

# Herstmonceux Parish Council Newsletter

## February 2016

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Following a recent Public Meeting, Herstmonceux Parish Council is continuing with the Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Surveys have been sent out to all households addressed to the occupier and stamped PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTS to indicate that it is from the Parish Council. We would be grateful if you can find time to complete the survey and return it in the envelope provided to one of the drop-off points listed on the survey.

The consultation runs from Friday 19 February 2016 - Saturday 5 March 2016.

A **Councillor Surgery** will be held at the Village Information Centre from 10am - 12 midday on Saturday 27 February 2016. Councillors will be available to receive completed surveys and any questions and comments on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The survey responses will be analysed by officers from Action in rural Sussex and the results presented at the **Parish Meeting to be held at 8pm on Monday 21 March 2016** in Herstmonceux Village Hall.

The Council hopes to complete the Neighbourhood Plan by December 2016.

### **New Web site**

The Communication Committee has been working on ideas for a new parish web site. In order to update the information on the list of contacts for Clubs, Groups, Societies and Community Organisations, please contact the Parish Clerk on [clerk@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk) or at 4 The Old Forge, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN27 4LG with the contact numbers for your organisation.

### **Photo Competition**

The Parish Council is holding a photographic competition for any photo taken in the Parish. Entries should be in J-Peg format and the closing date of the competition is 30 April 2016. All entries should be sent to the Parish Clerk (Contact details below). The prize for the winning photograph will be £25 donated by a member of Herstmonceux Business Association. Any entry submitted to the competition may be used on the parish web site.

### **Parking**

Many residents have expressed concern about the number of cars parked on the verges and pavements in the parish. Cars on the pavements cause difficulties for any residents but particularly for those with mobility problems, wheelchairs, buggies, pushchairs or poor sight. There has recently been a report when elderly residents were put in considerable danger when they had to walk into the road as there were parked cars on the pavements. Many verges have become badly rutted, mud patches with no grass remaining due to the number of cars parked on them. The damage has been made worse by the recent bad weather. The Council asks residents to be considerate to others and not obstruct pedestrians and to consider the damage done by parking on the verges. The Parish Council has been advised that ESCC does not have the funds to repair this damage and therefore the costs for the repairs will be the responsibility of the parish.

### **Dog fouling**

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints about dog fouling on the recreation areas. This is a particular problem on the recreation ground and Lime Cross recreation area with thoughtless dog owners failing to clear up after their dogs. In addition to the use of these recreation area by various sports clubs, Herstmonceux C of E Primary School uses the recreation ground for sports and play times and children are particularly vulnerable to dog waste which can contain infestation of the roundworm toxocara canis. This can cause infections, fits, asthma attacks and even blindness. It is a legal requirement for dog owners to clean up after their pets and dog waste bins are provided on the recreation ground. Please use them and prevent possible health problems for all users of the recreation areas.

The Parish Council will review the situation later in the year and consider whether it is necessary to create a byelaw banning dogs from some recreation areas.

### **Retirement of the Parish Clerk**

Mrs Janet McInnes, the Parish Clerk to Herstmonceux Parish Council for over fifteen years will retire on 31 March 2016.

Councillor Mrs J. Angear has made the following statement about the Clerk's retirement:

*Janet McInnes, the Parish Clerk, has decided to retire after 15 years of serving the Parish as a very hard working conscientious Clerk, always ready to walk the extra mile for the councillors and the Parish. I, as Chairman, would like to thank Janet for her hard work and support. I will be very sorry to see her leave. Jo Angear*

If anyone is interested in applying for job of Clerk to Herstmonceux Parish Council please visit <http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/vacancies.asp> to obtain an application pack. The closing date for applications is 11 March 2016

### **Parish Council Meetings**

Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are open to residents and time is set aside at the start of all meetings for public questions and statements. The meetings are advertised on the parish notice boards, on the parish web site [www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk](http://www.herstmonceuxparish.org.uk) or you can contact the Parish Clerk for more information. (See below for contact details).

### **BBC Flog it comes to Herstmonceux**

BBC Flog It is coming to Herstmonceux Caste from 9.30am to 4pm on Friday 11 March 2016.

Residents are invited to come and have their antiques valued by the experts Paul Martin and Jonathan Pratt. A maximum of three items per person is allowed for valuation.

More information is available on [flog.it@bbc.co.uk](mailto:flog.it@bbc.co.uk) or [www.bbc.co.uk/flogit](http://www.bbc.co.uk/flogit) or 0117 974 7839