

Dear Colleagues

### **Liaison with adjoining Parish Councils**

Please find attached draft of report to go to the full Council for agreement. I had also been charged with drafting a letter for sending the adjoining councils. However, depending on the outcome of the full council will depend on the .... letter and therefore have not drawn anything up at this stage.

Whilst researching, I have been looking at the AGM minutes of these Councils, amongst other things, and found a wealth of information that might be of interest. Below is a list of highlights and some further thoughts that occurred to me as I delved.

Tree Wardens Several councils had dedicated Tree Wardens, would this be Andrew Mann? If so, I will pass on the names of contacts along with councillors specifically responsible for hedges, verges and pathways, some of the councils include roads along with this heading.

Welcome Pack Brightling are producing, or have produced, one for their village, Jane Oxenford is the contact

Senior Citizens Etchingham is the only Council I could find that gave specific responsibility for this heading and Mary Barnes [wife of John Barnes I believe] is the councillor with this responsibility.

Community Safety This covered a number of areas including liaison with the police, speedwatch and flood warnings. This last point is from Etchingham for obvious reasons and Colin Boylett is the contact. John Barnes also has a remit in community safety. Interestingly I did not see anything in respect of the Fire Brigade.

Twinning Only saw this in Heathfield, but just maybe this is something to consider in the long term and I happen to know the contact, Lynne Fraser.

Parishes in bloom Mayfield won gold last year! This is a competition set up by South and South East in Bloom. <https://www.sseib.com/> It wasn't immediately obvious whether this would coincide with our wish to become more environmentally friendly but thought it could sit well with our Tourism policy.

I think some councils would welcome this initiative more than others, the latter perhaps thinking the SLP meetings would be good enough platform for liaison. However, an invitation to a talk, with perhaps someone like Sarah Raven, might be a different matter.

Another thought that occurred to me, is how many other councillors from these adjoining councils are already know to members of our council. I know at least 2 plus of course John Barnes. Might be a useful list to draw up.

There was a number of other tid bits that I came across, all of which may help inform where we as a council go

Brightling Action plan <https://brightling.community/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/survey-and-action-plan-ver2ac.pdf>

Fundraising in Etchingham <https://www.etchinghamvillage.co.uk/playgrounds/fundraising-1/> using Give as you Live

'Transition Mayfield' <http://www.transitionmayfield.org.uk/> This focuses on environmental issues including Fracking!

Mayfield and Five Ashes seem to be quite a thriving and active council, you can access their annual report 2018-2019 which clearly indicates this. An interesting read.

<https://mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk/annual-parish-assembly/>

'Ticehurst Community Friends' <https://ticehurstonline.org/ticehurst-community-friends-tcf/>

And so much more. I do think it worth recommending one councillor to liaise with one of the adjoining councils, at least in the first instance as there was so much more from the websites.

One point I have noted, which was a constant annoyance, the lack of date put on articles on the websites. It was almost impossible at times to ascertain whether the information was current, or not [unfortunately, more often it was not]. Something to consider with our own website perhaps. It may help with updating the website if is configured appropriately.

I would welcome your thoughts on the attached draft report, and any changes you consider need to be made before sending to Jane/Michelle for the EGM.

Many thanks

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