

**Brightling Annual Parish Meeting to be held on
Monday 10th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Brightling Village Hall**

PROGRAMME

- 7.30 Reception
- 7.50 Apologies for absence
Proceedings of the previous annual meeting (printed copies available at meeting)
Reports from village organisations (printed copies available at meeting)
Parish Council activities last 12 months – Andrew Wedmore
- 8.15 Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign – Brian Holdstock
- 8.20 Local Action Plan – Bill Vorley and lead councillors
New arrivals Welcome Pack
Finger post adoption
Drainage
Village web site
Utilities and services
Affordable housing
Traffic calming
- 8.40 Open Forum
Phone box – ideas for uses

Thanks are due to the authors of the following written reports received from district and county councillors and from village organisations. Copies are being circulate at the meeting.

County Council – Cllr John Barnes
Rother District Council – Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green
Brightling Village Hall Committee – Brian Holliday
Brightling Village Market – Christine Wing
Churchwardens' report - Henry Grissell.
Brightling Village Trust – Charles Everett
Darwell Area Conservation Society - Victoria Fraser
Brightling Park Cricket Club - Stephen Leeves
Brightling Mixed and Brightling Ladies Stool ball Clubs - Janet Goodsell

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Stoolball Clubs (Ladies and Mixed)
Village Hall Committee
Village Market

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT 2017

Despite the very difficult financial situation, there is a good deal of success to report. The County Council has used reserves built up “when the sun was shining” to invest in the economy and match other funds brought into the County. East Sussex now is the fastest growing local economy in England, employment is high and unemployment at historically low levels. More important still family incomes are rising faster than elsewhere. East Sussex was awarded £13.2 million from the Government’s Local Growth Fund in February 2017, following a bid by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). East Sussex County Council will receive £8.2 million for the East Sussex Strategic Growth Project to create new employment developments in areas including Bexhill and Eastbourne. £5 million has been granted towards a £44 million redevelopment of the Devonshire Park area including a new conference complex. More than 1,000 new jobs are expected to be created as a result. The Link Road is bringing new businesses to North east Bexhill and SeaChange, the business partnership in which the County Council plays a large part is working successfully to regenerate Bexhill and Hastings.

Funding was secured to allow Business East Sussex – the county’s ‘growth hub’ to continue for two further years. The service is aimed at supporting businesses at all stages of growth, and helps businesses to find all the information, advice and support they need in one place. Since launching in July 2015, the service has engaged with more than 1,100 businesses and has helped new businesses to get off the ground, including a fashion business which now has an international reputation. During the last year Locate East Sussex has helped 35 companies start up, relocate or expand.

East Sussex County Council is one of seven local authorities which have agreed to form a partnership called Transport for the South East (TfSE). The vision for this new body is for strategic transport planning for the whole area, unlocking economic growth and improving lives for residents. To begin with, TfSE will run in shadow form as it develops its strategy and operation, consulting with transport operators, businesses and the public. With government agreement, TfSE could move to full operation from 2019. A particular aim is to bring high-speed rail to the county.

Building new businesses is important not only for jobs but for our ability to deliver public services. Business rates will increasingly take the place of the Government support for local spending. Between 2015/16 and 2019/20 East Sussex will lose more than 94% of the already shrunken Revenue Support Grant. When account is taken of the amount the Government calculates will be distributed from its share of business rates the percentage loss is less – about 55 % or £54 million pounds. The County has made a four year deal to provide the necessary certainty to plan ahead as to how best to achieve the savings that continue to be necessary. This year, by altering the way we deal with debt and other measures, we reduced the amount we needed to cut from £23 million to £17 million. Together with Surrey and now Brighton and Hove we have brought a number of our

business services together in a joint organisation, ORBIS, but there is a limit to what can be achieved by efficiency savings.

We shall be spending £365 million in this year's budget and intend to make savings of £17 million. We have taken full advantage of the 3% adult social care levy agreed to by the Government and have increased Council Tax by 1.99% – a total increase to the County Council's precept of 4.99%. Some last minute changes were agreed as our good housekeeping left us with some "one-off" money and we are

- investing a further £1.3million in highways drainage and pavements
- making a further £150,000 available in the Community Match scheme and
- allocating £750,000 to schools in recognition of the budgetary pressures they face.

