in to one of the dates and venue below to network with other new councillors, have a hot drink and gain some crucial knowledge –

Tuesday 12th May East Horsley Village Hall, 1000-1200
Monday 18th May Centenary Hall, Smallfield, 1300-1500

October – Surrey ALC Annual Conference & AGM

Due to the success of last year, SALC will be holding another full day Annual Conference & AGM. The programme for this event will be out later in the year and the booking form will be made available following the elections on May. SALC strives to ensure that costs to members are kept to a minimum and this year we will be offering member councils a special book on one delegate, book another half price. The cost per delegate will be £20+VAT which covers the venue hire, drinks & lunch.

Thursday 15th October, Dorking Halls, 0930-1530

December - Surrey Local Councils' Update

SALC will also be holding our popular Surrey Local Councils' Update. The programme for this event will be out later in the year and the booking form will be made available following the elections in May. The delegate cost will be £10+VAT which covers venue hire & refreshments.

Wednesday 2nd December, Manor House Hotel, Guildford, 0930-1300

If you have any questions please email Isabelle.mouland@ssalc.co.uk

Village SOS Learning, Outreach and Engagement Campaign

Building on the success of the Village SOS 2010 programme a new Village SOS Learning, Outreach and Engagement Campaign has been launched. The aim is to support rural communities to develop sustainable business ideas such as:
· setting up a shop or clothing exchange · saving a local pub or starting a community allotment · setting up a travelling cinema · reintroducing a local transport scheme

How can Surrey Community Action Help?

If your project meets the criteria we will assess with you the type of support required, from writing a business plan to developing a marketing strategy and agreeing key timescales. It could be that you need help writing bids for funding or accessing the specialist support of a mentor who has done it before. The support given will be tailored to meet the needs of your project.

Is my project eligible?

As long as you live within a community of less than 10,000 people and your project is around providing a service to your local community then you are likely to be eligible.

Expressions of Interest

If you already have a project in mind, even, if at this stage it is just an idea and think you might benefit from the type of support Village SOS can provide then we would like to hear from you by the 8th May **2015**.

Call Louise Williams at Surrey Community Action on 01483 447141

Surrey News!

Surrey Wildlife Trust & Parish Councils – Working Together

Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) is the only organisation solely concerned with all aspects of wildlife conservation in Surrey. We have a long history of sharing our knowledge, experience and skills by providing a professional consultancy service.

SWT has developed successful partnerships with public, private and third sector bodies and is seeking to improve our relationship with Parish Councils across Surrey. To achieve this we can provide a range of professional services at competitive prices for:

- **Ecology,**
- **Living Landscapes,**
- **Education,**
- **Land Management, and**
- **People & Wildlife.**

