

LISS



V

National Park

Can I thank all the villagers who have joined the campaign to keep Liss in the South Downs National Park?

You may think that just writing a letter, signing a petition or signing the on-line petition to the Prime Minister won't make any difference but it does:

- It provides supporting evidence for MPs from all three major parties including local MPs Michael Mates and James Arbuthnot and Hampshire MP Chris Huhne when they lobby Ministers on our behalf
- Every letter written to Defra has been a nail in the coffin of the Inspector's argument that 'if only his boundary had been the one put before the public inquiry there would have been fewer objections'. For the record there were 10 objectors who said they wanted a chalk only national park and a further 4 who said they wanted this as their fall back option
- It sends powerful signals to Defra that this is a major issue that can't be swept under the carpet
- It has already helped get the consultation period extended and we await to hear whether we have helped ensure there is a public inquiry fully able to examine the proposed exclusion of the western Weald.

I

L

At the time of publication 2,000 representations had been made to the public consultation and with nearly 3,000 signatures on the on-line petition we are 7th in the environment list out of 683 and 72nd overall out of 8,491.

What can you do now? If you haven't signed the written petition copies are held at the Triangle Centre, Jade News and the Parish Rooms. If you haven't signed the on-line petition you can do so at:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/western-weald/>

Please remember that you need to click on the link in the email that is sent to you after you have filled in your details online. Otherwise your name will not be added to the petition. Every little helps!

L

A

Photograph shows Bill Bryson on Longmoor with Chris Todd (South Downs Campaign) John Venning (Chair East Hampshire CPRE) and Margaret Paren (Liss)



Updating you on the Parish Plan.....

For some considerable time now the Village Plan and Design Partnership have been working on behalf of the Parish Council on preparation of the Parish Plan.

G

Parish Plans are becoming increasingly important as backing for any bids to improve community facilities in the village. Without a Parish Plan, the chances of getting approval and grants from local authorities and other outside bodies are slim.

It is a requirement that at each stage of the preparation of the Plan that villagers are consulted widely and their views taken into account.

E

The Parish Plan comprises three main elements: the plan itself and two supporting documents; a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and an updated Village Design Statement (VDS).

The original VDS produced in 2000 has served the village well in influencing EHDC's planning decisions. However for the document to have planning force under the new planning arrangements it must be updated to make it more evidence based. Accordingly an exhibition was held in mid October, the purpose of which was to invite villagers views and comments on the work to date.

The Exhibition was a great success and thank you to those villagers who attended and commented on their likes and dislikes about the village, its buildings and setting.

The views expressed will be carried forward in the forthcoming Plan which we hope to produce by Spring 2008.

VOICE

The Newsletter of
Liss
Parish Council No 20

Bliss for young people of Liss.

The Liss Drop-in Youth Centre “**Crossover**” has proved a great success as a place for young people to enjoy themselves and have fun in safe surroundings.

Set up next to Liss railway station in May 2006, Crossover was the brainchild of a group of local people who responded to a need identified by the Parish Council. The aim was to build a better sense of community and reduce anti-social behaviour among youngsters aged between 11 to 18.

Crossover has gone from dream to reality with the energy of Michael Oakley (Chairman of the Trustees and this year's Villager of the Year) and the team of Trustees, volunteers and management. The new Manager, Rachel Wellstead, was appointed this year and she has introduced longer opening hours and specials nights – such as for music or pool – to offer something on every weekday evening. There are different age groups, 10-13 (4-6pm) and 14-17 (7-9pm). A Young Women Only Night is on the first Friday of the month between 7 and 9pm; there is also a craft club for young women every other Saturday during the school holidays. Both are run by Claire Kirby who is a Trustee and a trained Youth Worker.

Excellent free facilities at Crossover include: an iTunes jukebox, three pool tables, two table football tables, a PS2 with various games and a Karaoke attachment. The girls enjoy using the dance mats that also attach to the Playstation and the young also have board games and access to the Internet free via one of the six computers. The café, which offers reasonably priced snacks and drinks, is very popular with both age groups.

Rules are writ large on the wall and everyone is encouraged to adhere to them. The young people are well supervised by adult volunteers, but Crossover is always in need of extra volunteers – whether you want to work directly with the young people or help in other ways. Rachel, Michael Oakley and the other Trustees hold a bi-monthly volunteer night where the volunteers from different nights get to meet each other.

