



HURSTPIERPOINT SOCIETY

Charity No. 263520

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1996

SPECIAL AUTUMN MEETING

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER AT 8 pm AT THE SCOUT HQ

Advance notice of this meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr Lindsay Keith, was given in the May Newsletter. The three prospective Parliamentary Candidates for the new Arundel and South Downs Constituency will be present, and in view of the current reassessment of future local development, housing and transport policies, it is vital that we, as caring members of a village Amenity Society, find out how these candidates, Mr R Black (Labour), Mr H Flight (Conservative) and Mr J Goss (Liberal Democrat), view the future of Hurstpierpoint itself and its place in this rapidly urbanizing central corridor of Mid Sussex. These are your candidates in next May's (?) election, so be sure to come and hear them.

THE DEPOSIT DRAFT OF THE WEST SUSSEX STRUCTURE PLAN - JUNE 1996

The Committee, and in particular Mr Tim Nelson who has been co-opted on to the committee in view of his previous extensive experience in planning matters, has been considering this Draft and has responded with a letter to the West Sussex County Planning Officer expressing urgent and comprehensive objections to many of the draft's conclusions. (Copies of this letter have been placed in the village library and sent to Mr John Gummer, Mr Nicholas Soames, and to neighbouring village amenity societies). As our circa 1966 policy simply, perhaps baldly, stated "We are not opposed to all development, but we do not wish to see Hurst turned into a sprawling mass of housing that might eventually become merged with Burgess Hill & Hassocks to make another Crawley" it is not reassuring to read in the Draft Plan that there has been a real loss of important environmental resources and that the quality of life within the county is threatened. Three factors have contributed: areas of tranquillity in West Sussex have been reduced from 66.6% in 1960 to 50% in 1992 (presumably implying that 16% has been urbanised in 32 years?!): the increase in population in West Sussex during the 70s/80s was wholly due to net inward migration, largely from London and Surrey: car ownership is well above the national average and traffic on major roads is 25% above the English Shire County average. Two major additional factors are - that the European policy allowing greater movement of population, labour and capital between Union States will inevitably put pressure on the South East to accommodate more businesses and people; and that possible policy changes over the use of Gatwick Airport may place huge pressures on West Sussex to house an expanded workforce.

As the current buzz-word for policy, whether housing, transport or environment, is sustainable, and as the draft considers appropriate a reducing rate of economic and housing development with no need to continue absorbing net inward migration (those people who move from less desirable areas outside Sussex to greenfield village and country sites), there does not seem to be a discernible need for another great wodge of housing to be dumped in central Sussex which is, according to the Draft, almost developed to full capacity. There is neither employment available in the immediate area (the threat is to Sayers Common), nor public transport to move occupants easily to where jobs may be found - factors considered vital in pursuing a 'sustainable' policy. **Yet those drawing up the draft Structure Plan, having failed to make a successful case for expansion seem to be ignoring the logic of their argument, and are making provision for the building of 37,400 houses in West Sussex over the next seventeen years on the basis of unproven economic development. The Society, along with the Parish Council and the Mid Sussex District Council, is vehemently opposed to such a nebulous policy, hence our letter.**

VILLAGE MATTERS

Mrs Jenny Corney is moving out of the village and has tendered her resignation as a committee member. At the committee meeting held on 27 August Mr Geoffrey Bowles warmly thanked her for her long and assiduous service. She was secretary to the committee from 1986 to 1993, and has since taken on specific matters, pursuing vigorously the redrawing of the local footpath map (held up by delay from the Ordnance Survey in issuing a large scale map of the new A23); and also a possible future reduction in noise level on the A23 in the village vicinity by laying a more porous asphalt when the present surface needs replacing. We wish her every success in all her professional, domestic and agricultural endeavours.

FAVERSHAM OUTING

The committee very much regret the cancellation of this outing, but as only seventeen people had booked by the end of June there was no assurance that the coach would be filled. We are very grateful to Mrs Anne Cole for all her work for this aborted outing.

ST LAWRENCE FAIR QUIZ

Nearly a hundred people were cajoled or coerced into 'guesstimating' the answers, perhaps largely due to the charm of those proffering the forms. We are very grateful for the help of Marion Barontini, Maisie Grindrod, Jill Keith, Jan Salter and Basil Mason in manning the stall, and congratulate Mr J Stenton, the outright winner, and Miss D Gander and Mr D Blake as the two lucky second prize winners drawn by ballot from the eight who got thirteen answers from seventeen questions.

It would appear that there will be no Traders' Christmas Shopping Evening this year, as after limited support last year the shopping night was switched to the week before the St Lawrence Fair.