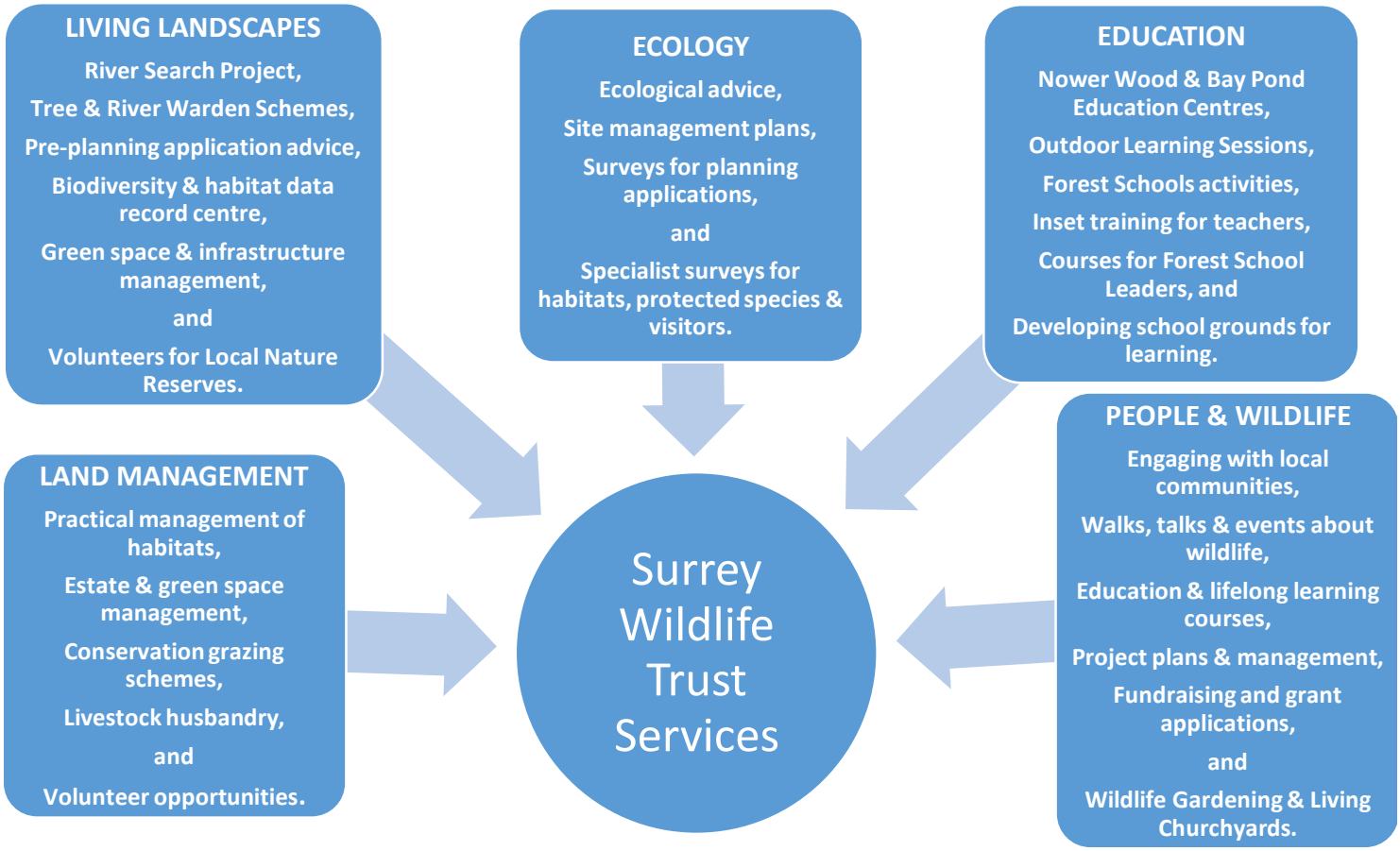
We aim to provide a seamless service for our clients and recognise that projects such as Neighbourhood Plans require input from a mixture of SWT services so we will provide you with a named client officer as a single point of contact.

If you would like more information about our services please contact either Isobel Girvan or Paul Ritchie as shown below. We will be in touch shortly to see if we can help.

Kind Regards,

Isobel Girvan BSc MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist
Tel: 01483 795461
Email: isobel.girvan@surreywt.org.uk

Paul Ritchie CBiol CSci MSB
Community Engagement Coordinator
Tel: 01483 795478
Email: paul.ritchie@surreywt.org.uk



Surrey News!

Drive into action – become a volunteer driver and help your community

Each year Surrey's voluntary car schemes help thousands of elderly and vulnerable people across the county to access hospital appointments, collect prescriptions and to enjoy social events.

Each one is run by local volunteers for the benefit of their communities, by providing lifts for those who may not have easy access to transport.

As the population ages, and as cuts impact on local transport services and result in the centralisation of health services, demand for the service provided by voluntary car schemes is increasing year on year but the number of volunteer drivers is falling.

That's why Surrey Community Action, which provides help to develop new schemes and on-going advice and support to existing schemes, and Surrey County Council have teamed up to boost the number of volunteer drivers.

Becoming a volunteer driver is easy and volunteers can give as much or as little time as they choose, as well as decide the days and times during which they are available.

In return, volunteers are rewarded with the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping elderly neighbours to live independently for longer. Feedback such as "This is the first time I have been out for six months" and "What would we do without you? We are so grateful for all you do" makes a little bit of effort very worthwhile.

For more information about how to become a volunteer driver, contact Vicki Turton at Surrey Community Action on 01483 447121 or email vickit@surreyca.org.uk

Sussex News!

Sussex Police

By now I hope all local councils in Sussex are aware of the new Operating Model being rolled out by Sussex Police. This has been brought about by the requirement to save £57m by 2020; it is in addition to £50m saved up to 2015.