The Draft Funding Formula for schools, on which the Government has recently completed public consultation disadvantages primary schools with less than 200 pupils. Dallington, already facing many cost pressures, would face a significant loss of funding. I have been campaigning with our MP and the County Council to get the formula changed. We shall not know whether we have been successful until later in the year, but it looks as if we have got the case for rural primary schools across. ESCC are also trying to prevent the apprenticeship levy being applied to small schools.

East Sussex County Council and Skills East Sussex (the county's employment and **skills** board) secured funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company for Progress – a new project aimed at equipping people with the skills needed by business and preparing them for the world of work. The project (April 2016 and July 2017) includes work experience for pupils in years 10 and 11, visits to businesses, work readiness programmes, tailored support for young people wishing to access apprenticeships and the STEMfest project, aimed at encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering and maths.

A number of positive **educational results** were reported in the summer, including improvements in both GCSE and A level results. At Key Stage 1, the percentage of East Sussex pupils achieving the expected standard was higher than the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 4 our Progress 8 score was +0.04, significantly higher than the national average of -0.03. 87.1% of our primary schools are judged to be good or outstanding, an increase of 10.1 percentage points since August 2015. 77.8% of secondary schools and 100% of maintained special schools are good or outstanding. For comparison the national averages are 77.6% and 93.2% respectively.

A new seven-year contract for the provision **of highway services** in the county began on 1st May 2016. The contract with Costain CH2M replaced the existing arrangement of three separate contractors being responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The

new contract has seen the introduction of a new website and online system for people to report highways issues; www.eastsussexhighways.com. In the first 6 months of the contract East Sussex Highways completed over 220 planned road works, 10,000 minor works, laid 64 miles of tarmac, answered 26,000 calls and progressed major works in areas such as Hailsham and Uckfield.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster **broadband** in previously isolated areas has improved access to services, jobs and education. Over 66,000 premises have been connected in the first phase of works, although I find it disappointing that not all connections have brought greater speeds. The second phase to connect a further 5,000 of the hardest to reach premises in the county is underway and in the latest contract there is much more focus on obtaining genuinely faster broadband.

Significant progress has been made in delivering **East Sussex Better Together (ESBT)**, the programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) and East Sussex County Council to transform health and social care services. In 2016 for example, six integrated locality based teams of health and care professionals were brought under single management to deliver more cohesive care, more quickly. We launched nurse-led Crisis Response Teams, helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions, and also a new frailty service at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust which helps the frail to live independent and healthy lives out of hospital. In addition, Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) a new integrated point of contact for adult health and care is receiving 8,000-9,000 enquiries a month.

Between April and December 2016, 100% of working age adults and older people supported by **Adult Social Care** received self-directed support. 98.2% of new clients who received short-term services to increase their independence made no further request for support. This means that more service users are planning how they want their social care needs met and have more control over their support. In addition in, 2016-17 so far, 2,872 people have been supported by STEPS, which helps people maintain independence within their own homes.

Public Health has been leading a programme of work to tackle the health effects of **cold homes**. Work included training frontline professionals to enable them to identify people living in cold homes and refer them onto appropriate services. 374 referrals to the Winter Home Check were made between October and December 2016. Public Health also developed a Stay Well this Winter campaign and helped to develop a Locally Enhanced Service for GP staff to help them identify patients at risk of fuel poverty.

A new integrated service bringing **health visiting and children's centres** together was launched in June 2016. The new service aims to help families be self-sufficient in their

communities by providing appropriate early intervention and support, and keep children aged 0-5 safe and healthy by providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality services, promoting social inclusion and equality and respecting diversity.

