



# 2021 Annual Report and Directory



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# Parish Council Chairman's Introduction

I don't think anyone will forget the last 12 months. First and foremost, can I thank the wonderful team of volunteers who stepped forward in March last year to help so many residents with everything from grocery shopping to collecting prescriptions to just having a chat on the telephone. Our thanks to all those who worked through the whole period at the village shop and our garage. A special thanks to James Wheatley and his wife for running the food bank collection centre and for all those who so kindly donated much needed food. Our thoughts go to all those businesses in the village that have been so badly affected. Sadly, during this time, we also lost Andy Waters one of our Parish Councillors. Andy was very much at the heart of our community and involved in everything from maintenance around the village to our speedwatch team and our whole programme of getting a reduced speed limit through the centre of the village. Our thoughts go to his wife and family.

So many projects have been put on hold but are now slowly being able to be restarted. As soon as the lockdown began to ease, we conducted the final speed surveys required by the Highways Authority to move our traffic and speed reduction programme forward. With those results in hand we have now instructed our highways consultants to finalise the traffic-calming plan that was discussed and agreed in principal with Highways over a year ago, subject to collecting the final speed-data studies (which we have now done) and input from the emergency services. The proposal will then be put forward for public consultation, open to all. David Caney is heading this programme up.

Beverly Coupar and Jackie Saull-Hunt are working on a project to renew and update the children's playground which is looking a bit weary.

Roy Chapman, Peter Anson, David Caney and myself are working on a project to revamp the main area of the sports pavilion to create another smaller meeting place for residents.

I would also like to thank Pauline Glew for her tireless support in so many aspects of the village whether it be keeping the Red Barn Field wildflower meadow project on track or working with Sally Sidwick supporting our clerk with our finances.

2020 was the first year possibly ever that we did not have an annual assembly or produce an annual directory. This was truly sad as it's always an opportunity for so many of us to meet and speak. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in 2021 and get back to some sense of a new normal.



**Jonathan Vine-Hall**

**Chairman Sedlescombe Parish Council**

[CLlr.vine-hall@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:CLlr.vine-hall@sedlescombe.org.uk)

**April 2021**

## **Annual Parish Assembly Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th March 2019 in Sedlescombe Village Hall 7pm to 9pm**

**PRESENT: 162 people were present at the meeting including:**

Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall (Chair of Sedlescombe Parish Council) Chairing the meeting

Parish Councillors Peter Anson, Michelle Brister, Roy Chapman, Pauline Glew, Lindsey Fraser, Sally Sidgwick, David Caney and Andy Waters.

Jackie Scarff (Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer of Sedlescombe Parish Council)

District Councillor Tony Ganly, County Councillor Carl Maynard. PCSO Demi Georghiou - Sussex Police.

### **1. Welcome from the Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council**

The Chairman, Cllr Vine-Hall, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself. For Health and Safety purposes Cllr Vine-Hall pointed out the emergency exits in the Village Hall and mustering points outside.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2016**

It was proposed by Cllr L Fraser and seconded by Cllr D Caney to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2018.

### **Thankyou's from the chairman**

Before moving onto hearing the reports from the groups and organisations of Sedlescombe the Chairman extended his thanks to the following:

- Sedlescombe Vineyard who have offered everyone a glass of wine this evening.
- All the businesses who advertise in our directory and, this year, we had a record number. Everybody was encouraged to support those businesses who work hard to be part of the community.
- To Pump House designs because they always print all of the posters that you see that we use around the village and they do that for free.
- Everyone involved in the lift scheme which provides the invaluable service to our community.
- Pauline Glew for her enormous contribution to every aspect of the Parish Council. She's the longest serving parish councillor and she is totally involved in everything we do.
- To all our volunteers who do a wide variety of jobs. Thanks to those who deliver bulletins and the annual directory, to Roy Chapman and Andy Waters and their team of volunteers who do a lot of maintenance around the village which saves us cost as it's all done for free.
- Peter Anson is for his professional contribution advising on our leases, we have several leases that need to be updated his knowledge in that area is invaluable.
- To the Queens Head and the Brickwall Hotel for providing the door prize and the volunteers prize for the 5th year running.
- Our new councillor Sally Sidgwick for her work with our new clerk, particularly on our accounts because we've been changing over systems and Sally is particularly skilled in that area.
- Lindsey Fraser for the enormous amount of work she does, which is often done behind the scenes on presentations.
- Roy again and Michelle Brister for their work on developing plans for the recreation ground there is more information on this later in the evening.
- Andy waters a second time with David Caney and Paul Hackeson and who's not on the parish council but has been working with the traffic advisory group that will feature more later Andy and David were asked to pass on thanks to the others that work in the group. Andy also puts an enormous effort into managing the speed watch group. It often takes place at the unseen hours of 6:00 o'clock in the morning, so many people probably wouldn't even see it happen, but that's often where most of the cars come through the village.

- Margaret Hudson, for the beautiful baskets on the green. Danny Blay and his wife and James from the Queen 's head because they keep the tubs on the green looking as good as they do.
- All those who worked on getting our Neighbourhood Plan completed which was formally adopted last year by the District Council. That was a major achievement which will allow the parish council to plan and implement a number of the projects.
- Cllr Vine-Hall welcomed and thanked Jackie Scarff, the new parish clerk.

#### **Chairman's notices.**

Red Barn Field Open day on Saturday, 1st of June. It will be advertised and it's going to be a great event because there's been quite a bit of a bit of work happening up there.

Nikki Port is selling tickets for the spring Fayre.

Danny Blaine is looking for people who are interested in helping out with Neighbourhood watch which is really important given that we've had a spate of robberies in the village over the last 6 months. There are representatives from the police here tonight you can talk too as well.

Sedlescombe Players are putting on The 'Cause Celebre', which will be taking place here in the village hall. There are tickets available for Thursday 4th of April Friday the 5th and Saturday, the 6th of April and to get tickets go to [sedlescombeplayers.co.uk](http://sedlescombeplayers.co.uk).

The Chairman thanked again everyone who supported the neighbourhood plan (NHP) last year. It received an 86% vote at referendum. This has really given Sedlescombe can control over development and it has protected a number of valuable green spaces like Red Barn Field and also the majority of street farm. The Neighbourhood Plan will provide the funding for some of the projects you'll see tonight, for example Traffic calming, recreation ground. There are 6 villages across Rother who have received Community Infrastructure Levy) payments, with a NHP future payments will be made at a higher rate. Sedlescombe has received about £12,000 at this point and that is actually half of the total amount that's been paid to rural villages.

### **3. Reports from Groups and Organisations of Sedlescombe**

The Chairman called upon the following to report: -

**Patient Involvement Group:** Mr. Kevin Katner reported that Rodelle Bridges has taken over as chair with help from Lindy. The group has moved on a great deal in the last 12 months, membership has increased, particularly of the virtual group. The meeting group is almost up to maximum numbers.

One of the things being specifically worked on is connecting up more with our local community , the aim being to have a contact point with all the clubs, organisations and societies in the village to be able to more readily pass on health related information, information about what's going on in the surgery and also information about a lot of other things that are going on regionally locally, and nationally that will have a bearing on health care for every single person For example, there were different systems for flu vaccinations this year. The group would like to be able to send information out via local village groups. There is greater demand than ever for appointments at the doctor's surgery which is an issue in Sedlescombe & Westfield, but it's an issue nationally. NHS England and the government have produced a paper consultation document about how the health service is changing and is going to change over the next 5 to 10 years.

One of the biggest changes is going to be local organisation of GP surgeries to create primary care networks, which will be the seven surgery practices in Rother working together in a more integrated way over time.

**The chairman invited 4 children from Sedlescombe Primary School to the stage who were going to read stories to the audience that they had written themselves.**

*'The musty odour and entombed air escaped from the dark space inside. All Tristan could see was a small shiny pipe leading to wires across all sorts of objects. After about 10 minutes of smoke Tristan could see it was a heart that had mechanics all over it. Tristan picked it up then he felt something, something cold, something small climbing all up his arm – it was red wires. Then he heard the clicking of all the doors being locked. What was happening? All of a sudden, a grand, metal door appeared it was clearly unlocked so Tristan walked through and carelessly dropped the heart. He found himself watching the viewer and around him people locked up in small metal cages. Suddenly, he realised he was locked in the eye. He suddenly came out, but about 80 years old, after all he had seen his whole life. After a day Tristan escaped his cell and locked the heart up, the cells unlocked and Tristan was young again. He locked the key up and stabbed the heart with a shark tooth he'd collected and threw it in the river. He then smashed the key after all his adventures he went to his favourite place, a junkyard. But as soon as he went in a box lay at his feet, as soon as he picked it up he suddenly appeared in his bedroom opening the box, again he heard the click of his doors being locked a sudden fear took over him. But instead of the metal heart, a small gold key lay there untouched, a door in the far corner opened. Tristan found himself walking through it. The fear rose so high he cannot breathe and suddenly it was pitch black. After a while, his eyes opened in the same room as a viewer, but the eye was destroyed and everything looked different, darker. From the eye a dark figure emerged in the shape of a human, he said in his sharp croaky voice 'Tristan'. He may have found a viewer in human form. He ran fast, faster, even faster. The door was still there. He ran through the maze of metal and leapt through the door. The door went away with a fudge and again the box was thrown out the window with the key. Tristan made his decision to never pick up anything from the Junkyard ever again.'*

*'While the confident crowd cheered loudly the soldiers nervously piled onto the wagons looking into their families' familiar faces. Suddenly the small, excited girls mind filled with questions and fear. The cramped, tiny town filled with vibrant coloured clothes as more entered the town square. Guns lay in the corner at the ready waiting for the time they would be used for action. Will the guns go bang or will the bodies be laid sprawled across the floor? Tearing through the town wagons began to slowly move pushing people out of the way. The girls mind was filled with sorrow, yet she kept smiling to keep her mother happy. Many men go to war never being seen again, frightened mothers worried for their children 's health without their father 's love or care.'*