Over the past 3 months, ACC Robin Smith has attended meetings of all the District Associations, accompanied by either Chief Supt. Tony Blaker or Supt. Laurence Taylor, to explain the impact of change to Local Policing; council representatives have had the opportunity to quiz Robin Smith and convey their concerns. The final session took place at Chichester on 1st April when Chef Constable Giles York and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne presented a more detailed session – sadly very few parishes from the Chichester District were able to send a representative.

In West Sussex, the new Divisional Commander, Chief Supt. Steve Whitton has asked to attend the next cycle of District Association meetings to introduce himself and talk about changes to local policing in West Sussex. An approach will be made to Chief Supt. Neil Honor in East Sussex to see if he would like to do the same.

As you know, we have a meeting with the Chief Constable every 6 months, this is designed to enable local councils to raise issues that have not been resolved with the District Commander – your Chief Inspector, or to discuss strategic issues. The meeting is attended by a representative of each of the parished districts, the President of Sussex SLCC and myself; Jacqui will be in touch shortly to seek items for the agenda for the meeting taking place on 29th May.

Trevor Leggo, CEO SSALC

District Associations of Local Councils

May we take this opportunity to remind councillors of the very strong network of District Associations across Sussex; inevitably there will be variations in effectiveness from time to time as people come and go, but on the whole their existence is valued as a forum to share experience and act as a conduit or sounding board for principal authorities and the police to float ideas and seek opinion.

DALCs usually meet four times a year, appoint a Chairman and employ a Secretary who, in most cases is a serving part time Clerk from within the District. A grant is given by SALC to cover the cost of administration.

Secretaries with contact details are as follows :

Rother DALC Richard Farhall, Town Clerk of Rye, 01797 223902, richard.farhall1@btinternet.com

Wealden DALC Alison Stevens, Clerk to Westham PC, 01323 461299, wealdendalc@aol.com

Lewes DALC Karen Crowhurst, Clerk to Ringmer PC, 01273 813242, karencrowhurst@yahoo.co.uk

Mid Sussex DALC Paul Johnson, paul.johnson424@gmail.com

Horsham DALC Beverley Bell, Clerk to Billingshurst PC, 01403 782555, clerk@billingshurst.gov.uk

Arun DALC Paul Barley, Asst Clerk to Angmering PC, 01903 772124, arundistrictalc@gmail.com

Chichester DALC Greg Burt, Clerk to Tangmere PC, 07858 842687, clerk@tangmere-online.co.uk

Occasionally there is a vacancy for Secretary and at present Paul Johnson wishes to stand down from the Mid Sussex role when a successor can be found. **If any Clerk is interested in helping MSALC, please contact Paul direct or let the SSALC office know.**

Sussex News!

Tom Crowley CEO Horsham District Council	Trevor Leggo CEO SSALC	Jeremy Senneck Cllr Peter Buckley Chairman Southwater Parish Council	Tony Bull Cllr Alan Grant Vice President West Sussex ALC	County Councillor Brad Watson

On 22 April 2015 Southwater Parish Council presented certificates granting freedom of Southwater to two long serving former Chairmen, Tony Bull and Jeremy Senneck. The presentations were made by Councillor Alan Grant, Vice President of West Sussex ALC.

Sussex News!

EAST SUSSEX ALC LIMITED AGM

The East Sussex ALC Limited AGM and conference will be held on 12 November 2015 at The Emmanuel Centre, Battle Methodist Church, Battle.

Full details and programme will be advised nearer the time.

Invitations and Annual Reports will be posted September 2015

Don't forget to elect your representatives at your first meeting

WEST SUSSEX ALC LIMITED AGM

The West Sussex ALC Limited AGM and conference will be held on 19 November 2015 at the Chichester Park Hotel.

Full details and programme will be advised nearer the time.