Crossover is keen to give advice on drug rehabilitation and drink related issues – and passes young people on to the relevant professional advisory services where necessary. A careers board encourages the young to think about what they might want to do with their lives. Apprenticeships are encouraged for those who have become disaffected with formal education.

Crossover is supported financially by the local community whose donations are greatly appreciated. However, more money is always needed to keep this valuable local service open.

Since Crossover opened relationships based on trust and mutual respect have led to an increase in self-respect in the young. These new positive relationships are starting to ripple out into the wider community with many of the young users of the centre modifying their behaviour and that of their peers.

While the future is looking bright for Crossover, the centre would like to hear from individuals and from local businesses who want to support them as volunteers or as sponsors.

For more information or a volunteer form contact Rachel Wellstead on 01730 892981 (and leave a message on the office answer phone, if necessary).

This article by Nick Keith first appeared in 'Life in Petersfield'

Liss Village Christmas Street Fair

This now traditional event organised jointly by the Community association and the Parish Council, will take place on Wednesday December 12th. Between 6.00pm and 8.00pm Station Road will be closed and many shops will stay open late. Entertainment will be provided by Liss Band, St. Mary's choir and musicians from the Junior School. There will be a Craft Fair at the Triangle and mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments will be available both inside and out.

Santa will of course be putting in an appearance and in a change to the usual arrangements will be setting up his grotto in the skittles room of the Whistle Stop pub. The car park there will accommodate fairground attractions and there will be a roundabout for small children at the Triangle. The evening will commence with the ceremonial lighting up of the Christmas trees in the village centre.

Do come and join in what will surely be a very jolly pre-Christmas party

Winter Tennis

Our well maintained tennis courts are available for everyone throughout the year. Booking is easy at Jade News. Court hire is £3.00 an hour for adults or £1.50 for juniors. If you would like to play but need others to play with then check out the Newman Collard Tennis Club website:

www.nctennisclub.hampshire.org.uk

Courtesy Crossings

Progress is being made on the crossing in the village centre. You may have noticed that there are painted markings outside Vision Vista and Pembrooks and road closure notices have also been issued. We are now waiting for the contractor to schedule his programme of works and hope that the construction will be carried out shortly so that we can all benefit from the crossing.

Provision of the second courtesy crossing in Hill Brow Road (near to the Doctors surgery) is progressing and Hampshire County Council is waiting approval of changes to the parking.

Riverside Railway Walk

After 13 years of dedicated work on the Riverside Railway Walk, the Liss Conservation Volunteers (LCV) was wound up at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group on 22 October. The situation has arisen as a result of the failure, despite strenuous efforts by LCV and EHDC, of anyone to come forward to act either as Chairman of the group or to take on the important role of Works Officer

This is a matter of great concern to the Parish Council, particularly as there are up to a dozen regular volunteers who are keen to continue with the task of maintaining the Walk. The Council has therefore, in collaboration with LCV, been in discussions with EHDC to try to find a way ahead. While a long-term solution is sought it has been agreed that EHDC's Countryside Officer will assume overall responsibility for the volunteers' maintenance work on the Walk. In addition the Parish Council will provide some administrative support. It is proposed that the new group should be called “The Liss Conservation Rangers”.

It is hoped that villagers will not notice any difference in the standard to which the Walk is maintained. At the very recent exhibition of work done on the update of the Village Design Statement, the Riverside Walk once again came top of the poll of areas most valued by villagers. Its future upkeep is therefore seen as a very high priority by the Parish Council.

The village owes a great debt of gratitude to all the volunteers who have given of their time over the years, but in particular to John Meader and Jeff Davis who have variously held the positions of both Chairman and Works Officer and to John Norris who was one of the original volunteers and who has worked tirelessly ever since.

The LCV assets, including its equipment, are being held by the Parish Council but will be made available for use by any successor organisation.

Existing Councillors as at 3rd May 2007

After the last issue of Village Voice the Editorial team were taken to task for only including photographs and résumés of new Councillors. So, without any apologies for lack of modesty, here are short vignettes of the other existing members of Liss Parish Council.