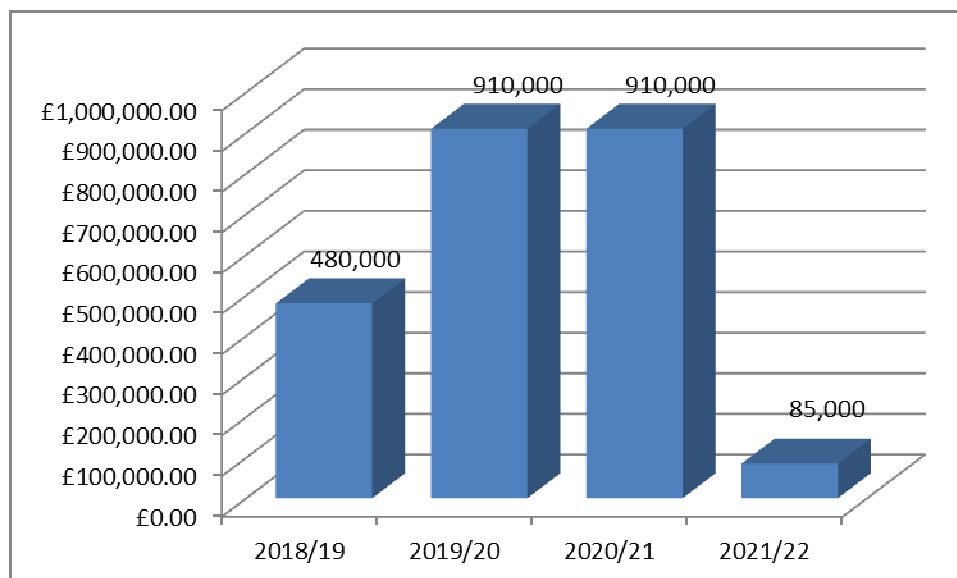
Our Children's services are second to none but improvement is always possible. Let me single out this year the percentage of court proceedings completed within 26 weeks, important to ensure timely decision making about long term **care for children**, which has increased from 22% in April 2016 to 63% in December 2016. I am also proud that the Council has been recredited as a White Ribbon authority recognising our commitment to work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse and ensure survivors can access help and support.

Finally, the **3SC** (Three Southern Counties) partnership of East Sussex, Surrey and West Sussex submitted a proposal to Government late in 2016, seeking to open formal negotiations on a devolution bid. If successful, the bid will help unlock new growth and spearhead a transformation in how public services are delivered in the region. Due to a Government stock-take on devolution activity and other national developments, formal negotiations on the devolution bid are likely to be delayed. Although a strategic pause on activity began in January 2017, work on specific activities including the 3SC Infrastructure and Skills Strategies, digital plans and responses to the Industrial Strategy and Housing White Paper continue. Devolution seems to me essential in our over-centralised state and I hope to see work resumed as soon as possible.

District Councillor report for Brightling Parish Council – April 2017

Since 2011, the Government has cut its grant to Rother District Council by a total of £5.4 million, including a reduction of £600,000 for 2016/17. The Government general grant will be cut by a further £620,000 in 2017/18. In 2016/17, the grant was £1.07 million therefore in 2017/18 we will only receive £450,000. By 2020 the Government will not pay us any general grant.

Our latest forecasts show we expect a shortfall in our income over the next five years of around £2.4 million. This calculation takes into account other changes to our spending and income generated from other sources. We have balanced our revenue budget for 2017/18 by securing savings and additional income of around £1.2 million. The annual funding gap is shown in the chart below:



More detailed information on the Council's finances can be read in our draft medium term financial strategy. Our Sustainability and Efficiency Plan sets out how we will meet the funding challenges ahead and also we will decide which services to prioritise and how lower priority services might be delivered over the next three years. You can find both documents on the Council's website at <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/1059/Budgets-and-accounts>

Given the above, the Council is looking to spend every pound raised in tax as efficiently as possible and much can be achieved by close working with other Councils, principally Wealden. Waste collection, environmental health, legal services, building control and financial systems are all shared, bringing economies of scale and reductions in overheads. However cuts are inevitable and the Council has to focus on its key priorities.

Maintaining the community grants budget is seen as a key priority since it enables local groups to achieve their ambitions; and with many of the larger parish councils certain functions are being devolved.

Rother District Council is working with the County Council to ensure that the local economy remains one of the fastest growing in the whole country and projects like the Bexhill Link Road and the Northern Access Road, which is currently under construction, will benefit the whole area by providing space for new businesses and for a large part of the housing Rother has to build.

This helps keep the pressure on our villages down and helps us to defend the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However without some growth of housing in our rural areas, we shall continue to lose our younger population. So the right balance must be struck. Rother is committed to deliver more affordable housing and where developments are small, the developer has to pay cash towards that programme. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) enables parishes to profit from any new development.

Inevitably this year your Council tax had to rise and the Council was at one in thinking we should add £5 to the bill of a Band D household – that is roughly a 3% rise in the RDC element of your Council tax.

Brightling Village Trust

What have we done in the last year?

The Trust exists to support charitable purposes in Brightling and can also make grants to help individuals and relieve hardship. This gives the Trustees discretion to support a wide range of activities which will benefit people in Brightling and which aren't otherwise supported.

