

LISS



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SOUTH DOWNS MANAGEMENT PLAN

On 22 June the draft Management Plan for the South Downs will be launched. This plan covers the East Hampshire and Sussex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the area beyond, which is included within the designated South Downs National Park. The whole of Liss Parish is within the area covered by the Plan.

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The Management Plan sets out 10 Ambitions for the area for the next 20 years, covering issues like planning, water resources, cultural heritage, wildlife, recreation and local communities. Although it has been drawn together by the South Downs Joint Committee (who are responsible for the management of the two AONBs) the intention is that it is for all who have a stake in the South Downs, be they statutory bodies like the Environment Agency, English Heritage or Local Authorities or those of us who live, work or make use of the area for recreation.

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The Plan is now out to consultation and you will shortly get a questionnaire through your letterbox. Please fill it in, so that your voice can be heard in the debate about how the South Downs should develop over the next 20 critical years as, hopefully, England's newest National Park. If you want to see the full document, a copy will be held by the Parish Council and you can make more detailed comments on that if you want to.

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PARISH PLAN

Some work remains to be done on the Plan but this will not stop a number of issues raised by villagers being implemented in advance of the Plan's publication. The Questionnaire identified the need for a drop in centre for young people and the wish to have a local cinema. The film evenings introduced at the Community Centre have proved a great success and the youth Crossover Project is about to become a reality. We hope to start some improvements to the Village Centre this year.

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The reason for the delay is that we have to update the Liss Village Design Statement (VDS). The VDS has stood us in good stead since it was published in 2000, and has prevented some bad developments and encouraged some good ones. Most notably, it helped to see off the proposal in the draft Local Plan to build 125 dwellings on greenfield sites. The Local Plan, which is about to be published, has no greenfield development proposed for Liss, and just one small site to be held in reserve should Hampshire as a whole not be able to meet its targets.

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However, the overall planning system is in the process of change and by 2009, a Local Development Framework, will be in place, and our VDS will no longer have weight in planning decisions. We must therefore update it in a manner that will adequately provide for the needs of Liss in the years ahead.

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We will use as our starting point a document called the East Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment, which identifies the key features for the District as a whole. Our task is to detail at Parish level the things that are important to us, using our local knowledge and expertise, to flesh out what the District has done and address the way ahead.

We hope to publish our findings in the form of a Plan in May 2007.

VOICE

The Newsletter of

Liss

Parish Council

No 16

HOG THE LIMELIGHT - 2006/2007 SEASON

We are delighted to announce that Liss is participating in the Hog The Limelight programme for the forthcoming season commencing in October.

Hog The Limelight - Hampshire County Council's programme of arts and entertainment brings events for all ages to rural communities across the county, and has been running for 15 years offering varying performances and workshops to Village Halls in Hampshire. Villagers who have attended performances in surrounding villages can attest to the quality of the acts on offer.

We have arranged to stage four performances in Liss Village Hall – two adult entertainment evenings and two daytime children workshops to be held at Autumn and Spring half terms.

Renowned guitarist Gordon Giltrap opens the programme on the evening of Friday 13th October, followed by a Circus Skills Workshop on Saturday 21st October which will be a family event for anyone from 6 years up – have fun learning to stilt walk, juggle, Diablo and generally do something different.

Watch out for details of times, prices and ticket availability on posters before the event dates, details will also be published at 'Liss On-Line'.

The Spring 2007 performances will be listed in the next edition of The Village Voice.

LISS ROMAN VILLA PROJECT - SEPTEMBER 2006

This September will be the second of the three main digs being conducted in the current programme at the Liss Roman Villa where there will be another community dig involving people from within and around Liss.

Last year saw a large number of people involved in digging and finds processing (gently 'scrubbing' the mud and soil deposits from off the items retrieved from the dig trenches, and then fully identifying the items) in fact there were over 140 people involved throughout the month. The list of volunteers for this September closed on 31st March, but there will be an opportunity to join the list next year if you are interested.

During last September there were over 1000 visitors, plus some 200 school and college students in organised parties, who came and looked at what was going on and at what was found. This year it is hoped that there will be even more visitors both from the general public plus schools and colleges.

The site will be open for visitors from 10 am till 4 pm every day from Tuesday to Sunday, with site activities being conducted each day except Sunday.

Please note that the site is closed on Mondays.

This year the first day of the dig will be Tuesday 5th September and the last day will be Saturday 30th September, the site will not be open after this date.

The route to the site will be well signed with professional signs.

Do come and see what is on the doorstep of Liss – A Roman Villa, a Roman Well and may be more, it is not known what will be found this year.

There will be plenty of car parking spaces and admission is free, but if you wish to make a donation at the time of your visit it will be gratefully received.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

OVERGROWN HEDGES.... time for a trim

We are very lucky to have a large number of hedges within the Parish, which are highly valued as they greatly enhance the village, and give it a very rural feel.

They require regular cutting back especially where they act as boundaries alongside pavements so that pedestrians can walk side by side, and those using buggies, prams or mobility vehicles can move about easily without getting caught on the vegetation.

CROSSOVER YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE

WOWwhat a launch!! Portsmouth footballer Todorov did us proud on Sunday 30th April as did many members of the Liss community, both young and old. There was such a happy party atmosphere. We are enormously thankful to a great many of you who are supporting this project ...volunteering to "man" the centre, gifting money, donating furniture etc.