*I'm the clever sorting hat smarter than the rest  
I sought you into your houses, everyone in their best  
The boy with the lightning scar determined and cunning.  
Maybe Slytherin... No? It's in the running  
A smug and arrogant boy, you think you are the best  
Slytherin will have to do unless this is a test  
The girl Hermione you say lucky to be so smart  
What a house for such girl, Gryffindor's the mark  
Yet again another Weasley. The heart of a lion  
A fierce and ferocious mind  
A boy that is trying.'*

*'Inside a small house in the middle of nowhere lived a girl named Sandy. Sandy was a striker. She didn't have friends and she was rarely ever seen. She felt invisible, her only joy was dressing up in clothes from the past. Upstairs in the dusty attic Sandy was looking for Victorian clothes. She saw a small, engraved box made of spruce wood in the corner of the attic, on the front end it had the name Robert Azackial engraved on it. She*

*lifted the lid and the musty odour of entombed air escaped from the dark space inside. Inside the dusty box laid a grubby old monocle and a navy-blue pillow, which was of course dusty, like everything else in the box. She looked through it, it was perfect, so she swept away the dust and put it on. It fitted perfectly, like if custom made. But the moment she put it on instead of looking at a dusty old room she saw posh people moving in their Victorian House and from that moment on they had drained all the joy and happiness out of her, she was frozen into the spot. It was so confusing, but she was still looking through the monocle. Then she saw the most horrible thing, she had ever saw a bomb had crashed into the house. She threw the monocle on the floor. It was almost shattered, but she didn't care. She ran all the way to her room and huddled up in the corner, she was terrified.*

*The day after she felt the urge to put the monocle back on, but she couldn't, so one afternoon, she thought maybe if I put it back in no particular order I might stop thinking about it, but it didn't work. She sat in the room watching different periods for hours until it showed a picture of her, her mum went to wake her up in the morning but all that later on her bed was a grubby old monocle.'*

*'Dear diary today, I woke up and I could see a tremendous colourful forest, so I snatched my coat and grabbed my backpack and dressed up as soon as possible. I ran downstairs. I was so active. I opened up the cramped door and I found this enormous paradise. I explored it, I climbed it, I found an animal it was a howler monkey. I was so surprised I talked to the monkey and said, 'Do you want a banana?' I mentioned 'oo oo aa ' replied the monkey? I'll take that as a no then I sighed I wish that I make a friend with an animal I'm moaned.*

*I waited hours and hours for just to get one friend, even weeks, and one sunny day I saw a toucan circling around my house, so I did the same thing. I snatched my coat, grabbed my backpack and dress up as soon as possible. I ran downstairs by a big surprise the colourful toucans were gone. I wonder where they could be. I murmured and my wish came true but even more special it was making friends with a toucan at full moon.'*

The Chairman thanked the children for coming and sharing their enchanting stories, he complimented them on their confidence presenting in front of a large group of adults. He shared with the audience how what an important part of the village the school is and how important it is to retain this connection.

**The Chairman introduced a returning guest, Charlotte Williams who spoke to the audience.**

*'Yes, I'm here again for another year. I'm here to talk about Claverham, Oh yeah that old thing? Well, it's not all that bad. I'm going on a ski trip to Italy next year, so that's pretty exciting. I'm also going to mention something about fundraising, and I have a few questions about PGL which I'm really excited about. Claverham, OK, well, I started in September as a tiny so-called cute year 7, the babies of the school.*

*I had a hard start at Claverham trying to get into things such as the school council, trying to be a sports captain and missing out on the cross country, but I was on holiday, so I guess that's a good thing. But now it's all great. I have loads of friends and my teachers are also nice.*

*Now I'm going to be talking about fundraising over the summer I would like to do a few activities such as a sponsored walk, sponsored silence and a jumble sale. All money raised will go to Saint Michael 's hospice. If I can get any help it would be gladly appreciated some of my friends are going to come along and walk with me. As of now I haven't confirmed doing it yet, but I think it would be a lovely opportunity.*

*My questions about PGL do you know when they will start building and do you know when PGL will be finished?'*

The Chairman thanked Charlotte and let her know that a lot of people in the village have found her painted stones around the village. He also explained that the PGL questions would be answered later in the evening.

He went on to explain that as many people know the Pestalozzi site as it currently exists is changing and the site has now been sold and tonight will be the last presentation by the students.

**But first he welcomed Sue Walton, the Chief Executive of Pestalozzi to come up, say a few words and introduce the students who will make a short presentation.**

*'This last 12 months has been a real rollercoaster ride for everybody at Pestalozzi and for all sorts of reasons. We announced, about this time last year, that we would no longer be on the site beyond the end of this year and that the cohort of students that was with us would be the last to be present in the village and in fact, the Pestalozzi student who spoke to you last year, I think described it very eloquently when she said that she was both proud and sad to be one of that last cohort.*

*It has been very emotional with sadness, excitement, expectation and actually, from my perspective, exhaustion as well. There's been an awful lot going on and you guys all want to know what's happening now I'm sure.*

*Our students are studying hard, that's what's really happening now, they're studying for their A levels and you'll hear a little bit more from Kinzang and Olivia as soon as I'm finished so I'll crack on with it.*

*The site is sold and we're expecting to complete on the first of April. I'm not entirely sure whether that's an auspicious day or not, but that's what we're planning on and hopefully that's when it will happen. We're absolutely delighted that PGL are buying the site because there will be children still on that site like they have been for the last 60 years and it will be a centre for education and you're going to hear from Bruce about all of that soon as well. PGL were actually set up in 1957, the same year that we were so we have really, a shared history of more than 60 years of providing educational opportunities in various forms for young people. We are very, very proud of that history and we're also very proud of having been part of the community in Sedlescombe for such a long time and I want to thank everyone for supporting us throughout that 60-year period.*

*But we're not going away. We're not closing down the charity. We are simply moving off the site. So rather excitingly, as of September of this year, the first cohort of new students will be attending Atlantic College in South Wales in Saint Donats Castle, which looks a bit like Hogwarts and we've already had a bit of a quote from Hogwarts about the sorting hat! So that is going to be a really, really important time for us, getting ready for that.*

*We are still raising funds because our scholarship program is going to continue, and we hope that you will continue to support us throughout all of that as well. Now you United World Colleges for those of you who don't know, it very much follows the same ethos that Pestalozzi does it provides an education for the head the heart and the hands. It follows the International Baccalaureate diploma program, and we know that that suits our students very well, indeed. Last week we had the first student proposed by United World Colleges for the program that meets all of our criteria and we're really excited that we will have 5 students following that soon.*

*One of the things that was important to us, and we heard this again and again from our students and from our alumni was that Pestalozzi, however it continues, should continue to embrace diversity and difference and I think all of us, particularly with the recent news stories that we've been hearing from New Zealand and elsewhere, will recognize that it is important that we all value everyone within our communities whatever their backgrounds are. Our students, our alumni, said, we want our program to continue in the same vein. I can tell you that United World College, particularly Atlantic College has over 90 nationalities represented in its student body, so we will be doing that in spades.*

*It is very sad that we're going to be leaving that site and I know that there will be a lot of tears, mine amongst them, because every time I drive up that driveway, up Ladybird Lane to the top of the hill my heart lifts. When I drive down, it for the last time my heart will sink, but I know that Pestalozzi is going to continue and it will provide education to young people who will make a difference in the world and again I hope that you will all continue to support us in that so thanks for listening to me and now I'm going to hand over to Olivia and to Kinzang.'*

*'Hi I'm Olivia Merito. I came from Indonesia to the UK after being given a scholarship from Pestalozzi to continue my study on A Levels. I chose to take mathematics further maths biology and physics for my A levels and I still remember when one of our staff Nancy pick us up from the Heathrow Airport with warm welcome and warm hugs. It was also perfect, as at the fact that I did not understand any single thing that she say. And it took me quite a while to understand what people were saying. Despite how busy London is, London is indeed an amazing city because I had the impression that all of England will be like this. I didn't expect to live in the calm environment of Sedlescombe but we have amazing views and being here always relaxes my mind.*

*I have met people from different nationalities here, but from Pestalozzi and in my school Claremont, we've learned so many different things from each other, from how we find the food to childhood games that we play in our country, from how to say thank you or good morning to different religious beliefs. We've also spoken about what freedom means to us and even our thoughts about how the world began. I found out that Indonesia is not the only country that finds eating with hands to be really satisfying. Bhutan, India and Nepal are the same. Bhutan also has the most beautiful Queen I've ever seen, with all due respect to Queen of England of course! I've learned that there are still some countries that haven't yet gained their independence, such as Tibet and also that people from Africa really do not like spicy food.*

*Coming here has given me the opportunity to learn so many new skills such as Spanish, German and Italian. I've also had experience debating at London International Model United Nations and joined the maths challenge in school. I also decided in my spare time that I would study Korean language and culture as I love Korean movies so much. One of my favourite trips was the experience to the roller skating and roller disco for the first time. Those times that I spend with my Pestalozzi fellows are hilarious.*

*I got the chance to do a volunteering project in Indonesia, where I spent a week of my summer teaching and leading the children that live in one of the remote areas in Indonesia, one of the recent projects that I have undertaken with the other Pestalozzi students was that we've performed a drama on international women 's Day 'The talk about human trafficking'. We shared many laughs during the rehearsals over mistakes and forgotten lines and it was an unforgettable experience.*

*Being at Pestalozzi has made me excited and hopeful about having a future in another international community. The diversity and tolerance I have learned at Pestalozzi have made me feel that I'm not alone and I can ask people if I need help. It also teach me to listen to what people say, and I'm hoping to succeed in gaining a scholarship to go to one of the colleges in USA to continue my study in biomedical engineering. I would like to share my stories with more people about how becoming of part, Pestalozzi family has changed my life. It helped to know myself better, taught me how to be confident and to speak my mind out. It also made me able to meet beautiful people from all around the world. I am grateful and honoured to be able to experience this. Thank you so much.'*

*'I would like to wish you all a really warm, good evening and I've been living in UK for almost 2 years and I'd like to share some of my experiences with you being a Pestalozzi student so my name is Kinzang and I'm currently doing 3, A level subjects, which are physics, mathematics and chemistry. I come from Bhutan. To those who may not be familiar with this country. Let me tell you a little bit about it. It is a peaceful Himalayan Kingdom sandwiched between 2 giant countries India and China. Bhutan is also known for its Gross National*