Invitations and Annual Reports will be posted September 2015

Don't forget to elect your representatives at your first meeting

Bolney Parish Council

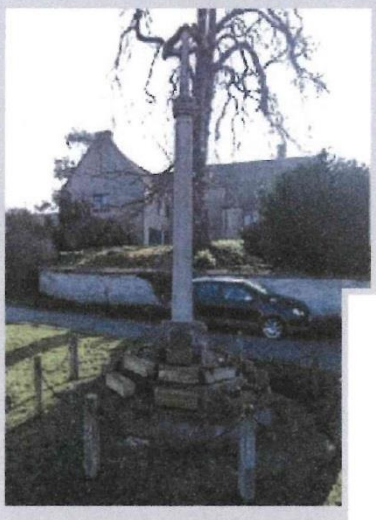
Following on from the success of the 'Bolney Volunteers' which has now increased to 84 members of the community, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Tony Steer has informed us of an interesting new development.

Recognising that West Sussex County Council are no longer able to carry out certain maintenance functions, following an approach from the Parish Council, the Probation Service has agreed to a team of 12 people from the Community Payback Scheme to be assigned to work in Bolney.

The cost to the parish Council is £40 per day and repairs to a footpath have already been carried out to everyone's satisfaction. Verge maintenance will follow next.

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

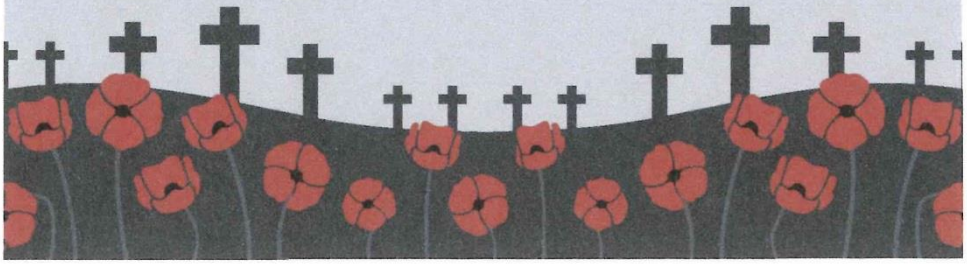
How will we remember them?



like this?

or like this?

@civic_voice
civicvoice.org.uk
info@civicvoice.org.uk



CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

How will we remember them?

Help us to preserve the memory of those who gave so much to protect our nation in wartime.

Take action and take part in a project of national significance to identify, protect and conserve the nation's war memorials.

Please sign up to register and we will send you more information

0151 707 4319
@civic_voice
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Keep Britain Blooming

Traditionally seen in towns and cities across the country, hanging baskets have always been a much loved, 'quick fix' solution to enhancing, the town centre environment.
The advent of reduced funds, and increased environmental awareness, has seen a move away from the traditional high maintenance wire baskets.

A well-known Local Government supplier, Amethyst Horticulture, a wholesale nursery, specialising in the supply of trees, shrubs, hanging baskets, seasonal bedding and high impact floral displays, have seen the sale and hire of their 'self watering' containers greatly increase nationally.

Managing Director Nigel Fox explains "All of the containers have an integral reservoir which greatly decreases the frequency of watering visits, the savings made on maintenance of a hanging basket in the first season goes a long way to covering the initial cost of the baskets. The design of our containers has benefited from our extensive horticultural knowledge and experience in planting and maintaining displays, and we have been able to manufacture a range of products that maximise both the effectiveness of the 'self watering' technology, and the aesthetic quality of the display. "

The company has also seen an increase in the number of councils preferring to hire its, high impact ready planted displays, such as the unique 'Cosmopolitan Cube' and the significant tiered planter 'The Cascade' which they can then strategically place to instantly enhance the 'greyest' of urban areas.

Amethyst says, "The benefit of beautifying our town centres by the inclusion of floral displays, is widely recognised and appreciated, by traders, shoppers, and the wider community. We hope that we can continue to offer unrivalled and contemporary displays to our customers, whilst still helping them to save money."

For further information on Amethyst products and services, (including watering/maintenance service) please visit their web site www.amethyst-horticulture.co.uk, or telephone sales 01795 522828

What is it?

Big Lunch Extras is a training programme from the Eden Project in Cornwall, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. It helps volunteers to run projects that will bring about positive change in their community, anything from community gardens and energy co-ops, to befriending schemes and cafes.

It follows the hugely successful Big Lunch initiative – the UK's annual get-together for neighbours which started in 2009 and is becoming an annual tradition in many communities.

What's involved?

Big Lunch Extras starts with a free, **all expenses paid, three-day residential event** at the Eden Project, offering inspirational speakers, workshops, tours and the chance to network with other people on the programme.