In 2016, the grants we gave included one of £700 to support the refurbishment of the Village Handbells. As in previous years, we followed the Carol Service in Brightling Church with mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall, and the restored handbells were played for the first time.

Just a couple of weeks ago, we held a very enjoyable and successful Spring Forward Quiz in the Village Hall. We don't yet have the final calculations, but we hope the evening will have raised around £350 for Trust funds.

The Trustees are Mark Bridge, Charles Everett, David Gasson, Brian Holliday, Bob Howell and Nicola Magill.

Charles Everett
Chair, Brightling Village Trust

April 2017



President

D M GRISSELL ESQ

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Groundsman: Mr A Bidwell

Captain : Mr A Bidwell

Tel: (01435) 831546

Vice Captain: Mr J Henty

Scorer: Mrs S Wall

Report for the Annual Parish Assembly April 2017

Introduction

The 2016 season saw Brightling Park CC continue to play a friendly brand of cricket in idyllic surroundings. In terms of success the team were competitive in all areas with individual honours going to:

- Laurence Flint – batting
- Henry Hadow - bowling

New faces are of course more than welcome and anyone interested in playing should contact Ricci at The Swan (all contact details are on the front page of this report).

The club also has a Facebook page where team news and match reports are posted:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/191505894234695/>

The club also welcomes non-playing members who would like to be involved in any way.

Recent AGM

The AGM was held at The Swan on the 1st March and was well attended.

The election of officers saw little change apart from the role of vice captain. After sterling service Jeremy Wall stepped down and has been replaced by Jack Henty.

Projects

Following discussions at the 2016 AGM (and mentioned in last year's report to the Parish Assembly) the project to completely replace the fencing around the ground was undertaken by Adrian and Luke Bidwell. A huge thank you to them as it came in at a cost of £1,185 as opposed to the £2,500 – 3,000 we had been quoted by other local fencers.

A working party has been organised for Sunday 9th April for a general tidy up and preparation of the ground and facilities for the coming season.

Other jobs for this season include the fixing of shutters to the pavilion windows and doors to each changing room. Again these jobs will be undertaken by club members to keep the cost down.

We are also on notice that the outfield mower may need some money spending on it this season. Hopefully a good service will suffice as the alternative could be very costly.

Season Ahead

The fixture list (below) shows a very full season.

A new initiative this year sees both a home and away fixture against local rivals Ashburnham. One new fixture will see The Park entertain Battle in the last game of the season.

Please note: most games will commence at 2pm this season.

Conclusion

We remain a friendly side that welcomes players of all abilities and non-playing members who want to get involved or simply just watch cricket is a beautiful setting.

We are financed by VP donations, very reasonable member subscriptions and any profit we can make from match fees and tea sales. Fund raising events such as our pub quizzes also add a much needed boost to our accounts.

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible at one of the games listed below.

Steve Leeves

Hon Secretary

Brightling Park Cricket Club

Fixtures for Season 2017

Sunday April 31st	NO FIXTURE		
Sunday May 7th	Netherfield	Away	14.00
Sunday May 14th	Crowhurst	Away	14.00
Sunday May 21st	Ashburnham	Away	14.00
Sunday May 28th	Rotherfield	Away	14.00
Sunday 4th June	Heathfield Park	Away	14.00
Sunday 11th June	Ashburnham	Home	14.00
Sunday June 18th	Catsfield	Away	14.00
Sunday June 25th	Mountfield	Away	14.00
Sunday July 2nd		Away	14.00 Horse Trials
Sunday July 9th	Parkhurst	Home	14.00
Sunday July 16th	Myddleton House	Home	14.00 Music Fest
Sunday July 23rd	Mountfield	Home	14.00
Sunday July 30th	Etchingham and Fontridge	Home	14.30
Sunday August 6th	Catsfield	Home	14.30
Sunday August 13th	Late Nighters	Home	13.30
Sunday August 20th	Burwash Village	Away	14.00
Sunday August 27th	Parkhurst	Away	14.00
Sunday September 3rd	MCC	Home	14.00
Sunday September 10th	Netherfield	Home	14.00
Sunday September 17th	The Swan Inn	Home	14.00
Sunday September 24th	Battle	Home	13.30

Dallington School

APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017

The Children of Brightling Class had entered the BBC's '500 word competition'

They were also asked to design a picture based on the theme 'It's All History' which was displayed and judged at the Heathfield Show which were marked as BRILLIANT.