*Happiness policy. The philosophy, which guides the government of our country. Janich is a philosophy that values collective happiness of the citizens by emphasizing harmony with nature and traditional values as opposed to GDP, which is just a monetary measure of market value of goods and services, services in a nation.*

*So, coming from a family of 4 children and with a small economic background. I thought it was futile to dream big. My father was well above his 70s, and I wanted to look after my family. But getting into college was far from easy. However, my life. It took a miraculous turn, which to this day, I find it hard to fathom. Around the time when I just finished my grade 10 board examination a ladybird, a messenger from Pestalozzi flew to me. A few months after an intense period of interviews, and examination I was overwhelmed with joy to hear that the ladybird had chosen me.*

*The anxious and excited me started dreaming about my new thrill and adventure. Talking with British friends, celebrating British Cultures, British food, the sea, British trees talking with British friends and British everything. This excitement was however sprinkled with fear of having to leave my family, friends and my country my family waved a tearful goodbye as I set off from the airport. Now having lived here for almost 2 years I can say that Pestalozzi is so much more than what I had expected. Pestalozzi is not just a place where you solely focus on academic performance is to enrol in good University. Every day one would unravel exciting surprises.*

*We would be travelling to unique places, although everything is so unique to a boy who is foreign to this amazing country. London is so much bigger when it when it is out of a television. Now I've come to realize this. I was a complete stranger to so many different things in UK. Like Easter Festival Halloween, -is it some kind of food, I thought- Or Christmas, which I only knew from movies.*

*People here were also foreign to our cultures and festivals; hence, this is where true cultural exchange took place. Experiencing these cultures, first-hand here I will continue to celebrate them wherever I may be in this world as I've made some fondest memories on these days.*

*We have learned how to sympathize and empathize with one another. The struggles and burdens of individuals are not their own in our community. We know what it means to be a refugee of another country such as the fear of our Tibetan brothers and sisters. Inspirations never run dry in our small community, rather, it ripples out to bring waves of changes around the world.*

*Issues that concern some of our homes whether it is women sanitary issues or political chaos in Africa, Human trafficking and gender-based violence in South Asia, or the independent movement in the Tibet. For all of this we express deep empathy, but we express more through actions.*

*To quote a few examples. A brilliant young lady from Pestalozzi called Ramei had raised 2000 pounds to provide and educate women in Zimbabwe about recyclable sanitary pads.*

*Nidu, an astonishing young man from Pestalozzi and from my country, he raised 500 pounds to construct a sanitation toilet in a very remote area of my country. It is such waves that inspired me and the world.*

*Pestalozzi has moulded our claylike mind into fully fledged globally conscious citizens. Pestalozzi may have failed to maintain its physical form in Ladybird Lane Sedlescombe of battle, but success stories are what matters the most and Pestalozzi's story will continue. The inspiring stories that we and generations before us have made will live on. I have met some amazing people along this journey, we have cried and laughed together. I've tried new things, failed in few things and made some fondest memories, which I may not be able to put into words.*

*More than ever, I have realized my passion for physics and I as I head out from this shell of Pestalozzi. I hope to carry the spirit of Pestalozzi in every major walk of my life and create ripple of my own. Thank you for making this young boy 's dream a reality.'*

The Chairman thanked Sue for coming and bringing the students to the Annual Assembly over the last 8 years or so, it was something that he asked her to do when he started on the parish council and has made a real difference in this meeting. It has been a joy every year to hear the students talk and to share their stories, which are always amazing. Cllr Vine-Hall reminisced about the start of the neighbourhood plan journey and having discussions with the students at Pestalozzi about whether there should be street lighting in the village. The students were all laughing and when asked to share the joke, they explained that they don't have streetlights where they come from, they don't even have running water, so it was a little hard for them to really consider these matters.

Cllr Vine-Hall went on to say that Pestalozzi has enriched the lives of so many students over the years and Sedlescombe will be a lesser place without them. He wished Pestalozzi well and truly hoped that the bursaries that Pestalozzi give to future students will give them the sort of experience that we've heard about from Kinzang and Olivia tonight.

The next stage of the Pestalozzi site is PGL, who most people know a bit about. Bruce Garrad from PGL took the stage to talk a little bit about their plans.

*'Good evening, everybody, thanks very much for giving me the opportunity this evening. I met Sue a few weeks ago and she kindly suggested that I should perhaps come along and introduce myself and give you opportunity to talk about PGL. So, I spoke with Jonathan and here I am. I must admit fantastic turnout was quite a surprised and what that means to me, my instant thought is a community with great spirit and sort of a village ethos which is exactly the same as a teamwork and the team spirit within PGL.*

*When I was at Pestalozzi meeting the current cohort, some of who I did meet and again it showed the spirit of it and seeing the heritage and the history in the alumni. It also made me think that PGL has the same kind of values and kindred spirit. In fact, we get tweets all the time from our current young guests thanking us for the experiences that we give, but we also get letters from perhaps people who have been to PGL 20 or 30 years ago who then say that they're currently reflecting and that their experience, their positive reflections at PGL have somehow changed or shaped their lives into what they're doing now. That sounds exactly what Pestalozzi does so I can see some kind of ongoing, kind of strategic fit that hopefully we continue.*

*We are calling our site PGL Pestalozzi so there's no change there. We understand its heritage and we want to keep that, and we did start in 1957, so exactly the same time.*

*What I'd like to do, rather than try to describe what PGL is, although perhaps some of you have been on PGL experiences yourselves or perhaps your kids have been on PGL experiences or are going on PGL experiences, is just show a short video burst, which kind of tries to put into context.*

*OK so thank you, I was introduced by my name Bruce Guard, I'm the operations manager at PGL and so and part of my role is finding new sites new opportunities and then giving those opportunities to our to our guests. Hopefully that's a better description of what of what we are trying to do and what we're about. Fundamentally we're trying to give young people a positive experience in some kind of outdoor activities or set of activities. The opportunity to work and play together in a team and for that to be in most cases, residential we find that we're marketing ourselves to roughly between 7 and 17 year olds, although in reality, probably most of our young guests are between 9 and 11.*

*We find that most of them will stay for kind of 3 nights or more, but we do offer shorter durations and we do offer birthday parties and we offer longer duration, so it depends what people want.*

*What we're really trying to do is to kind of give back some of the opportunities which sometimes are not there for some of our young people, whether it's because of the communities or locations that they live in or whether it's because of other reasons, but our idea is to be able to try and create residential positive experiences, which are then everlasting which hopefully you see in the in the video. To answer the question from the young lady (Charlotte) we intend to kind of start making our presence in September So this is in its infancy with regard to our plans and but I did want to come along and say hello and we recognize the current cohort and so we want to make sure that obviously stays and so, although we will be the owners and we recognize that Pestalozzi needs to continue so you'll see us in September and then to answer the other question our intentions or plans would be to then be operational and provide our experiences for young people in the spring of 2020. So, we've got quite a compressed and busy time after handing over. I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight and will be at the Q&A session later.'*

**The chairman introduced Roy Chapman and Michelle Brister who would explain the early concepts and ideas that the Recreation Ground Trust for the playground.**

Roy Chapman introduced himself as a councillor in Sedlescombe and part of a small team that are putting together a plan for a new Riverside playground. He explained, for those that didn't know, that the playground is at the southern end of the village behind the second-hand car dealership and as some people will be aware the existing playground is getting rather tired. The last time it was refurbished was 2006/7.

So, it's time to update it and having looked at the equipment available the team have seen that new equipment seems to support the development of physical activity, learning and wellbeing in a much better way that looks more fun.

The idea is that the design will have a rubber mulch at base of the equipment for the very young upwards. There have been some different ideas put forward. One is to refurbish the existing site or to move it in front of the MUGA where it would be seen more clearly.

Another idea is to have a small skateboarding area for beginners on the old site or new. All the ideas need to be discussed. These designs shown around the hall have been submitted with estimated costs. Michelle Brister continued the presentation. Michelle introduced herself, she is a Parish Councillor who is on the playground working group, Red Barn Field working group and oversees the Facebook page of Sedlescombe jobs network.

There are several ideas for the playground and the team want to get the views of residents on some of the options that have come up, the location and the type of equipment there is. Residents were encouraged to fill in the short questionnaire to give the team an idea of their views.

Michelle explained is that there is a very small working group, just 6 members and so they would like some more people to join the group.

The next stage in the process would be a consultation with the local school, the nursery any local groups in the village and then. After that the challenge will be trying to fund the project. There will be time for questions later.

**Cllr Vine-Hall introduced Andy Waters and David Caney who would present the findings and the plans for traffic calming in the village.**

Over the last year the parish council have been able to progress plan to help manage the volume and speed of traffic through the village. Andy Waters reported that without the funding that would be generated by the neighbourhood plan the County Council will not address what is a County wide issue, despite constant calls by residents and parish councils across the County.

Andy Waters thank all the members of the traffic advisory group who have given their time over the last 6 months or more, the group is made up of 4. Parish councillors and 7 non councillors. There are a number of both short and longer term solutions being proposed to implement but it's important that the whole community supports the plan to make it work

David Caney introduced himself and explained that he joined the Sedlescombe Traffic Advisory Group (STAG) in 2018 just after it was formed.

David reported that the group are now able to act on some of the information, which had been gleaned from the various traffic surveys. Over the time between 2006 and 2017, there had been a 400% increase in traffic coming through Sedlescombe, 400% in 10 years. At the assembly last year it was decided that something had to be done. CIL money will be used towards traffic calming measures.

David explained that STAG aims to address the speed and volume of traffic and to do that the group had to identify what the village thought. A survey was designed and delivered to every household in the village.

There will be traffic calming solutions with more details a bit later. The team have discussed some with highways and some amongst themselves but now the team are looking for community support.

The STAG members are available to speak to this evening.

The traffic survey elicited a 50% response, which surprised most of the team and was far more than they expected. 264 people replied to the quite extensive survey major concerns were speed and volume of traffic, but the major concern is HGV 's and preserving the iconic geese. David explained that the village is known around the area as 'the goose village'. One of the geese was lost, to an HGV, just before Christmas.

89% of the respondents want traffic volume and speed reduced. The team would like to have HGV's rerouted, but this may be difficult.