A Timely Reminder... OVERGROWN HEDGES

Liss benefits from its large number of hedges as these greatly enhance the village and give it a very rural feel. They need regular maintenance and cutting back especially where they act as boundaries alongside pavements so that pedestrians and those using buggies, prams or mobility vehicles can move about easily without getting caught on the vegetation. This regular cutting back is also necessary at road junctions to maintain adequate sight lines for all road users.

Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

Liss has again become the target of irresponsible dog owners. This summer East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) has received complaints about fouling on the routes from the village centre, the Greenfields/Patricks Copse Road areas, the Vinson Road/Dennis Way estate, Rake Road and Newman Collard playing fields. Liss Forest Recreation Ground has also had a noticeable problem recently. Dave Griffiths, Richard Smith and Liz Mould (EHDC Dog Wardens) do carry out patrols in the area but it is difficult to catch offenders.

Offenders need to be identified. Should you witness an owner failing to clean up after their dog in an area to which the general public have access and you know their address, please report the incident to Dave and Liz. The owner will receive a warning letter from EHDC and information about the law, the source of the complaint will not be revealed.

A dog may be loose without an owner or keeper present, fouling is still an offence provided that the owner can be traced. It is also an offence to clean up the dog mess with a bag and to leave the bag lying around – it must be disposed of in a bin or at home.

Offenders caught by the Dog Wardens are issued with a fixed penalty fine for £50, failure to pay the fine may lead to prosecution with a maximum penalty of £1000. Three fixed penalties have been issued in the last month but none in the Liss area.

Please don't hesitate to call if you require any more information about the legislation. You can reach Liz Mould/Richard Smith/Dave Griffiths on 01730 234318 during office hours, or Email ehealth@easthants.gov.uk. You can also find some information on our website www.easthants.gov.uk.



Roger Mullinger

Roger has lived in Liss since 1994 after moving from Petersfield with his wife and two "children". He joined the parish council 8 years ago, becoming chairman this year. He works as an IT consultant associated with the manufacturing industry.

One of Roger's particular interests lies in the environment and he is a volunteer manager of a nature reserve on the South Downs. Being a member of the parish council keeps him busy trying to represent the residents of Liss in these challenging times within local government.



Nigel Paren

Nigel has lived in Liss for twenty years and became a Parish Councillor in 1999. He has since served as Chairman of the Planning Committee, and both Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council.

His main interests are in planning and conservation. He represented the Council during the Local Plan Inquiry, which resulted in all the proposed major developments in Liss being rejected. He is heavily involved in the campaign to include Liss in the South Downs National Park and in the preparation of the Parish Plan



Brian Mayo

A resident of Liss for 12 years and retired after a career in the hotel and catering industry.

He is chairman of LPC Grounds Committee having contact with allotment holders, recreation grounds users and grounds team. He is committed to maintaining and improving facilities within the village.

Brian's interests involve membership of several local groups including conservation, horticultural, walking, cycling and together with his wife, dancing. He is an enthusiastic supporter of performing and visual arts in the locality.

New Bus Shelters

Pictured is the recently installed replacement bus shelter for Forest Road. The old, unsightly shelter has been replaced by a timber model more in keeping with the semi-rural setting of Liss Forest. The funding was secured from the EHDC Developers' Contributions Fund for Transport. We also have an application with EHDC to use that fund to acquire an additional bus shelter to be sited in Mill Road near Woodbourne Close; a decision is expected by early November.



Liss in Bloom

We wish to thank all of those who have carried out the work of Liss in Bloom in making Liss look so colourful – especially during the summer months. In particular we extend a large thank you to John Norris for his labours over many years which have been much appreciated.

As John has now stepped down we are also making a request to anyone in the village who would like to help by tending and maintaining some of the planters in the village. The ones that are in need of some "TLC" are the 2 boxes at the Village Hall, the 3 raised beds along the shop frontage, the boxes at each end of Andlers Ash Road and the arrangement of 7 planters at the entrance to Riverside Railway Walk in Station Road. If you would like to help with any of these locations, please contact the Parish Clerk - 892823.

Existing Councillors as at 3rd May 2007



Gina Logan

Gina has lived in Liss for 19 years. She first became involved in community activities whilst working on the Village Design Statement in 1998.

