

Christmas tree recycling...

Once the festivities are over you can take your Christmas tree to either the Recreation Ground, High Street, Handcross or Country Garden Centre, London Road, Handcross and leave it in the marked bay. Trees will be composted locally.

Trees can be left between **Friday 3rd January and Friday 17th January 2014**. Details of other recycling points, and changes to refuse collection days over the holiday period can be found at www.midsussex.gov.uk.



Your Council

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www.slaughampc.co.uk

Winter Newsletter 2013

Slaugham Parish Council

wishes you a

Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

**Handcross,
Pease Pottage,
Warninglid and Slaugham**

Update on the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan (“NHP”)

On November 4th the NHP reached an important milestone when the independent examiner held a hearing in the Parish Hall. The NHP has been slowly completing the necessary legal stages over the last two years, with many residents taking part in the exhibitions, public meetings, village focus groups, formal consultation and workshops needed to ensure that it meets the needs of our Parish and conforms with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Unlike Parish Plans, for example, a Neighbourhood Plan needs to follow the various stages laid down in legislation, and in October Mid Sussex District Council effectively took control of the NHP when they appointed Ann Skippers as independent examiner. If the examiner is satisfied that the NHP has met all the requirements, then MSDC will arrange a referendum for everyone in the Parish to vote on the NHP.

We were expecting to have the examiner’s report in early December, but due to illness she has been unable to deliver it (at the time of writing this), and until she does so the NHP must remain at this stage of the process.

It is important that the NHP continues to progress to give the Parish a secure view of what development is likely in the future. The NHP proposes that up to 130 homes are built in the Parish over the next 20 years, with the emphasis on affordable homes for local people in perpetuity, not just on the first letting. The NHP also sets out proposals for replacing the Parish Hall, superfast broadband, local green spaces and many other issues. The NHP can be viewed on the Parish Council’s website, www.slaughampc.co.uk/Neighbourhoodplan.html or in paper form at the Handcross Hardware Store and other locations across the Parish.

If the NHP passes the examination then YOU will be able to vote for how development in the Parish happens over the next 20 years. Without a neighbourhood plan in place, Parishes will find it increasingly difficult to resist the constant demands for more house building, especially since MSDC’s new District Plan has been delayed in going to its own examination. However MSDC made it clear in their press release (3rd December) that “This decision does not affect neighbourhood planning and the District Council will continue to support Town and Parish Councils as they complete this very important work.”

What happens next with the A23 improvements...

On 17th December Carrillion and the Highways Agency held a briefing to update on how work on the improvements to the A23 are going. By the time you read this the northbound onslip road at Handcross will have reopened on the 20th December, no doubt to the relief of all residents. Work has gone well over the last three months, with the favourable weather ensuring that the works are now on schedule and within budget.

The offslip on the northbound carriageway at Handcross will not reopen until February 2014. All major earthworks on the northbound carriageway have now been completed for the entire length of the scheme, and at the end of January all traffic currently using the southbound carriageway will switch to the northbound. The southbound onslip at the Brighton Road, Handcross will close in January 2014 for 6 months to enable the widened southbound carriageway to be rebuilt and drainage work to be carried out.

The good news is that they certainly anticipate meeting the target date for completion (September / October 2014) – or perhaps even improve on it. Some tree planting and landscaping will continue post completion, with the works site near the Warninglid roundabout probably finally going in 2015.

Santa visits Pease Pottage

On Saturday 14th December the Pease Pottage Residents Association held their annual ‘Carol Singing’ at the Black Swan with proceeds going to Macmillan. Much to the delight of the children Santa dropped by with gifts for all them.



Eliza and Jessica Glassford receive their gifts from Santa.



Nick Dale controls the music, Ron and Joan Cheesman join Santa singing carols.