78% of people support a voluntary 20 mile an hour limit which is why we've started and and we will be rolling out the boards from tomorrow.

69% support a permanent speed reduction, there's a possibility that this can be achieved in parts of the village if we everyone works together.

The 30 mile an hour limit could extend up towards the church and it has been discussed with highways including whether chicanes could be fitted.

Other measures that have been considered and discussed are a mini roundabout, perhaps to slow traffic and help traffic flow at Breed Lane Junction with The Street, Chicanes in the village centre and CCTV which got quite a lot of support and which may well be something that we look at in conjunction with neighbourhood watch. 86 people told the parish council that they want them to control the roads.

David went on to report that HGV's are a significant problem and explained how damaging HGV's are compared to a normal one ton family car. According to highways science, using a calculation called 'The generalized power of 4' an HGV is 163,840 times more damaging than a one ton family car.

The longer term measures that the parish council are looking to implement with the CIL money will be chicanes and an official 20 mile an hour limit rather than the voluntary one which we're trying to try to get people to adopt. But in order to get the official one. The group need to work with ESCC Highways, but also need the residents to adopt 20 miles an hour so that we can get data, which shows that the speed going through the street is below 25 miles an hour on average. At the moment. It's about 28. So very close but we need to show highways that we can get to 25 and then we can apply for a 20 mile an hour speed limit, which is what people have asked for now.

David explained that if a human body is hit by a car travelling at 20mph it is 8 times more likely to survive than if it is hit at 30 mph.

The voluntary go slow signs will be going into the village in the coming days.

They'll be stag members are ready to take names of everybody who wants to help. It involves everybody and can't be done without everybody. Please volunteer.

Cllr Vine-Hall asked everybody to think about driving through the village at 20mph.

#### **4. Prize Draw for Sedlescombe Volunteers.**

Cllr Vine-Hall explained that the next item was to draw the volunteer prize, which is a dinner for 2 at the Queen 's head. The winner was announced in the meeting. Roy Chapman thanked all the volunteers who had helped over the year, noting that it was much appreciated.

#### **5. Question and Answer Session**

Cllr Vine-Hall asked all presenters as well as the district and county cllrs to come to the front of the hall to take questions.

A resident asked Bruce Garrod what type of organization PGL is.  
Bruce clarified that PGL is a private company.

A resident asked if the STAG group had thought about having some car stickers printed so that people supporting the go Slow could have them in their back window. This would allow the driver behind to understand why they are driving at 20mph.

A resident asked, having been involved in the traffic side of the village for a few years now and having been a parish councillor about 5 years ago, why things do not seem to have moved on. He asked if a county councillor could explain why they are not supporting the parish council.

Cllr Carl Maynard replied, He stated that he is very keen to make sure the parish Council achieve their aims. STAG have done a superb job of condensing the really important issues in the last year that report is doing a pretty good job and explained to the audience that there are conversations going on behind the scenes with the senior officers at the county council. Cllr Maynard went on to explain that he had asked if there were any short-term options to help protect the geese using signage.

Cllr Vine-Hall asked Cllr Maynard if it was the case that if all county councillors voted to make all rural villages 20mph area it could simply happen. He highlighted that speeding is a major problem in every village across East Sussex and across the whole country.

Cllr Maynard replied that this is not the case. It needs to be agree with the police and the county council will only sanction a reduction in the speed limit where it can be proven that drivers are already driving below the current speed limit. Cllr Maynard also expressed a view that unless the lower speed limit is enforced it will not happen. He also commented that there would need to be physical changes to the environment.

Next question. A resident asked how the required data would be collected.

David Caney replied that there are plans to purchase and install, in in various locations, a device which has a dual use. It can be used as a flashing sign to warn drivers that they are going too fast. It's produced by a company called Evolus they can be seen on motorways, particularly in France, if drivers are observing the correct speed a green smiley face is on the screen but if drivers are going too fast there is a red gloomy face and the driver's speed is also illuminated.

The other use with that function either on or off is to collect data automatically, it records every vehicle that comes through it logging the speed and the time and it's a recognised source of data.

Next question.

A resident asked whether it would be possible to have the road signs denoting a 30mph speed limit, when entering the village, changed to 20mph.

Unfortunately, this is not possible because that's an official highway sign and the speed limit in the village is officially 30 miles an hour. Until the actual speed limit is changed those signs show the mandatory speed limit.

One problem we have in Sedlescombe, on The Street in particular, is that it's the shortest route from Hawkhurst to Hastings, particularly with HGV's it takes 28 minutes from The Moor in Hawkhurst to get to Hastings if you go down the A21 it takes about 34 minutes, so we have to add 6 minutes or more to that journey time in order for it to be less convenient for HGV's to turn off at The Moor. Sedlescombe village needs to be inconvenient for people who want to use it as a bypass.

Next Question.

A resident asked a further question after encountering a large HGV on an inappropriate road. He had let her know he was following his satnav.

David Caney replied that there is a specific HGV SATNAV available to prevent this, It may well have been that the driver wasn't using HGV specific sat NAV.

Cllr Vine-Hall reminded the meeting that David Caney had asked for volunteers to be able to set up a traffic eye to collect data. The Parish Council have been writing to companies asking that HGV's do not come through Sedlescombe but the way to collect all the data needed is for people to stand there and collect the details of which companies are using it and then ask them not to. Sometimes companies will tell their drivers to use a different route, for example since the incident with the goose, that company seems to have rerouted their lorries.

Next Question.

A resident asked if PGL would be generating some jobs locally.

Bruce Garrod replied that once the plans were in place for opening then PGL would be recruiting. He was asked how many people the site would employ. He responded that it would vary according to the time of the year but the company intend to be an active part of the community.

Bruce was asked about whether the company would require a planning change of use for the site. At this time PGL didn't consider that would be necessary.

Next Question

A resident asked whether the 50mph sign after the village hall could be removed.

Cllr Vine-Hall replied that when development occurs at the North of the village, the 30 mile an hour zone will be pushed out quite a way. One of the challenges, which has been ongoing for years, is the corner around the church. Some of the harder challenges for the STAG group are dealing with the issues outside the centre of the village, for example Stream Lane is a rat run, with the additional challenges presented by the fact that Stream Lane speed limit is national speed limit, the B2244 is 50mph and the other end of that the A 21 is 40mph.

## 6. The Door Prize Draw

Charlotte was asked if she would be kind enough draw the door prize which is a dinner for two at the Brick Wall Hotel. Cllr Vine-Hall thanked the Brick Wall hotel for donating the prize.

Cllr Vine -Hall thanked everybody for coming and all the presenters and formally closed the meeting.

## Volunteers

Sedlescombe Parish Council is grateful to every single one of our fantastic volunteers. Your valuable support throughout the year has helped in so many ways and we would like to share with our community some of those tasks.....

Tackling minor repair jobs with Cllr. Chapman such as -  
Riverside Playground and MUGA

- Checking the trees to make sure they are in good shape
- Keeping the MUGA clean – clearing leaves and debris
- Keeping the play equipment in good repair – replacing swing seats

East View Kickabout area

- Cutting back the hedges
- Boundary fencing repairs

Village Green

- Maintaining the growing number of flower tubs
- Repairing vehicle damage to the grass
- Checking the trees are in good order and not a public danger
- Keeping the Pump House in good repair and tidy and adding the lights for Christmas

Red Barn Field

- Upkeep of the meadow help to increase the range and number of flowers that it supports, increasing the quantity and quality of foraging habitat
- doing general ground maintenance and looking after the fruiting hedgerows

We also have an amazing group of volunteers who deliver this Annual Report and Directory, and Bulletins (three times a year) to every household in the Parish. Thank you, volunteers!

If you would like to be involved as a Parish Council volunteer, we would be pleased to hear from you. Just contact our Parish Clerk on ☎: 07531 065469 or by email [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

The Councillors also inspect the Sports Pavilion and Sports Ground Riverside Playground, MUGA and Kickabout area at East View Terrace where many of the above repairs are identified on a weekly rota basis.

### Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

This area is managed by the Parish Council on behalf of the Sedlescombe Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Trust.

Any ball game can be played on the MUGA and the general public use will remain free.

Group bookings or commercial use should be booked through the Parish Clerk.

The cost for 2021 is £12 per hour.

Please note there is no parking on the site.

Please park in the road or in the public car park a short distance away in Brede Lane.

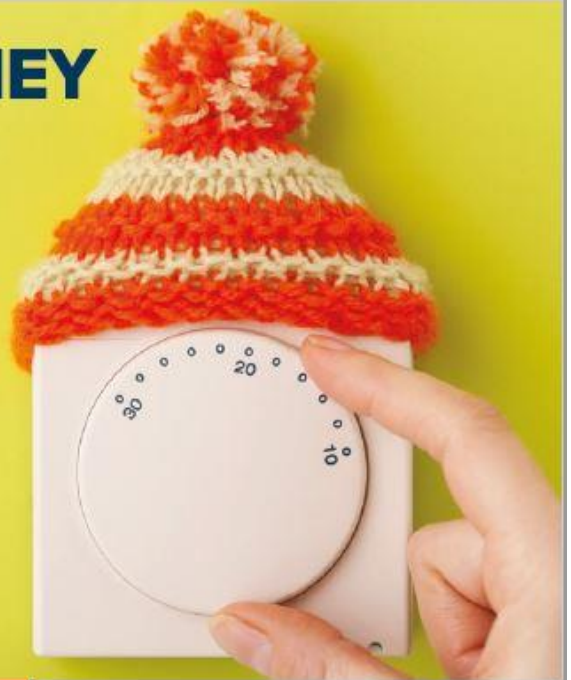
(Public toilets are also available here).

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- **Visit** 🌐: [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut) - type in their postcode to view our live power cut map
- **Tweet** @ukpowernetworks to report a power cut or to receive updates.

Stay clear of power lines and report damaged power lines immediately by calling 📞: **105** free from either a landline or a mobile phone. Electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public should be reported on 📞: **999**.

**Priority Service Register** during a power cut, households with **older** or **disabled people**, those with **children under five**, or where someone uses **medical or mobility equipment** that requires electricity as well as other reasons can join the register. You can find out more information about our Priority Service on our website: [ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](http://ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority).