With all this done.....

Maybe the question you ask is "why do they have a great big sign over the door and are not yet properly open?"

Well, the past few months have been busy behind the scenes at Crossover. We are now finishing off the extensive building work and installing all our State-of-the-Art equipment. Richard Harris has been appointed Centre Manager, and is working part time through June and will be with us full time in July.

He says "Most importantly we are making sure that what we do at the moment is REALLY done well. We have all our volunteers to induct. We want to ensure that this is a very positive process for them and we hope they enjoy their time with us so much that they will want to stay FOREVER!"

We still need lots more help in all the above-mentioned ways. PLEASE volunteer and make a difference to the lives of our young people.

ONE POUND A WEEK (gift-aided if you are a taxpayer) committed to the ongoing monthly costs of CROSSOVER will be very gratefully received.

To find out more contact our Centre Manager at 71 Station Road. Tel. no. 01730 892981
Email:- crossover@btconnect.com



"Todorov the Portsmouth footballer at the Crossover launch surrounded by many young people from Liss."

DAYS OF HOPE SUMMER PLAYScheme 2006

Monkey World, Action Stations and the Isle of Wight are all day trips on the ever popular Days of Hope Summer Playscheme.

Running throughout August for children from 5 years, it kicks off with a Back to Basic camp especially for the teenagers. The programme this year is exceptionally varied with something for every child. There are exciting activities like basketball and theme days for example: Finding Nemo and Underwater World to occupy your children along with the return of some old favourites – meet the Animals on the farm and Mr Giants Wild West magic show. With BBQ's and Bouncy Castles, it's not to be missed. Each session will be a total play experience with free play alongside structured play. Just for fun there is air hockey, table football, dance mats, X-box and Playstations, trampets and much more.

The scheme is Ofsted registered and run by experienced, qualified staff who have been vetted through the Criminal Records Bureau.

Programmes will be distributed through local schools and available at the Liss Triangle Centre: booking is easy. For further information please contact Pam Gruber on 01730 301270 or Andrea Paget 01730 895866.



The pictures show 12 year olds sitting out a rainstorm on chairs they had made themselves and up a tree completing a challenge about flooding.



BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS

Once again we will be running our best kept allotment competition with awards to be presented at the Liss Horticultural Show on 12th August 2006. We do not judge on the technical merits that are used by the Horticultural Societies but try to reward those who make the most endeavour and progress over the year; in some cases awards are made for those who have to battle against such natural enemies of bracken & deer. As usual, our judge will also be reporting those allotment holders who are making no effort and appropriate action will be taken!

GOOD VILLAGER AWARD

The Good Villager Award was made by the Chairman to Margaret Effenberg. He paid tribute to Margaret's campaigning work against a crematorium and for banking facilities in the Parish, both of which had been successful. She had been a member of the VDG group that had prepared the Liss Village Design Statement and was now the Chairman of the successor group, the Village Plan and Design Partnership, which was spearheading, on behalf of the Parish Council, work on the Village Plan. In addition she had led the campaign to enhance the Plestor in West Liss, a project that was about to come to fruition, and was a Director and Trustee of the youth Crossover Project. On top of all this were her business and family commitments. For all her work on behalf of the village, she fully merited the award.



SOUTH EAST PLAN

Public consultation is underway on the draft South East Plan which the Regional Assembly has submitted to the Government. Individuals and organisations can make representations on it until the 23rd June.

This Plan sets out proposals for the scale of change, pattern of development and policies for the SE region for the next 20 years. The stated objectives are to balance continuing economic and housing growth with rising standards of environmental management and reduced levels of social exclusion and natural resource consumption. When formally adopted as the SE Regional Spatial Strategy all local planning policies will be obliged to conform to it.

The Plan makes provision for an annual average of 28,900 new dwellings to be built across the whole SE region between 2006 and 2026. In Hampshire the majority of development will be concentrated around the larger towns and cities. The proposed total for East Hampshire District is 5,200, averaging 260 annually, which is considerably less than in recent years.

In response to SEERA's preliminary public consultation last year Liss Parish Council made the following key comments:

- Too much emphasis on the economy of the region with insufficient regard to the environmental impact and protection of the countryside
- Critical need for infrastructure to run in parallel with additional housing and economic development
- Support for the emphasis on providing a greater proportion of affordable housing
- A lack of detail on how improvements in public transport are to be achieved
- Need for high quality design and lower densities in rural areas

Although some changes have been made to the Plan, they probably still do not go far enough to protect our rural environment. The Parish Council will submit further comments for consideration by Inspectors at an "Examination in Public" later in the year.

More information and all the documentation can be found on the SEERA web site - www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan or by telephoning 01483 885256.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

	Time	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
Council	7.30pm	10th		18th	16th	20th	18th
Planning	7.30pm	12th	14th	11th	9th	6th	4th
Buildings	7.00pm		7th			13th	
Highways	7.30pm	24th			23rd		
Grounds	7.45pm		7th			13th	
Finance	7.30pm			25th		27th	

The Village Voice is written, edited, produced and published by Parish Councillors in order to keep the citizens of Liss informed of the actions of their elected representatives.

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