A Federation Day was held on May 26th when Dallington, Punnett's Town and Broad Oak joined together to have a mix of activities

Conservative MP Hugh Merriman visited the school to discuss the E.U. Referendum and explained why we had the vote and what is the E.U.

The School celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday with a special week. All the children wrote to her Majesty, asking her various questions and congratulated her 90th Birthday

In hot weather the parents were asked that the children should provide hats, water bottles and sun cream.

Parents were also reminded that library books should be returned, checked and signed off.

Chris Whitlow visited the School to give a talk to the whole school about safety

Ann Bryant also visited the school to lead a musical workshop and a company called 'Just Different' also visited the school, their aim was to create a positive social attitude towards disability.

The school participated in a Sussex wide NHS Public Health project 'Inspire' which aims to improve treatment of Asthma in children.

An Open Day at Sarah Ravens Cottage Garden in Robertsbridge raised £200.00 for school funds.

The School also supported 'Children in Need'

A coffee morning was held to support the fantastic work of Chestnut Tree House, a Hospice that work with children who have progressive life shortening illnesses.

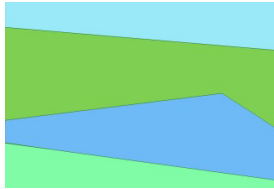
The Children also held their own Remembrance Service which raised £175.00

Children and parents reminded them of their approach to road safety and parking arrangements.

Complaints regard parents swearing in the playground will not be tolerated. Also a Zero-tolerance has been adopted for children fighting in the playground.

The school continue their drive to raise attendance across the whole of the school.

DT Gesson



The Darwell Area Conservation Society

www.savedarwell.wordpress.com

Darwell Area Conservation Society

Parish Report April 2017

DACS has continued to enjoy growing support in the last year and staunchly upholds its remit to protect and enhance the landscape of the Darwell Valley. The Society keeps a watching brief on local planning issues which threaten the countryside and keeps members informed.

In 2016 we enjoyed a moth-trapping session and more of Peter Miles' fascinating local industrial and natural history walks in Mountfield which he will repeat this year. Peter has also researched the Tudor ironworks of Mountfield and has given two talks and field walks to explore this largely forgotten local industry. I would urge everyone to look at our website for details of these and other events we plan for the year ahead.

Victoria Fraser

Victoria Fraser

Brightling Flower Show 2016

Once again, the sun shone on the Brightling Flower Show. There was a feast for the eyes in the marquee with a truly fantastic 477 entries from 85 competitors. Not only were entries up in numbers, the standard was especially high and the competition strong. In 2015, for example, there were only two entries in the cucumber class, this year there were twelve. The flower entries were most impressive and the judge wrote the "The standard of the flower section is exceptionally high this year" and this was echoed by the judges of the other sections. Well done, Brightling!

It was particularly encouraging to welcome a number of first-time exhibitors and to share their joy and amazement at winning prizes.. It was also good to see a resurgence in the entries in the children's classes after a few very lean years – we hope this will be the start of an upward trend in this section.

Financially, the Flower Show, as usual, made a small loss but there was a very successful Barn Dance in September to replenish the Society's funds and we now have enough reserves to withstand three adverse years. There will also be a bring and buy plant stall at the May market to raise additional funds to contribute to the ever-increasing cost of staging the show.

Victoria Fraser, Chair, and Vanessa Everett have indicated their wish to relinquish their responsibilities after this year's show. We are very grateful to Dr David Rodgers for taking up the rein as Chairman and to Jean Wood who will be taking over as Secretary.

This year's show will be on 22nd July 2017.

Vanessa Everett

Honorary Secretary – Brightling Flower Show.

Churchwarden's Report Brightling Parish Council AGM.

I report that the Church is currently in a good state of repair and to my knowledge there are no enormous repairs awaiting attention. However it was stated in the quinquennial report that the pyramid is in need of re-pointing. I am sure you realise the importance of this monument and of course it is a listed building. We have made many enquires about obtaining funding for this important monument and have come up with funding which may be available from the Wolfson Foundation. We have now instructed the architect to draw up specifications and obtain 3 quotations for the works required. There were 2 funerals, 2 weddings and 6 baptisms within the last year. I would remind everyone that Anne-Marie Crosse is the incumbent of the joint benefice of Mountfield, Netherfield and Brightling. She is only paid her expenses and the Brightling Rectory is her "House for Duty". She is only contracted to work 2 days a week. As you must be aware, she seems to have taken on a full time job, and would seem to be available 24 hours a day! I would ask you to respect this and bear in mind that we are extremely lucky that she is in our midst and to give her your full support.