@UKPowerNetworks provides free services to vulnerable customers. For more information visit 🌐: [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority)

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Sedlescombe Parish Council

📞: 07531 065 469

✉️: [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

🌐: [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk)

## Meet Your Councillors.

**Jonathan Vine-Hall - Chairman of the Parish Council and Independent Rother District Councillor.**

**Contact: ☎: 07973 129505 Hurst House, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PE**



Jonathan joined the Parish Council in August 2010, has been its Chairman since May 2012. Jonathan is an ex-officio member of every committee and is actively involved in all aspects of the Parish Council's work representing the Council on a number of related bodies. Jonathan has lived in Sedlescombe since 2003 and farms Hurst Estate between Brede Lane and Cripps Corner. He is also Chairman of Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare and has 3 rescue dogs and 3 rescue horses and 1 rescue cat. Jonathan is also the Independent District Councillor for Sedlescombe, Westfield and Three Oaks sits on the Rother District Council Cabinet as lead member for planning and is Chairman of the Rother District Planning Committee.

**Pauline Glew - Vice-Chairman of Parish Council,**

**Chairman of Finance Committee and Chair of Red Barn Working Group**

**Contact: ☎: 01424 870258 Kagiso, 36 Park Shaw, Sedlescombe TN33 0PP**



Pauline joined the Parish Council in 2003 and is an ex-officio member of all Committees. She is Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee. She is the Parish Council's representative on RALC and runs the Sedlescombe Lift Scheme and is chair of the Red Barn Field working Group, the Spring Fayre Committee and is Treasurer of the Friendship Club.

Her leisure time is taken up working voluntary for the National Trust for 22 years and trying to keep pace with 4 daughters, 13 grandchildren aged between 22 and 33 and 3 great grandchildren.

**Roy Chapman - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 01424 870520 Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0RR**



Roy was elected to the Parish Council in May 2011. He is a member of the Planning, Finance, Emergency Planning Advisory and Red Barn Working Group Committees. Roy co ordinates all the village volunteers and ensures that the village is well maintained. Roy has lived in and been associated with Sedlescombe and its surrounding areas for more than 40 years and ran his own building business here. He is Chairman of Battle Writers Group. His interests include photography, the arts and conservation.

**Peter Anson - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 01424 870862 Durhamford, Stream Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PB**



Peter joined the Parish Council in 2012. He is a Member of the Finance Committees. He is Council's representative on the Sedlescombe Sports Association Committee, Peter is a retired Chartered Surveyor and spent almost 50 years in the property business specialising in property investment, development and planning. He has lived in Sedlescombe for over 20 years and is Chairman of the Restholme Trust. Peter enjoys gardening, fishing, cricket watching & entertaining grandchildren, the latter for limited periods!



**Sallyann Sidgwick - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 01424 871081** Stream Farm, Stream Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PB  
Sally was co-opted to the Parish Council in November 2017. She is Secretary of Sedlescombe Restholme Trust, and works locally as a self-employed bookkeeper. Sally moved to Sedlescombe in 1998 and in her spare time enjoys country walks with her dog .



**David Caney - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07831 663321** Summer Cottage The Street, Sedlescombe TN33 0QQ  
David joined the Parish Council in September 2018. He has lived in Sedlescombe for 4 years. David served as a governor at Saleshurst Primary school. He is an active member of the Traffic Advisory Committee.



**Beverley Coupar - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 01424** Voles, Moat Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0ZR  
Beverley was co-opted to the Parish Council in December 2019. She moved to Sedlescombe with her husband and 2 young children in 2016. She is a member of Sedlescombe Traffic Advisory Group and the Sedlescombe Community Speedwatch Group. She also plays an active role in Sedlescombe Primary School PTA. Her interests include gardening and cooking.



**Jackie Saull-Hunt - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07531 065 469** Hurst Cottage, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe, TNN33 0PE  
Jackie was co-opted on to the Parish Council in June 2020 She has lived in Sedlescombe for almost 20 years and has been an active part of village life including mother and toddler groups, the preschool as well as the local primary school. Her main interests include running around the local footpaths especially with various kids in tow, and swimming in the local rivers as well as a lifelong interest in plants



**Nicola Moore- Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 01424 870970** 1 Oaklands Park , Sedlescombe TN33 0FB  
Nicola has lived in Sedlescombe for the last 8 years she was co-opted onto the Parish Council in March 2021. She is a Chartered Accountant and is looking forward to the opportunity of getting more involved in village life. As a keen environmentalist, Nicola is passionate about the AONB and is a strong believer in the conservation and protection of both the natural and historic conservation sites which the village is fortunate enough to have been awarded.



**Jackie Scarff - Parish Clerk / Financial Officer**

**Contact: ☎: 07531 065 469** The Red House, Lower ST Ninfield TN33 9ED.  
Jackie joined as Parish Clerk/RFO to Sedlescombe PC in October 2018. She is currently employed by the Parish Council for 15 hours per week. Jackie lives in Ninfield with her husband and 3 children aged 20, 19 and 13.



**Carl Maynard -Rother District and East Sussex County Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07500 224869** Dines Wood, 22 Baldslow Down, Westfield, TN37 7NH  
Carl was elected councillor for Brede Valley and Marsham in 2005 has been a ward councillor on Rother District Council since 1999. His current Committee Membership is: Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Cabinet, East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, ESBT Strategic Commissioning Board and Full Council.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020-21, DRAFT 2020-21 & BUDGET 2021-22**

All amounts are GBP		Final 2019-20	Draft 2020-21*	Budget 2021-22
<b>I N C O M E</b>	Precept on District Council	51,314	57,184	57,184
	Agency income from Authorities	0	0	
	Interest and investment income	0	23	
	Grant Income	132	6,814	
	Sale of footpath leaflets / Parish maps	53	0	
	Sale of advertising - Annual Directory	558	0	
	CIL	0	0	
	Other Income	177	0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>52,234</b>	<b>64,021</b>	<b>57,184</b>	
<b>E X P E N D I T U R E</b>	Allowance	0	200	200
	Printing	467	331	1,500
	Audit	413	452	460
	Computer and Software	1,438	817	600
	Website	6	0	500
	Election Expenses	158	0	600
	Hall Hire	374	26	350
	Insurances	1,973	1,827	1,920
	Professional Fees	993	77	
	Bank Charges	0	54	300
	Phone & Broadband	139	342	380
	Postage	80	25	250
	Stationery	28	350	400
	Subscriptions	558	566	610
	Training	175	60	500
	Travel	0	0	100
	Clerk Employment	14,532	15,662	14,104
	Grants and Prizes	4,498	787	150
	Loans and Repayments	4,643	4,643	4,650
	Grounds Maintenance	2,951	2,708	4,000
	Trees	1,496	0	2,000
	Section 137 payment	85	20	20
	Dog Bins	371	390	410
	Traffic Calming	11,983	0	1,000
	Speed Watch	0	0	1,000
	Prof Playground Inspections	65	68	80
	Maintenance of Assets	1550	1241	14,000
	Red Barn Field	0	450	500
	East View Kickabout Area	0	0	0
	Village Green Assets	0	0	2,000
	Sportsfield Car Park	0	0	300
	Equipment			3,000
Bus Shelter	0	0	1,000	
Brede Lane Car Park	0	0	300	
Riverside Playing Area	0	0	0	
Multi-Use Games Area	0	0	0	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,978</b>	<b>31,096</b>	<b>57,184</b>	

	All amounts are GBP	Final 2019-20	Draft 2020-21*
R	Contingency Reserves	25,686.63	30,000
E	Earmarked Reserves		
S	Maintenance of Assets	7,000	7,000
E	MUGA	9,500	9,500
R	Red Barn Field	3,000	4,550
V	Red Barn Field Grant Income	1,309	1,309
E	Riverside Playground	10,700	13,700
S	Traffic Calming	3,967.67	4,967.67
	Speedwatch	0	2,000
	Street Farm	11,000	11,000
	CIL	11,700	11,700
	Brede Lane Carpark	600	900
	Legal Fees	3,300	3,300
	Bus Shelter	1,100	2,100
	Sportsfield Pavilion	0	0
	Sportsfield Carpark	400	400
	EVT Kickabout.	5,000	10,000
	Youth Funding	0	6813.97
	Trees		1,000
	<b>Reserves Balances as at 31st March</b>	<b>94,263.30</b>	<b>120,240.64</b>

\*NB. These are Draft figures are to the end of March 2021 and may change for the year end.

## Responsible Financial Officer's (RFO) report.....

The Parish Council applies for funding from Rother District Council on an annual basis following agreement of the budget. The amount awarded is known as the annual precept and is the Parish Council's main source of funding. The Councillors felt it was important not to raise the precept for residents after what has been a very challenging year for some people.

### Income

- Following the closure of the Youth Club the funds have been donated to the Parish Council for safekeeping and to be used in connection with the young people in the village.

### Expenditure

Every year there are some one-off costs to contend with, some of the planned activities were curtailed due to the health pandemic and some of the planned budget was to be placed in Ear Marked Reserves to ensure that we have monies available to look after our assets.

- The planned speed assessments required to push forward the project to reduce the speed limit in the village had to be delayed due to the pandemic.

If you have any questions regarding the financial statement for the Parish Council, please feel free to contact The Parish Clerk/RFO [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

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## AUTHOR

### **Mrs Julia Chapman**

Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe  
01424 870520

Author of the following books about  
Sedlescombe.....

#### **'LIFE THROUGH THE LENS'**

A Pictorial history of the village

#### **'HOP-SCOTCH & SPINNING TOPS'**

The history of the old Primary School

#### **'THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES'**

Memories of local people

Books can be purchased at the local shop or  
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## Garden Centre

Sedlescombe  
News

The Sedlescombe News brings you a weekly round-up of the news and events in the Village and is available to purchase from the Village Shop for 20p or £10pa to receive 50 weekly copies by email. Items for inclusion can be left in the Village Shop by 12 noon on Wednesdays. **Entries are FREE.** The Editorial team is totally voluntary, and they are always on the lookout for additional helpers. If you are interested in being involved, please contact ☎ 870258.

