

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Road Safety Survey

We have received 129 completed road safety surveys from 126 households. It is clear from the results so far that residents continue to have concerns about speeding, parking and pedestrian safety in the village. We are in the process of analysing the responses in detail and considering what can be done to improve safety. In the meantime, we should all endeavour to drive carefully, park considerately and control boundary vegetation (see below).

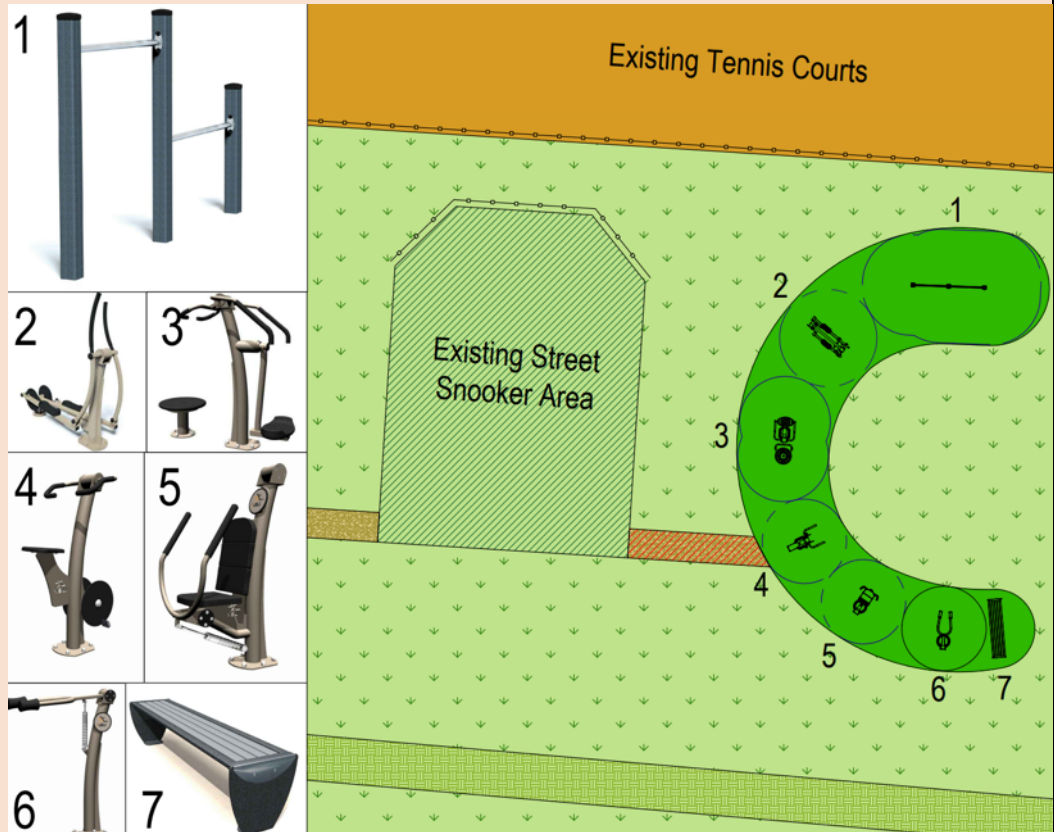
Hedges

We love our trees and hedges, but the Council receives many complaints about vegetation overhanging roads and blocking junctions and pavements. You are **legally required** to keep your hedges and trees cut back to the boundary of your property – to a height of 2.5m by the pavement and 5.1m if they adjoin a road. Even when cut regularly, vegetation in several areas is encroaching onto roads and paths. The Village Council has been given authority by West Sussex Highways to write to you if your hedges need cutting back, and to take further action if the work is not done.

New Gym Equipment for John Pears Field

The Village Council is pleased to announce that a new outdoor gym area will be installed in September at John Pears Field, next to the existing Street Snooker wall. Gym equipment has long been requested by residents and the Council has spent several months speaking to suppliers, visiting different sites, taking advice from officers at Mid Sussex District Council and considering your feedback and suggestions for equipment. The Council has chosen Proludic to supply and install the following items, as shown on the plan below:

1. Metal trim trail senior horizontal bars
2. Elliptical trainer
3. Pendulum and twister
4. Spinning bike
5. Chest press
6. Hydraulic squat
7. Bench



Platinum Jubilee Event

The Village Council would like to thank everyone who came along to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration at John Pears Field on the 2nd June, including those who helped with organisation. The weather was perfect as we enjoyed the children's fancy dress competition, musical entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening and the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon. There was a selection of food and drink available and a wonderful Jubilee cake from the Community Café. The event was funded by the Village Council with the help of a grant from Mid Sussex District Council, reduced fees from PPLPRS, pitch fees from food vendors and stall holders and a generous share of the bar takings. More information and photos can be seen on the website and events facebook page.

A reminder ..

that the Council's compostable dog waste bags are there for you to use if you run out of your own bags while out with your dog. It appears that some individuals are taking them in bulk when they are refilled. This is not acceptable and could result in dispensers being removed altogether.

Mid Sussex Play Days on Tour

This popular event for children and families returns to John Pears Field on Thursday 25th August from 1pm - 3pm. Activities include music, art, circus skills and sports. More information is available from the Clerk.

Annual Return for 2021-2022

The Annual return for the year ending 31st March 2022 has been submitted to the External Auditor. A summary of the income and expenditure for the year is set out below and the full unaudited return is available to inspect at the Council's office by prior appointment. It can also be viewed on the finance page of the Council's website.

Notes to the Accounts

Staff: The Council employs a Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Clerk, Youth Leader, Assistant Youth Worker, Cleaner and Village Handyman. Staff costs include PAYE, pensions and National Insurance payments.

Grants: Grants were awarded to:
4 Sight Vision, The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Ashdown Wood Turners Association,
St Catherine's Hospice, Air Ambulance for Kent, Surrey & Sussex.

Community Equipment includes the purchase of a new bench and a speed indicator device.

Website and Publicity includes new website and email provision

Cash and Investments:

Current Account - £26,651
Public Sector Deposit Fund - £43,201
Pre-paid debit cards - £28

Value of fixed assets: £825,089 – increase due to re-valuation of the Village Centre.

Total borrowings:

(for Council office and meeting room): £128,344

Balances and reserves at start of year: £68,046

Balances and reserves at end of year: £70,253

	£
INCOME	
Precept	70000.00
John Pears Management Agreement	746.00
PV Feed-in tariff	2042.00
Events income	1242.00
Interest	38.00
Total income	74068.00
EXPENDITURE	
Staff costs	39115.00
Loan repayments	9364.00
Office costs and equipment	3561.00
Street Furniture	553.00
Utilities and grounds maintenance	269.00
Street lighting maintenance	1398.00
Street lighting supply	572.00
Insurance	909.00
Subscriptions	1404.00
Grants awarded	1350.00
Travel, training, entertainment	190.00
Building maintenance	342.00
Garden and properties maintenance	362.00
Events costs	1276.00
Website and Publicity	2468.00
Audit	637.00
Dog Bin collections	970.00
Community equipment	6854.00
Youth Club expenses	67.00
John Pears games wall rent	200.00
Total expenditure	71861.00

Your Village Councillors: Jenny Forbes (Chair), David Loveday (Vice-Chair), Trudy Draper, Janet Haite, James Lee, Wayne Owen, Brian Phillips, Bob Spoor, Alice Tyrell. *Councillors can be contacted through the Clerk*
Village Council Clerk: Rebecca Roberts, **RFO/Assistant Clerk:** Samantha Booker
Mid Sussex District Councillor: John Belsey **West Sussex County Councillor:** Jacquie Russell