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The bi-annual Auction of Promises was held in the autumn, combined with a Harvest Supper in The Church. This is

always a good fund raising event and great fun and raised about £6000 with Fraser Marshall as auctioneer.

I am pleased to report that Brightling Church continues as the main focal point of Brightling as it has for nearly 1000 years. I am increasingly aware that it is up to us to look after it and hand it on to future generations. I feel that at the moment we are doing a good job! There are often comments in the visitors book thanking us for arranging for the church to be open during the daytime, and not just for services. I express my thanks to David Gasson, my fellow Churchwarden , Andrew Wedmore, organist, Robert Olive, clock winder, flower arrangers, cleaners and to all the PCC for their work and support. Also to all those people who do even those little tasks for the Church, yet receive, and ask for no recognition.

Henry Grissell

Brightling mixed Stoolball
club, 2016 Season.

We had 17 Fixtures

Won 9. Lost 4. Cancelled 4
because of Rain or No Team.

Invited to 7 Tournaments

Won 1. Won our own Tournament.

We have 16 Fixtures for
2017 Season

Brightling Tournament is on
Aug 13th playing at Netherfield

Evening Matches played at -
Brightling Park on Tuesday
Evening start 7pm.
New Members Welcome

Brightling Ladies Stoolball
Club 2016 Season
We had 8 Fixtures

Lost 2 Cancel 6 Rain or No Team

Invited to 3 Tournaments

Won 1. Runner up 2.

Our Tournament is on
July 16 Played at Helthorpe

All Matches play on Thursday
evening at Brightling Park.
Starting at 7pm

New Welcome members

Chairman's Report 2015 - 2016

The Brightling Recreation Room, also known as the Brightling Village Hall, is a registered Charity, no. 226014. The address is :

The Village Hall, Brightling, ROBERTSBRIDGE, TN32 5HH.

Our 3 Trustees are Mr H Grissell, Mr R Howell and Mrs N Courtney Bennet.

The committee is Mr B Holliday, Chairman, Ms C Wing, Mrs J Oxenford and Mrs N Courtney - Bennett (co-opted)

The governing document is a Conveyance & Trust Deed , dated 31st Dec, 1946.

It is the aim of the Trust, to provide a venue and facilities for the benefit of the village. It is a non-sectarian and non-political place of recreation and social intercourse for the benefit of the inhabitants.

Throughout the year, the Hall has enjoyed regular use. The Parish Council, the Village Market ,and being used as the local Polling Station are examples of the benefit the Hall brings to Brightling.

Other groups use the Hall for a variety of purposes. Yoga classes, keep-fit and pilates are popular with both local inhabitants and those from further a-field. Private functions have also been held to celebrate birthdays, funeral parties and meetings for religious groups. The common observation is that the relative small size and the high standards of facilities make the Hall an attractive venue.

Our financial reserves are currently £2500, but will be re-assessed in the next year , to reflect the rising costs of maintenance and repair.

Financially, the Hall is in a good position. A profit of £2536.63 has meant that our cash at bank shows a healthy figure in the black.

The Brightling Village Hall continues to prosper. The fabric and finances are safe and secure.

Brian Holliday, Chairman

BRIGHTLING MARKET

Although the aim of the market is not specifically to make a profit, we generally make a small profit each month and the total for March-November 2016 was £666. After paying in advance to hire the hall for the market in 2017 we have a balance of £414 available for a village-related donation to be decided.

Chris Wing stepped down as market organiser in February 2017, as did the rest of the market team (Liz Fox, Nicola Magill, Gussy Bidwell, Jo Hughes).

Since no-one came forward to act as market organiser, the various responsibilities have been devolved down:

The café is now being run by Connie Alderson-Blench (with help from volunteers); the market stallholders are organising themselves and David Gasson offered to put up and take down the tables and chairs. Chris will continue as Treasurer.

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the market in 2016 the cafe helpers, the cake bakers, the sign put-uppers, the set-up and clear-downers, the washer-uppers, not forgetting the stallholders and everyone who came up to the village hall to support the market.

Reducing the speed and impact of traffic in Brightling and neighbouring villages

A note from the traffic team for the Parish Assembly, April 2017.