Village Voice  
Battle  
Observer

The Village has its own village voice column published in the local Battle Observer which comes out every Friday. It provides information on Sedlescombe, local events, groups and organisations. There is no charge for this promotion. If you have an event coming up in the local area or would like to have a small piece outlining your club or organisation aims, activities, membership etc., then please drop your information into Asselton House, The Green or send via e-mail ✉: [judy@asselton.co.uk](mailto:judy@asselton.co.uk) or call ☎ 01424 870344

Notice  
Board

Items for posting on the Parish Council notice board outside the shop may be left in the Sedlescombe Village Shop or sent by email to the Parish Clerk at ✉: [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

Parish  
Council  
Website

Sedlescombe Parish Council website [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk) is as useful source of information. The current website continues to be updated with the work of Sedlescombe Parish Council is compatible with most media devices. Sometimes it is useful to use the search facility to find the information you are looking for , but please feel free to contact the clerk if you can't find what you need.

Sedlescombe  
Jobs Network

The Sedlescombe Jobs Network has been active since 2014 and has publicised many job opportunities. The network also offers a platform for organisations who are seeking volunteers. Village news and events are also being promoted. Contact: Michelle Brister ☎: 01424 870589 ✉: [michelle.brister@btinternet.com](mailto:michelle.brister@btinternet.com) Facebook users search for 'Sedlescombe Jobs Network' page and 'Like' to receive information and post updates.

Litter  
Pickers

The Parish Council have been asked to provide litter pickers for volunteers to borrow. If you would like to do some litter picking contact Pauline Glew for more details. ☎: 01424 870258

Lift Scheme

The Parish Council runs an informal lift scheme to help Sedlescombe residents who find it difficult to attend hospital/surgery appointments because of lack of transport. A list of names of drivers willing to provide lifts can be found on the Parish Councils noticeboard outside the village shop and at the Doctors Surgery on Brede Lane. Those wanting lifts should simply telephone anyone on the list and pay the driver. Contact Pauline Glew ☎: 01424 870258 if you would like to become a lift scheme driver.

Battle Area  
Community  
Transport

Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) was founded in 1999 in response to the need for regular transport serving the inhabitants of rural areas of East Sussex. Bus services serving Sedlescombe can be found online or for further details. Contact ☎ 01424 870955 (mon-Fri 9-12) ✉: [bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk](mailto:bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk) 🌐: [www.bact-online.co.uk](http://www.bact-online.co.uk)

Public Transport

Stagecoach Bus Service 349: 2-hourly daytime service details Contact ☎ 08702 433711 / General 0345 6080194 🌐: [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

Sussex Police

Sedlescombe, Ewhurst, Staplecross, Cripps Corner and Bodiam neighbourhood area' comes under the **Rother district**. The nearest Police Station is in North Trade Road, Battle. TN33 0EX. ☎: 101 or 01273 470 101. ✉: [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) To report a crime or incident call Sussex Police ☎101 or report online <https://www.sussex.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/> For your local team please call or email.

✉: [rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk) ☎: 01273 404934 🌐: [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

Crime Stoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent charity helping law enforcement to locate criminals and help solve crimes. They have an anonymous 24/7 phone number, **0800 555 111** to pass on information about crime; alternatively anonymously fill in their 'Giving Information Form' 📄: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/>.

For more information visit their website at 🌐: [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Rother District Council

Rother District Council can provide help on a range of issues such as Benefits, Planning, Bus Passes, Council Tax, Data Protection, Dead Animals, Elections, Food Hygiene, Freedom of Information, Grants, Housing, Jobs, Land Charges, Licensing, Parking, Pest/Dog Control, Planning, Pollution/Noise, Road/Pavements and Waste/Recycling.

☎: 01424 787000 ; ☎: 01424 787686 (out of hours). 🌐: [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)

✉: [customerservices@rother.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rother.gov.uk); 📄: Rother District Council. Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3JX

East Sussex Highways

East Sussex Highways is a partnership between CH2M, Costain and East Sussex County Council. They maintain over 2,000 miles of highway in East Sussex and look after roads, pavements, streetlights, grass and winter maintenance. Problems from Potholes to Overhanging Trees can be reported via: 🌐: [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com) Customer contact centre ✉:

[customer@eastsussexhighways.com](mailto:customer@eastsussexhighways.com)

☎: 0345 608 0193

Rother Member of Parliament

The Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle is **Huw Merriman MP**

**Constituency Office contact:** 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill on Sea, E. Sussex, TN40 1EE

☎: 01424 736861 ✉: [huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk)

House of Commons contact: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

☎: 0207 219 1852 ✉: [huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk)

Battle Library

**Battle Library** at 7 Market Square, Battle offers Books, audio books and DVDs. Free computers with Internet access. Opening times @ 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as follows: -

**Tues: 10am-3pm. Wed: 10am-12.30pm. Thurs: 11am – 5pm. Fri & Sat: 10am-4pm**

Free Wi-Fi. Local history material. Photocopier. Bus pass forms for older people. Bus travel discounts for young people. Disabled access. Display facilities. Computer help from volunteers Wednesday 10.30am to 12 noon. Thursdays 12 noon to 2pm – available in library or book in advance. **Contact:** ☎: **0345 60 80 196**

### Allotments

Private allotments at rear of Bulmer Lodge, The Green.

Contact Reg Glew ☎: 01424 870258

### Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Where: Events held at Sedlescombe Village Hall

Contact: Chairman Rosemary Farley ☎: 01424 870533

Membership Secretary Brenda Page ☎: 01424 870455

Website: [www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk)

Shows, outings, plant exchange and social events throughout the year. Contact as above or see Shop Notice Board for dates/times.

Anyone with an interest in any aspects of gardening is welcome to join at only £9 per person per year (£12 for Family membership).

### Badminton

Where : Sedlescombe Village Hall

When: Tuesdays Time: 7.30pm

Contact: Shirley Davies ☎: 01424 870475

### Chapel Hill Church (United Reformed)

Where: Chapel Hill Sedlescombe TN33 0QX

When: Sundays Time: 10:30 am

Contact: Marie Jackson Local Church Leader ☎: 01424 870512 or ☎: 07842 145341

The CHAPEL can be opened by arrangement for visits, contemplation and quiet times. Everyone is welcome to draw near in faith. We are a friendly bunch who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, do come along and find out more 😊 The Chapel is well heated, and seats 45; there is a fitted screen, organ, and a small side room with seating for up to 12; this is fitted with a modern kitchen. Toilet facilities are available. The premises are for HIRE to village groups under certain conditions. Contact the Church Secretary Peter Jackson ☎: 01424 870512 for more information.

### Sedlescombe Church Bellringers

Where: Parish Church

When: Every Wednesday Time: 7.30pm

Contact: Jane Blanford ☎: 01424 751298

### Sedlescombe Book Club

If you enjoy reading, sharing your enthusiasm for a good read and the idea of a monthly meet up over a cup of tea with a small informal and friendly group, then please get in touch with Glynis on ✉: [gds01620@gmail.com](mailto:gds01620@gmail.com) or ☎: 01424 870804

### Sedlescombe Dance Club

Where : Northiam Village Hall

When: Most Fridays throughout the year Time: 7.30-10.00pm

Contact: Les Gordon ☎: 01424 424763

New members from the experienced to the novice, are given warm welcome & established members are always happy to help newcomers to settle in.

### Friends of Sedlescombe Parish Church Heritage Trust

Contact: Judy Torrance ☎: 01424 870344 to become a friend.

This charitable trust was established by the late Beryl Lucey for the purpose of assisting in maintenance and restoration of our beautiful 13th century Parish Church and churchyard. It provides a means for anyone in the community to contribute to ensuring the long-term survival of this historic building. Several fund-raising events are organised throughout the year.

### Sedlescombe Friendship Club

Established in 2007, the club was founded with the aim to advance the welfare of the older people and, in particular, to endeavour to counteract loneliness and isolation. Several events will be planned each year including visits to interesting places often with lunch. Our programme also includes computer lessons which take place on a Monday. Dates and times of these and other events will be published in the Sedlescombe News and elsewhere that is appropriate.

Committee: Valerie Wright, Ron Sunderland, Shirley Coleman, Maureen Hayes, Pauline Glew.

### Sedlescombe Guides

1st Sedlescombe Guides is for all girls aged 10 to 14years. We meet weekly during term time for 2 hours. Contact Jo Mozley on ☎: 07739 352148 or ✉: jomozley@hotmail.co.uk

### Lions Club – Battle and Villages

When: 2nd Monday of each month Time: 8.00pm

Contact: ☎: 0845 8335826. Visit the website for Battle & Villages Lions Club

Lions Clubs are an international network of men and women who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities across the world - it is the largest voluntary service organisation in the world. Battle and Villages Lions Club serves the area of Battle and surrounding villages.

### Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch

Contact: Danny Blay ☎: 01424 871669

Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch: Offers home security advice. Loans an engraving appliance free of charge. Will pay the installation charge and first month's rent for Lifeline for Sedlescombe residents.

### Parish Church - St John The Baptist

What: Family Friendly Service without Eucharist - 1st Sunday in the month\*

Parish Eucharist - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday in month

Joint Benefice Service with Whatlington -5th Sunday in the month.

When: 10.30 am. (\* Eucharist available at Whatlington at 9.30am 1st Sunday in month)

Contact: Vicar Fr. Kevin Mepham ☎: 01424 870471

Churchwarden Trevor Palmer ☎: 01424 870830

Churchwarden Jane Wallis ☎: 01424 870240

### Sedlescombe Players

Contact: Chairman Tara Buchanan ☎: 01424 870694  
Email ✉: sedlescombeplayers@hotmail.co.uk  
Website 🌐: www.sedlescombeplayers.co.uk

The Players are a friendly, welcoming group, with a strong membership of all ages and a core production crew. We tackle a wide variety of productions, aiming for 2 a year, and rehearse in the hall on Monday nights. Actors come and go, and return, depending on the genre of show and newcomers are always welcome both onstage and backstage. At the moment, we are **actively looking for** an additional set designer and builder.

### Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club

Contacts: Chairman Nick Gardner ☎: 07809 562448  
Secretary Matt Noonan  
Charter Standard Coordinator – Chas Tibbutt on ☎: 07855 374886  
Email: ✉: info@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk  
Website: 🌐: www.sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk

Based at Oaklands Park, Sedlescombe, our football club offers football for all age groups from U6s to U18s within the youth section and tiered senior and veteran teams. All teams have fully certified coaches and are supported by a committee that includes a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Charter Standard Coordinator and two Club Welfare Officers.

Matches take place on both Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season, along with our own tournament that is held each year in July.

Training is spread across a number of venues and days each week, with the winter period utilising all weather surfaces at various schools in the area before moving to Oaklands during the spring.

We always welcome new players and volunteers across the club, particularly at entry age, so please contact us for further information.

### Rother Seniors Forum

The Rother Seniors' Forum (RSF) was established 2006 as an independent organisation giving a collective voice to the over fifties of Rother District. RSF is strictly no part-political and will work with all bodies to the benefit of all Rother Seniors.

Contact: Ron Sunderland ☎: 01424 870801

### Royal British Legion, Sedlescombe Branch

The local branch of the British Legion is active in supporting the welfare of ex-service personnel and their families in the area and runs the annual Poppy Appeal. Membership is open to all who wish to support this noble and important cause irrespective of age and whether supporters have served in the forces or not. The annual subscription is £18.50. If you would like to join, help with the Poppy Appeal or know of someone who might need RBL help please contact the Secretary.

When: The first Wednesday in most months at 10:30

Where: The Queens Head Sedlescombe.

Contact: Chairman: John Page. ✉: rbl.sedlescombe@gmail.com ☎: 01424 870455  
Secretary: Peter Jackson. ✉: shernold@hotmail.com ☎: 01424 870512

### Sedlescombe Brownies

1st Sedlescombe Brownies is for all girls aged 7 to 10 years

For more information please contact Andrea Hunneman ☎: 01424 424112

### Sedlescombe Short Mat Bowls Club

.....established June 2006

Where: Sedlescombe Village Hall (3 bowling mats)  
When: Meets each Tuesday and Thursday. Time: 2.00-4.30pm  
Contacts: Chairman Trevor Palmer ☎: 01424 870830  
Vice-Chairman Bea Morris ☎: 01424 777048  
Secretary Chris Escott ☎: 07753 252449  
Treasurer Eve Bradbury ☎: 01424 870401

Contact any of the above for further information.

### The Breakaways

Where: Sedlescombe Village Hall Committee Room  
When: Every 3rd Thursday in the month Time: 10.00 until 12.00  
We are a new group of ladies from the village who meet once a month and we will be having demonstrations and talks by local villagers as well as other speakers.  
Refreshments will also be available and new members/visitors will always be welcomed.  
For further information please contact Mrs. Rosemary Farley ☎ 0142 870533.

### Sedlescombe Theatre Club

New members always welcome.  
For information please contact:  
Shirley Davies ☎: 01424 870475 or Jenny Mainwood ☎: 01424 871445

### Thursday Club

Where: Committee Room, Sedlescombe Village Hall  
When: 1st Thursday in every month except August. Time: 10:00 to 12:00  
Contacts: Ken Western ☎: 01424 870824. Brenda Page ☎: 01424 870455  
Speakers on a variety of interesting topics. Meetings are open to all and refreshments are available.

### Sedlescombe Village Hall

[www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk) also on Facebook @sedlescombevillagehall  
The Venue for your events, party, fundraiser, celebration, class, group or gathering.

Group and individual hire, one-off or regular booking  
Main Hall \* Fully equipped stage \* Excellent kitchen facilities  
\* Meeting room \* Car Parking \* Wi-Fi

Tables \* chairs \* crockery \* cutlery \* glassware to cater for up to 100 at tables,  
150 seated in rows.

Check availability on the website Diary page and full details of this fantastic Community Venue.

Book Now, ✉: [sedlescombevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sedlescombevillagehall@gmail.com)

### Community Cinema

Community Cinema at Sedlescombe Village Hall.

A film every month on a Thursday evening, £5 entry on the night. See some all-time favourite films on out big screen.

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm, licenced bar, snacks and drinks, free parking.

Sedlescombe Village Hall, Church Hill, Sedlescombe, TN33 0QP

[www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk)

### Sedlescombe Wine Club

We are a very friendly group of wine lovers who meet once a month for great wine tastings and talks mostly in the village hall. Become a member, annual subscription is £35 per person. Major event and outside visits extra. All events at 7.30pm on a Friday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

Guest members are welcome and can pay a fee of £7.50 for each event attended.

Contact: Anne Capon ☎: 01424 870836

### Sedlescombe & Westfield Patient Involvement Group

The Patient Involvement Group(PIG) is a small group of volunteers who meet every 6 weeks to talk about key issues regarding the Practice. There is a virtual group through which members can keep in touch. If you would like to know more about the Patient Involvement Group or are interested in joining

Email: ✉: [sedwest.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:sedwest.ppg@nhs.net) or check the website

<https://www.sedlescombeandwestfieldsurgeries.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-pig/>

### Sedlescombe and Westfield GP Surgeries

Part of the Rural Rother Primary Care Network Sedlescombe Surgery is a partnership of GPs working from two sites, in the villages of Sedlescombe and Westfield in rural East Sussex. Our aim is to provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for all our patients whilst also providing high levels of up-to-date clinical care across a wide range of services. The Surgery has an open list and welcomes requests for registration from patients living in or moving to the practice area. On registration patients are given a named GP but you are free to consult whoever you feel can help you best at the time.

☎: 01424 870225

### Tennis Coaching


Nick Montague provides Adult and Junior Tennis Coaching for Sedlescombe and the surrounding areas. Group or individual sessions available at the MUGA.

Contact: Nick on 07824 799 632 / 01424 848 572 or [montaguenick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:montaguenick@hotmail.co.uk)

### Sedlescombe Pre-School

Where Sedlescombe Village Hall- TN33 0QA  
When Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
Time 8.30am-3.00pm, term time only. (Early start also available from 8.30am).  
Contacts ☎: 01424 871455 (07577 644179 – out of hours)

✉: [sedlescombepreschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sedlescombepreschool@yahoo.co.uk)

 Sedlescombe Pre- School

We offer a full range of exciting activities for children aged 2-5 years that encourage their early years development. We accept 2, 3 & 4 year old funding. Contact us to arrange a visit to this wonderful pre-school or pop by to collect a welcome pack.



## Sedlescombe CE Primary School

Where: Gammons Way, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex. TN33 0RQ  
Contact: Mrs. Caroline Harvey – Head Teacher ☎: 01424 870585  
Email: ✉: [office@sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
Website: 🌐: [www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk)

### Welcome from the Head Teacher – Mrs. Caroline Harvey

I would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School. The school was originally founded in 1723 but has been on the existing site since September 1980.

We are a happy and successful, small primary school at the heart of the picturesque village of Sedlescombe. We have a strong ethos of learning built on Christian Values and have good links with St John the Baptist Church in Sedlescombe. We make the most of our rural location with weekly Forest School sessions.

The School has an active Parent Teacher Association providing fun activities for the children while fundraising for the school. The PTA provides essential support in providing resources, treats for the children and equipment for the school.

I hope you will find the information on our website helpful. The best way to find out more is to come and look around. Please feel free to make an appointment and we will be delighted to show you around.



DD Brickwork & Construction is based in East Sussex, and is a well-established, trustworthy and professional company which covers Hastings, Battle, Bexhill-on-sea, Rye and all the surrounding areas. Our service is professional and we care for all of our customers by ensuring our work is of a very high standard. We also make it part of our practice of keeping them fully informed of progress. You can see on our web page that our customer's rate us highly for the quality of workmanship and our ability to meet deadlines. We guarantee a professional service, from the initial free quotation to the end professional finish and we use our skills and knowledge to complete your job to exact standards.

We are very reliable and have worked for many big building companies such as DAVID WILSON HOMES, SILVER HOMES, BLOUR HOMES, R DURTNELL & SONS, PERSIMMONS and have managed several large projects

### **Summary of County Council achievements 2020/21**

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council in 2020/21 (up to February 2021) under the four strategic priorities of the Council. The Council Plan provides further detail of these priorities at:

[Council Plan 2021/22 | East Sussex County Council](#)

The Council Plan for 2018/19 will be on our website from 1st April 2021.

### **Driving sustainable economic growth**

In September 2020, Team East Sussex – a partnership of business, local authority, social enterprise and education representatives published the **East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan** to set out how investment will be used to support businesses hardest hit by the Coronavirus pandemic. £45 million of investment was identified in the plan, including £11.8 million awarded to East Sussex through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership for eight projects across the county including in Newhaven, Eastbourne and Hastings. These projects alone will deliver 445 new jobs and safeguard a further 177 jobs. In addition, the plan sets out how local skills and further education providers have allocated money towards retraining, skills and employability programmes to support those out of work alongside details of Council funding available through the East Sussex Invest programmes to support business growth.

**Transport for the South East (TfSE)**, our partnership of the area's 16 transport authorities approved the 30-year Transport Strategy, which sets out an ambitious 2050 vision for the region with net-zero carbon, sustainable economic growth alongside integrated transport, digital and energy networks. Over 10,000 young people, parents and carers tuned in to a virtual **Careers Hub** event, 'What's Next Sussex', in November 2020, to hear from employers, post-16 colleges and apprenticeship providers. At the end of 2020 the Department for Education performance tables showed that the Council was sixth nationally amongst all county councils, with 1.8% of staff, 200 individuals, currently undertaking an **apprenticeship**. The Council has also supported National Apprenticeship Week (February 2021). As well as highlighting the national campaign, the Council launched a £600,000 Transform programme to support small and medium sized businesses to access apprenticeships.

An 18-month scheme to improve **street lighting** began in October 2020, with additional funding to upgrade 16,000 streetlight units to modern high efficiency LED lights and replace 3,000 ageing concrete street lighting columns. The work will reduce Council energy bills and lower carbon emissions. This project takes the Council closer to achieving its intention to be carbon neutral by 2050 at the latest, as set out in the **Climate Emergency Plan** (February 2020).

Over 140 **carriageway asset improvement schemes** were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2020/21, to maintain and improve the county's roads. This included major road improvement schemes in Crowborough.

