



Burwash Parish Council

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Dear resident,

Burwash Parish Council want to make sure everyone in the Parish has access to information about our work as well as providing opportunities for feedback on current priorities. We use the Burwash e-bulletin to keep residents up to date. If you would like to receive regular Parish news direct to your email address, please sign up using the form on the front page of the website: burwashparish.org.uk or send an email to: burwashebulletin@gmail.com.

If you would prefer to receive updates through the post, please contact us on 07375 809 660 and we will send you these in print. If it helps, these could be in large type.

Information is also posted regularly on the Burwash Parish website: burwashparish.org.uk and there are monthly updates in the two Parish Church Magazines.

Here are some of the current issues we want to share with you:

Improving Road Safety and Car Parking

The last two elements in reducing the speed limits through the High Street to 20mph have now been timetabled. A traffic survey is being set up for the approach to Burwash from the east (Etchingham) to determine where the changes of speed need to be placed: from 50 mph down to 20mph. As this buffer zone must have the support of Sussex Police, the survey will be carried out by East Sussex Highways in September.

Secondly, East Sussex Highways has estimated cost of reducing the speed limit is between £40,000 and £50,000. There is a 'matched funding' scheme in East Sussex which means that the Council can apply for half the cost to be borne by the County Council. At present, the Parish Council has £26,000 set aside for this work and the application to the County Council for matched funding is being placed for consideration in October. The communities will then be consulted on whether or not they approve the expenditure on the scheme.

In the meantime, the Parish Council is moving ahead with placing 'Gates' at each end of the communities, to act as reminders to drivers that they are entering residential areas.

The 'pinch points' where the road narrows in the High Street, are also a major cause of concern, and these will also be dealt with in the first phase of the improvement work.

The results of the recent survey of 'yellow lines' did not indicate a significant preference for any other option than what we currently have but further discussions will be held with residents.

We have been advised that the cost of providing a crossing in the Village is between £80,000 and £90,000. East Sussex Highways considers the best option to be a zebra crossing, although this would need community support as it would require taking a number of parking places off the High Street, the provision of lighting and the possible removal of some trees. If the Parish Council and the communities wish to proceed, then additional funding will need to be raised.

There is concern about the speed of traffic along other roads in Burwash Common and the Weald, and the Parish Council has paid for a feasibility study and traffic survey which will identify where changes in speed limits might be appropriate

The issue over the Car Parks and the Public Convenience is unresolved. At present they are managed by Rother District Council (RDC) and although the Parish Council has made strenuous efforts to come to an agreement with RDC about taking these on, there is as yet no agreement on the financial obligations that would follow a transfer. We would welcome your views on this.

If you want to find out more about the Traffic Management schemes and their progress, the website has the minutes of the Working Party meetings, and we will keep you updated on the Burwash e-bulletin

Where the money goes

Each month the Finance and Admin Committee meets to review income and expenditure and these figures are publicly available on the burwashparish.org.uk website. Apart from the costs of our salaried staff, major expenditures so far include £26,000 set aside for traffic control measures, £17,558 for Environment and Maintenance including grass cutting, disposal of dog waste, the Neighbourhood Plan – which is a requirement of Rother District Council – maintenance of the Parish Office and Parish Rooms and other minor matters. A further £14,500 has been awarded in grants to local groups who work in and support the Burwash communities.

Future Priorities

What should we concentrate on next? Let us know what you think our top priorities should be for the next three years. The money raised through the local tax (the 'Precept') has been historically lower than other similar sized parishes but would you be in favour of a significant increase in the precept in order to carry out local projects agreed by the community?

Keep in touch

With so many groups unable to meet at present, it may be that you are missing the company of others, or you may have a neighbour or family member you are a little concerned about. Please let us know so that we can put you in touch with those who can help.

Accessing the **Burwash e-bulletin** and the Parish Website will ensure that you are kept up to date with Parish Council matters and that you can have your say on issues that affect your community. If you prefer to receive your information through your letter box or in large type, let us know by writing to us at the address at the top of this letter, or by giving us a call.

With our best wishes

On behalf of Burwash Parish Council