1. Reducing the speed and impact of traffic – for safety of people and protection of road verges -- was one of two parts of the 2015-19 village plan where fact-finding was needed before choosing a plan of action
2. A team of parishioners from Brightling and Dallington has formed to lead the work
3. The team is preparing a full report and recommendations for the BPC. This is an interim summary

Our aim is to reduce the impact of traffic moving to and through our parish

- We are focusing especially on the roads between our hamlets, so that they can be used safely by walkers, riders and cyclists as well as residents, local farms and businesses
- We want to base our recommendations on evidence
- We want to keep clutter and suburban features to a minimum
- We want to pool ideas and actions with neighbouring parishes, and learn from other communities

We've been gathering evidence about Brightling's traffic

- A 12-hour traffic survey conducted by Nicola Magill outside Grant's Cottages in October showed a high volume of cars using the road over the period -- more than 500 cars and 4x4s, and 124 vans -- compared to lorries (11). Cars had two peaks, probably associated with commuting (especially to stations) and school runs -- see attached chart. The survey did not measure speed. A survey in South Lane Dallington in September - October 2016 showed similar high volumes of car traffic (80-100 cars and vans per hour)
- Jez Lipscombe has successfully tested a low-cost system for automatically recording vehicle frequency, type and speed. Preliminary results show some high maximum speeds: 74 mph along the Brightling Road, 59 mph at the narrow pinch point at the Twelve Oaks junction, and 47 mph at the even narrower Hollingrove junction (see table attached). This technology will be used in different locations in Brightling and Dallington to set a baseline for measuring progress in the months and years ahead.
- Factors behind the increased volume and speed of traffic include the spread of commuting into more remote rural areas, and growth in online shopping. Another is the use of satnavs. HGVs using personal rather than commercial satnavs poses a risk to rural lanes and villages -- seen for example at the top of Snail Hill -- and is recognised as a problem by the Local Government Association www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/8200676/NEWS

It is possible to civilise traffic without a lot of signs and clutter

- In our survey of what's been done elsewhere, the approach taken by Ben Hamilton-Baillie Associates (www.hamilton-baillie.co.uk) seems suited to Brightling's needs. They have prepared a toolkit for Dorset AONB "Traffic in Villages: Safety and Civility for Rural Roads". One of their methods is the 'visual narrowing' of roads, through removing road markings and restoring features such as grass triangles, which slows down traffic by reducing the apparent (rather than actual) width and linearity of the carriageway. This may have a greater impact than traffic calming measures introduced in Netherfield (including a 40 mph limit) which seem to have had little impact on irresponsible driving.
- The team has been in correspondence with Ben Hamilton Baillie. He is prepared to conduct an exploratory visit to Brightling and neighbouring villages, and address a village meeting. Parish council funds will not stretch to cover the cost, so other sources of funding would be required.

County transport policy is focused on proven risk to safety rather than the rural environment

- The East Sussex Transport Plan (2011-26) talks of the challenge of "improving accessibility, whilst reducing the impact of traffic on people and the environment and protecting the rural realm" considering the "distinctive character of villages and hamlets" of the Low and High Weald
- In rural areas under the Transport Act 2000, local authorities are able to designate 'Quiet Lanes' for shared use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorised vehicles. But ESCC does not seem to have a policy for Quiet Lanes. Pilots in Essex and Norfolk stabilised vehicle numbers while they rose elsewhere, but did not show much change in vehicle speed.

- The county is very reluctant to install new 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs. In a response to a letter about the stretch between the Fullers Arms and Hollingrove, ESCC replied that new signs 'will only be channelled to addressing road safety issues involving personal injury'.

We can act as individuals, as businesses, and as a parish

Actions as individuals

1. Lead by example

- Check our own speed through Brightling and other people's villages

2. Record and report incidents

- There is a police initiative 'Operation Crackdown' for reporting anti-social driving. You need the registration of the offending vehicle and where possible the make, model, and colour. To report you contact either www.operationcrackdown.org or 01243 642222. A note about Operation Crackdown has gone up on the Dallington Village website. We can follow with a note in the Messenger and link from the Brightling website.
- A card and matching flyer has been designed by Fiona Macnab for households to record incidents of hazardous driving or tangles between traffic, horses, pedestrians and cyclists

3. Contribute to traffic calming

- Do our own 'visual narrowing': for example by parking on the road, or by rehabilitating our nearest grass triangle. It's important to maintain good clearance for farm vehicles and good line of sight. We will be sharing some advice on this

4. Think before we click

- Internet shopping is responsible for many van journeys to and through our parish

5. Be seen

- We have a responsibility to make ourselves visible when walking and riding. Nicole Livingstone-Smith has written an article for the next Messenger about visibility for horse riders.