NEXT YEAR, at the Fair, we hope to stage a Photographic Competition on aspects of the village and its immediate neighbourhood in all weathers and seasons. By giving a year's notice we hope that all local photographers will be keeping a sharp eye out throughout the year for views that

are attractive, typical or unusual. No limit will be placed on the size of initial entries, to encourage all comers, although the conventional print size of 150 mm x 100 mm is a guide; winning entries will be enlarged and displayed at next year's Fair.

PLANNING

Harper & Ede's application for the transfer of their business activities to Ubley's Farm on the A23 just north of the B1116 into the village, was opposed by the Society on the grounds of setting a dangerous precedent (in allowing light industry on a green field site in the A23 corridor), but has been passed by Mid Sussex District Council Planning Committee by a very narrow majority.

Dene Hospital - nothing further known.

Mansion House Bungalow - no change.

St George's Home - Despite apparent assurances to the contrary, West Sussex Social Services have secured the closing of the home by refusing to take in any new residents. Former residents have been found room in other homes, the Chief Care Officer has been appointed to another job, and the staff have been scattered. We understand that a local care group, working with Dr Toynbee, has been offered the existing premises to be run as a home for the elderly and that the Westminster Care Group is considering the building of a new sixty bed nursing home in the extensive grounds to the north of the present building. Negotiations are still taking place, though it is expected that an announcement on the final policy will be made on 4 October 1996. Planning applications showing the proposals, particularly the means of access, will be submitted and your Committee will scrutinise and comment on these as soon as they are revealed. The additional land sought for a cemetery by St George's Church will be available, and this will provide further use and finance for this church as a burial chapel, thus retaining its viability.

HURST GARDENS OPEN DAY

I don't know what it is that makes this event such an enjoyable one - the teas, the plants for sale, the lovely gardens, the enthusiastic gardeners, the helpers, the visitors - perhaps it is the combination of all these things, plus our innate interest in other people's gardens.

This was the third year of Hurst Open Gardens in aid of St Catherine's Hospice and the weather again was kind to us, encouraging over 150 visitors to contribute a total of £521 from entrance fees, plant purchases and teas, whilst having a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon visiting three very different gardens. The total raised for St Catherine's Hospice in the three years of this event has now topped £3,000 and organiser, Jan Salter, would like your help to push this towards £5,000. So come on you gardeners - great and small - why not open your plot in 1997? Everyone who has done it so far says it is hard work, great fun and very rewarding. For more details ring Jan on 833693.

WANTED

Mrs Anne Cole has given sterling service as our secretary for the last three years, but feels that she is unable to continue after the Annual General Meeting in March next year. We shall therefore be in urgent need of a new secretary, and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone

is willing, or who knows someone who would be willing to take on this important task. Please telephone the Chairman on 01273 833387.

HURSTPIERPOINT 2000 UPDATE - TRAFFIC 2000

Following our various presentations of the analysed Traffic Questionnaire to the Parish Council, they invited Mr Turley, Head of Traffic Engineering and Road Safety at West Sussex County Council, to a special meeting of the Highways Committee to give his opinions on the paper. His comments were both gratifying and disappointing. He was very impressed with the Report but because of lack of fatalities and/or reported accidents he could not offer help in drawing up a detailed scheme. He suggested that a Traffic Engineer should now take the ideas forward and produce an itemised costing of the work. The Traffic Group are now anxious to make contact with an Engineer, perhaps recently retired, who would be willing to take on this task. Does this sound like you, or someone you know? Give Jan Salter a ring on 833693 if you might be able to help. Barry Mack offered to look for a suitable person and to push some ideas forward when the scheme has been more fully costed and detailed. Funding has been received to organise a public exhibition - watch this space!

COMMUNICATION

This Group are working in co-operation with the Parish Council, Bob Sampson and QD Publishing to produce Village Voice, the fourth edition of which should now be through your letterboxes.

HIGH STREET

This Group has organised a Lego competition - spot Lego in shops and you could win some great prizes, including a family trip to Legoland at Windsor! So have a go! The Group has now received funding to do a study of the High Street to improve its visual appearance.

LEISURE

As reported in the last Newsletter, plans are well in hand with the Parish Council and Sussex Rural Community Council to conduct a feasibility study on the use of the Village Centre. Kevin Carey, Chairman, Community Affairs Committee of the Parish Council, is organising this. All local groups and organisations who may be affected will shortly be contacted. Mira Ward was appointed part/time manager at the Centre and has been organising lots of courses and activities.

YOUTH

The summer "Knockout" was well supported and won by the Gym Club, closely followed by the Scouts. They are holding a Barbecue Social on 5 October, and Skating Trip to Guildford on 17 November. Contact your Youth Organisation or Belinda Toup (834481) for details or a ticket.

MUSEUM

The Group are holding a table top sale on Saturday 5 October from 9 am to 12 noon in the Village Centre. Admission 20 p, children free. Refreshments available.