Then what?

This is followed by a series of **one-day road-shows** across the country, to help develop skills and keep up the momentum. But it doesn't end there: throughout the process a team of 'Catalysts' provide support as you develop your ideas.

How do I apply? In two quick and easy steps:

1. Firstly, create an account
2. Secondly, log in and apply to join the programme of events

The form is short and simple to complete. We just need to know who you are, what you do, what skills you want to gain and a bit about the community project you have in mind. If you need any help along the way, just contact us and we'll get in touch as soon as we can to help you!

Who can apply?

Big Lunch Extras is for individuals in the UK wishing to start a community initiative or take existing projects to the next level. When you apply, we ask you to tell us a bit about yourself so we can make sure it's right for you. It's not designed for professionals working within the sector, but we're always interested in hearing about potential speakers at our events!

When are the events?

The residential weekends at the Eden Project will take place regularly until July 2015.

Apply now for your place on the following camps:

April	17th - 20th (FULL)
May	15th - 18th Applications accepted now
July	dates TBC but applications accepted now

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Mulberry & Co are a small family run firm of accountants and tax advisers specialising in providing focused advice on accountancy, audit and taxation matters. As registered auditors and Treasurers to the Sussex & Surrey Associations of local councils we can provide an Internal Audit function suitable for Town & Parish Councils of all sizes.

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Specialists for over 30 years in legal advice and transactional work for parish councils: council governance, procedure and practice; common land and village green; footpaths and rights of way; village halls and charities; burial grounds and cemeteries; employment law; data protection and freedom of information; code of conduct and discipline; acquisition, disposals, leases, easements and licences of land; contracts and litigation.

Does your Council have a Planning problem?

I may be able to help

As a solicitor who is a Planning Inspector and a former Town Clerk in West Sussex, I have a unique blend of experience in Sussex and Surrey to offer advice and assistance to local councils when they encounter some planning issues.

If this is of interest, please contact me at the earliest possible stage

Sue Simpson

07758 741664

Chris Rolley Associates

- Delivering quality services and added value throughout the local councils sector.

We are a small independent Sussex-based consultancy working solely within, and for, the local councils sector. Our specialist skills and extensive practitioner knowledge of this, the first tier of local government, means we are well placed to assist parish and town councils meet the challenges of

· The new localism agenda;
· Public sector cuts and the need to ensure efficiency and effectiveness throughout the organisation;
· Societal change and the needs of the community;
· Ensuring quality is the imperative that drives service delivery;
· Providing value for money everywhere, and
· Achieving successful outcomes through people.

We provide a distinctive and value driven consultancy support service, which recognises at all times the primacy of the client and guarantees added value in everything we do. Client confidentiality is assured as is the quality of the service we commit to provide.

Whether you need help with organisational or staffing reviews, recruitment, assistance with governance, help in enhancing performance and/or developing performance management systems, or project management expertise, we may be able to help and would welcome the opportunity to quote for your business.

For a no-obligation opportunity to discuss your needs please contact Chris Rolley on 01342 825643 or 07857 242983 or David Carden on 07969 272640. Alternatively e mail chris@chrisrolley.co.uk
For further information view our website www.chrisrolley.co.uk

MA

Minton Associates (MA) is a management consultancy specialising in providing a variety of services to the public sector.

If your Council is thinking about a new project or consulting the public in your area please get in touch as we have considerable experience and skill in these areas.

We can also help in a range of other areas of Council business so please ask for a copy of our prospectus.

For excellent management support at affordable rates. Email: minton.bill@gmail.com or phone on 01903 773527

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Chairman East Sussex ALC: **Cllr Keith Stevens** (Wartling PC)
Vice Chairman: **Cllr Richard Jessop** (Battle TC)

Chairman West Sussex ALC: **Cllr Rodney Jackson** (Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common PC)
Vice Chairman: **Cllr Liz Kenney** (Hunston PC)

Chairman Surrey ALC: **Cllr Richard Olliver** (Horley TC)
Vice Chairman: **Vacancy**

(All Chairmen's/Vice Chairmen's email address' can be found under the 'Contact Us' page of the SSALC website)

www.sussexalc.org.uk / www.surreyalc.org.uk

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