Between October and December 2020, the Council consulted on the **East Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**. The plan (which relies on securing external funding) sets out an ambitious network of proposed cycling and walking routes, initially focused on where there is greatest opportunity to increase levels of cycling and walking, including the coastal strip and in larger market towns.

In March 2020, the third **superfast broadband** contract was finalised with BT enabling delivery of a further 5,586 superfast premises by December 2021. In September 2020 it was also announced that the Council was investing £500,000 to support the Government's Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme to help businesses and residents in rural areas to access fast and reliable broadband.

Powers to enforce **parking restrictions** across Rother district transferred to the Council in September 2020, following a significant consultation and legal process. This will enable the Council to ease congestion caused by inconsiderate parking, improve road safety, air quality and increase parking turnover making it easier for people to park.

## Keeping vulnerable people safe

The year 2020/21 has been dominated by the Council's work to keep the most vulnerable residents of the county safe during the **Coronavirus pandemic**. Over 21,000 people have been identified as extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. Staff from across the Council have made calls at different times during the pandemic to these people to ensure support is in place for them. A new food distribution service was set up in April 2020, delivering 8,000 food parcels during the first three months. The Council organised the distribution of PPE across the county to organisations including care providers, GPs and pharmacies. The Council also played a key role in establishing Community Hubs, alongside the district and borough councils and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Public Health worked with the NHS and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to support COVID-19 **testing**, launching a local COVID-19 tracing partnership agreement in November 2020, to support the national test and trace systems. The Council also helped to set up three local testing sites, in Bexhill, Eastbourne and Hastings; numerous locations for Mobile Testing Units; and a Regional Testing Site at Plumpton racecourse.

The Council has been supporting **vulnerable households** with the cost of food, energy and other bills with £1.5 million from the COVID-19 Winter Grant scheme. The funding provided food vouchers, to pupils eligible for free school meals, during the Christmas and February half term holidays. Vouchers were also provided to eligible pupils aged 16 – 19, and 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds attending early years provision who were eligible for pupil premium. By the end of the scheme we will have provided food vouchers to approximately 16,500 pupils. In addition, the Council is awarding grants ranging from £3,000 to £100,000 to several voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to help them continue their vital work.

The Council was the first local authority to place an order for laptops under the Department for Education scheme, to try to ensure that all pupils could continue to learn from home during school closures in the pandemic. During the first lockdown a strong focus on securing school attendance for the most vulnerable pupils meant that East Sussex had one of the highest rates of attendance for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan. **Schools** were then supported to fully open for all pupils in September with 91% of primary schools, 100% of special schools and 58% of secondary schools accessing the Council's support to encourage pupils back to school.

A new **Regional Adoption Agency**, Adoption South East, went live on 1 April 2020, with the Council leading on behalf of Brighton and Hove City Council, West Sussex and Surrey County Councils. The agency hopes to broaden the range and increase the number of people considering adoption. In October 2020, Council leaders signed the **Modern Slavery Pledge**, underlining the Council's commitment to becoming a Slavery Free Community by 2030. Work has also continued to deliver interventions to **safeguard children against serious and organised crime** through, for example, workshops and distribution of guidance around knives and exploitation to students. When schools

reopened in September, 50 workshops were also delivered to primary school pupils on online safety.

In November 2020, Hastings was announced as a pilot area for Project Adder, a £5 million Government initiative the Council is supporting, to help organisations work together to reduce **drug-related deaths and offending**.

### Helping people help themselves

**Reablement services** are provided to help people to regain mobility and daily living skills, especially after a hospital stay. Between April and September 2020 88.8% of older people discharged from hospital to reablement/rehabilitation services were at home 91 days after discharge. Frail adults across East Sussex can also receive Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS), to help manage risks and maintain **independence at home**. TECS includes Telecare, which offers a range of sensors and detectors to meet different needs, such as wearable alert buttons, fall detectors or medication dispensers. At the end of 2020, 8,851 people were receiving TECS.

Work continued on further **integration of health and social care** services to support people during the pandemic, including our out of hospital support and discharge hubs to ensure timely discharge to appropriate care. We have also been developing a **single mental health plan** and programme for East Sussex with agreement that work will be taken forward in emotional wellbeing services, enhancements to community services for adults with personality disorders, eating disorders and rehabilitation and housing and supported accommodation needs.

Over 700 Covid-related calls were made to the Council's **trading standards** team from March to December 2020. The team have issued advice and guidance to a large number of businesses and residents as well as carrying out 158 visits to barbers and hairdressers, homeware stores and garden centres. This is in addition to the team's regular work including for example interventions to protect vulnerable people and delivering EU Exit training.

### Making the best use of our resources

As a result of ongoing lobbying, the Government's November 2020 Spending Review included several provisions that assist our financial position for 2021/22. The Council's **budget** and Council Plan for 2021/22 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 9 February 2021. The budget includes spending of £417 million on services for East Sussex with no new cuts beyond those already considered by the Council last year.

The **Social Value Marketplace** is an innovative platform to help councils leverage their expenditure with suppliers to maximise community benefit. The marketplace enables local charities to request non-financial support from suppliers that are looking to support the community. During the first three quarters of the year, over 30 contracts which qualified for the Social Value Measurement Charter were awarded with a total value of over £35 million. Over £2.5 million of social value commitments were secured as part of these contracts.

The Council's **Hailsham Primary Academy project** won 'Building Project of the Year under £10m' at the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) 2020 Construction Excellences awards in July 2020. The award recognised the completion of the project 11 weeks ahead of schedule, meaning pupils could start the new term in a brand-new school rather than in temporary accommodation. The project also saved 145 tonnes of CO2 and reduced waste by around 39%.

#### Feb-2021

Contact: Alice Pippard: ✉: [alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk)

☎: 01273 481816

## Annual Report 2020/21

As there was no Annual Directory last year, I will try to condense two plus years' worth of reporting backtracking to May 2019.

**May 2019** was a significant month for Rother District Council as after many years the administration changed. The new administration is made up of an Alliance of 14 independents, 7 Liberal Democrats, 3 Labour and 1 Green Party members.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who supported me at the elections as the first Independent in Rural Rother for many years. Having spent the last 6 years working with Rother in my role as Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council I could see change was needed in our District Council. I was appointed as lead member on Strategy and Planning and also Chairman of the Planning Committee. I strongly believe District Councils should not be run by political groups as the role of the District Council is to deliver services as cost efficiently as possible without political bias.

In my role of Chair of Planning my first objective was to make the Planning Committee more accessible to residents and Parish Councils. To this end I introduced changes to make it very easy for both supporters of applications and objectors to speak at the Planning Committee and also for Parishes to have an automatic right to speak. My objective is to bring more transparency to the District Council and for the Council to be more resident focussed. In addition, I have given Parishes and Town Council members free access to the training District Councillors receive on planning to help Parishes understand the constraints of our planning system and to help them make better decisions.

The new Alliance has been working extremely well as despite the 'rainbow' of political views and strength of independents, we are all working to an agreed set of common goals to deliver all the services expected by a District Council in a far more focussed fashion than has happened in the past. It will take some time for the transformation of Rother District Council to take place as we inherited a budget with a significant deficit, a number of contracts which can't be changed easily and some large problematic issues with previously planned projects which would have caused significant financial issues for The District Council. Having said this, strong foundations have been laid in the first year to create a resident focussed Council run by the members with far greater oversight and governance.

Part of my role is to review how the Community Infra structure Levy (CIL) , which is the levy placed on new development, is allocated. The plan agreed by the previous administration took the large majority of funds generated by development in the rural areas like Sedlescombe and reallocated those funds to projects in and around Bexhill. This system was simply unfair, and the review is proposing a much fairer approach to ensuring money for infra structure is available where housing development occurs.

Currently our planning department is undergoing a review to work out how we can make this service significantly more streamlined, efficient, and resident friendly.

Our overall vision in the new corporate plan which I have been very much a part of developing is to:-

### **‘Put residents at the heart of all we do’**

#### **Our key goals are to:-**

1. To deliver more effective services.
2. Help create prosperity and economic development.
3. Increase the supply of affordable homes across the District.
4. Develop plans to protect the natural environment and to tackle climate change.
5. Empower our staff and strengthen our processes and resources.
6. Bring financial stability to the Council.

I am really pleased to be an Independent Councillor and to represent Sedlescombe, Westfield and Three Oaks. I am always happy to help any resident in District Council matters regardless of how small or large.

Please always feel free to contact me on 07973129505 or  
by email at [cllr.jonathan.vine-hall@rother.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jonathan.vine-hall@rother.gov.uk)

Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall

Independent Member for Sedlescombe, Westfield and Three Oaks  
Chairman of Rother Planning Committee  
Lead Member for Strategy and Planning

Plumbing	Hotel
	

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**DISCLAIMER:**

Please note that the inclusion of traders in this Directory neither implies nor confirms that any trader is an approved supplier or contractor to Sedlescombe PC. The Parish Council does not vouch for the financial stability of any company or for its health and safety procedures. All information is provided in good faith to assist consumers in exercising their own best judgment. No guarantee is given or implied as to the accuracy of the information provided.

# Supporting the Riverside Playground Project

*If anyone would like to donate to our fundraising please get in touch.*



## Working hard to update the Playground.

*A small group of volunteers made up of residents and Parish Councillors are raising money to replace the tired and dated play equipment. Various grants are being applied for and we have also raised nearly £2,000 in the last few months, despite the pandemic. Residents were unbelievably generous in donating unwanted or unused items to our children's sale last year, which was a great success. The village school children recently took part in a design competition for the playground, and we had a wonderful array of entries from drawings to actual models! We had some wonderful prizes kindly donated by local company Risus Wholesale for the top 3 designs. A local design company has also donated their services to design signage.*

## The Benefits of Playgrounds

*Fun... Fun... Fun and.....more*

*-emotional, social, mental and physical Benefits.*

*-increased self-esteem, improved collaboration skills, enhanced critical thinking skills, and a strengthened immune system*

*all this when having fun on a mixture of playground equipment.*

*If you would like to get involved contact the Parish Council clerk.*

## Fundraising event.



*Riverside Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Trust  
Chaired by Beverley Coupar with all Parish Councillors as members.*