Actions as businesses

6. Talk with our employees and suppliers

- Orient our employees and suppliers about speed and care on roads leading to and from the parish
- Ensure HGVs and vans are using commercial rather than personal satnavs

Actions as a parish

7. Propose improvements to the layout and markings of some hazardous junctions

- Work with local residents and ESCC to reduce speed and hazard at risk hotspots such as Brightling Road turnoff to Hollingrove, or Cackle Street turnoff to Hollingrove, for safety of pedestrians and riders
- Look at alternative ways to prevent HGVs from getting stuck on unsuitable narrow lanes

8. Lobby ESCC about satnavs

- Lobby (directly and via LGA) for the enforcement of commercial rather than personal satnavs for HGVs and delivery companies.

9. Measure our progress get informed

- Measure traffic volume, type and speed over the years of the village Action Plan

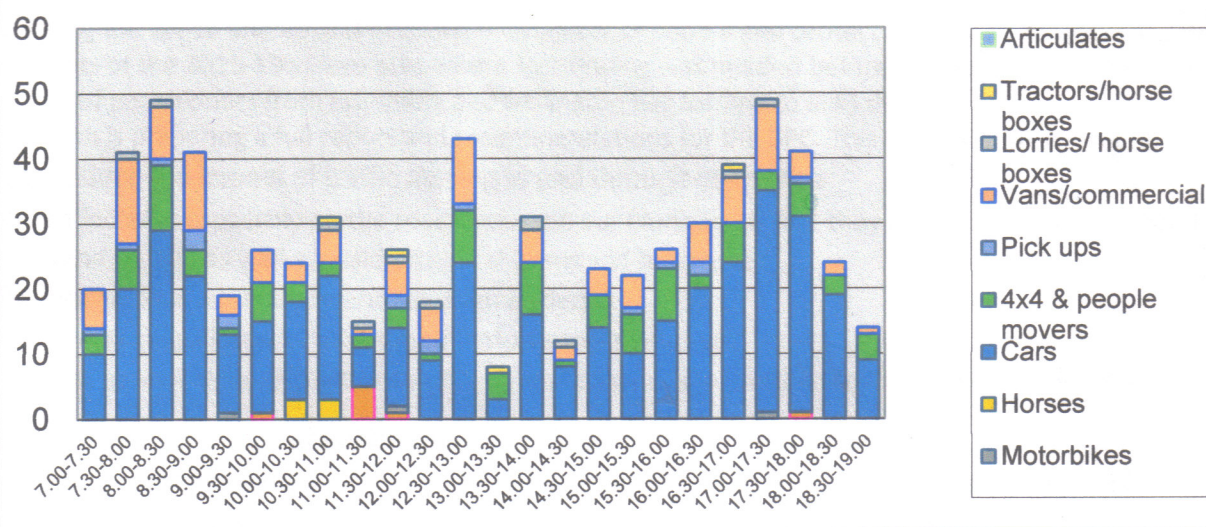
10. Achieve strength in numbers

- Link with neighbouring councils to share insights and pool resources
- Support rural traffic calming campaigns with CPRE and others.

Team members

Andy Bagnall, South Lane, Dallington
 Annie Rodgers, Oxley's Green
 Bill Vorley, Twelve Oaks, BPC
 Chris French, Rectory Hill Brightling, BPC
 Fiona Macnab, Twelve Oaks
 Jez Lipsombe, Hollingrove
 Nicole Livingstone-Smith, Brightling Road
 Nicola Magill, Grants Cottages
 Noel White, Brightling Road

Brightling Traffic Survey, 4 Oct 2016, Grants Cottages, Cackle St



Preliminary results of automatic traffic monitoring, March-April 2017

Location	Period	Average daily traffic movements	Max speed (mph)
Brightling Road (TN32 5HB)	4-5 and 8-9 April 2017	640	74
Twelve Oaks (Cackle St junction TN32 5HS)	2-7 April 2017	371	59
Hollingrove (TN32 5HU)	23 March – 3 April 2017	150	47