Gina has been a Parish Councillor since 2001 and has also been a District councillor for the past two years. She chairs the Parish Highways Committee.

Her interests include gardening and conservation; it was the beauty of the countryside around Liss that first attracted her to the village.



Jim Duckham

Jim has lived in Liss for 42 years and has been a Parish Councillor since retiring in 1987.

He was Chairman of the Buildings Committee during the refurbishment of the Village Hall and has also been Chairman of the Grounds and Planning Committees. He became Chairman of the Council in 2002. He is a trustee of Coryton Almshouses.

Jim is a Governor of Bohunt School and is a past Chairman of Governors. He believes strongly that every child should have the opportunity to reach their potential.

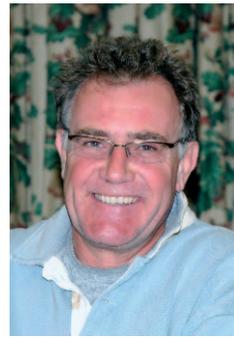


Sue Halstead

Sue has been involved in numerous community activities throughout 31 years in Liss.

She has been a Parish Councillor since 1983 and for 16 years was also a District Councillor. Sue chairs the Parish Planning Committee and is a trustee of both Liss Community Centre and the Coryton Almshouses.

Sue is a school governor at Liss Junior School, Bohunt and at Alton Convent School. She is chairman of the East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils.



Paddy Payne

Paddy lives in West Liss and has represented the area as Parish Councillor since 1998. He was the driving force producing the 6 hour local talent show in 2002 on the occasion of the Queens Golden Jubilee.

His interests include Youth activities - skateboard project - proposed new pavilion at West Liss to replace the existing pavilion and existing scout H.Q. He is Chairman of the Police Liaison Committee



Howard Linsley

Howard has lived in the village for 10 years and has been a Parish Councillor for the last 7. He has chaired the Buildings Committee, is currently chair of the Finance Committee and is the Council's appointee as a trustee of Petersfield CAB.

When not running his training consultancy, which is based in the village, his leisure interests include walking, reading and politics. He lives in West Liss and represents West Liss Ward.

Days of Hope Christmas Special – 8th December 2007

The Days of Hope summer play scheme, that was praised by Ofsted as being 'outstanding', is offering parents the chance to leave their children with them and enjoy a day on their own, free to 'shop till they drop'. The Christmas shopping special day is in its fourth year and proves, each year, to be a sell out.

On Saturday 8th December at Liss Triangle Centre from 10am – 4pm, children 5 years and over can spend the day making stained glass picture frames, painting a Chinese lantern, creating Christmas wind chimes as well as playing sports on the Nintendo Wii or enjoying a game of air hockey. It's a day of fun and creativity.

The day will be staffed by members of Liss Woodcraft Folk who have been described by the Ofsted Inspector as having a very good understanding of how children play and develop and offer a safe and well planned environment. Many children will remember the exciting day they spent last August being a Pirate or Bush-crafter cooking their lunch over an open fire and sleeping under the stars. Whilst others enjoyed mask making, bead designs and all things creative.

Full details and booking forms for the Christmas special can be downloaded from the website www.lisswoodcraftfolk.org.uk or please contact Pam Gruber on 01730 301270.

Council Meetings 2007/08

	<u>COUNCIL</u>	<u>PLANNING</u>	<u>HIGHWAYS</u>	<u>BUILDINGS</u>	<u>GROUND</u> S	<u>FINANCE</u>	<u>AGM</u>
	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.00pm	7.45pm	7.30pm	8.00pm
2007							
NOV	19	26					
DEC	17	10		5	5	12	
2008							
JAN	21	7	28				
FEB	18	4		25	25		
MAR	17	3				11	19 (Wed)
APR	21	7	28				
MAY	19	6 (Tue)				12	
JUN	16	2 & 30		9	9		
JUL	21	28	14				
AUG		26 (Tue)					
SEP	15	22		1	1	8	
OCT	20	27	13				
NOV	17	24		3	3	10	
DEC	15	22					

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

Contacts: Dick Bowery,
Parish Clerk

Phone & Fax 01730 892823

E-mail: lissparish@aol.com

Website www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk