**From the Parish**

For those of you who have not yet had a chance to look at the Wildflower Meadow in the Jardin d’Aubers, go and enjoy the colours and variety of plants. Flowering has been a little later this year, but worth waiting for! Summer has arrived in style.

The July meeting of the Full Council had plenty to talk about, since the June meeting was cancelled because the Pavillion on Sparrows Green Recreation Ground was being used as a Polling Station for the General Election.

The Community Committee have been working on a scoping report for a ‘Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan’ and this was presented by its Chairman to Council as an appropriate way forward. For those still unsure of what constitutes a Neighbourhood Plan, it is a plan which sets out ideas on how we want Wadhurst to develop over the next 5-20 years and complements the Wealden Local Plan. It deals with the use and development of land and can cover housing, employment, leisure, heritage, transport or can focus on one or two specific local issues. Council agreed to go ahead with starting the process and asked for a report on progress, including a timeline and likely cost of the project, to go to the September Council meeting. Four volunteers have come forward to help with this process, which needs to involve the whole village, but more are welcome. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk.

There has been an increase in the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour, judging by the number of complaints to either the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. As the Police Liaison representative, I have emailed Inspector Wakefield, who is responsible for Neighbourhood Policing in this area, expressing concern. He emphasised the need for every crime or anti-social behaviour to be reported to the police (you can also ask for a crime number for reference). If prompt presence is required then you can access ‘Operation Blitz’ through the Sussex Police website and this will provide a mobile telephone number for the patrol vehicle on duty who will attend the incident. The number changes regularly depending on the officers on call. Alternatively ring ‘101’ and ask for assistance.

Whilst on the topic of anti-social behaviour, could I remind dog walkers to pick up any dog ‘poo’ produced during the walk and pop it into the many dog bins which this Council provides around Wadhurst. Also a reminder that both Sparrows Green Recreation Ground and WIH&F field are dog-free zones. Fly tipping is another problem in the beautiful rural countryside. Wealden District Council do investigate every fly tip searching for evidence of who did it. Two recent prosecutions resulted in a custodial sentence, a fine and a 12month driving ban.

The Emergency Plan for Wadhurst is in urgent need of revising and updating. Cllr Gadd is leading this for the Community Committee. Council is also aware that the current website is difficult to access from all digital devices, is hard to manage and contains out-of-date information. A new website is currently under construction.

Finally, a plea to help find homes for Syrian refugees. With two families already housed, Wealden District Council are urgently looking for more rented homes in order to meet its target of up to 40 families over the next 5 years. If you can help, please contact either myself or the Parish Clerk.

Please note that there will not be a meeting of the Full Parish Council during August.

Graham Wells

(Vice Chairman, Wadhurst Parish Council)

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