**AUGUST 2023**

**Village Survey**

The Parish Council carried out a household survey four years ago and from this we identified what residents wanted to see improved and maintained in the village. This then developed into our Action Plan. The time has come to do a new survey so we can develop a new action plan for the next five years. The survey will be distributed to all households soon and we ask you to fill it in and drop it in one of the return boxes (details on the survey forms). The survey will be anonymous. It will also be possible to download a form to fill in online.

**Budget/Precept 2024/25**

Councillors will be starting the process of setting the budget for 2024-5 this autumn. This year we are trying to get more input from residents. To kick off the process we are going to hold a meeting in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th September where there will be a chance to see what the precept is spent on and discuss with Councillors what areas of expenditure you might wish to see changed for the forthcoming year. Following this the budget will be discussed at the Finance and Administration Committee and full Parish Council meetings in the autumn before setting the precept in January 2024. These meetings are all held in public.

**Grants**

The Parish Council gives grants and donations to local groups for projects. This year so far, we have given £5700. There is still the chance for groups to apply for a grant if they need help this year.

**ID Badges**

Members of the Parish Council and the Proper Officer now have identity badges on lanyards. If they are wearing these then they are working for the Council. If you see any of them without their lanyards on, please be aware that they may be off duty. If so, please give consideration to this before discussing Parish Council matters with them.

**DISH – Drop In Social Hub**

DISH continues to be popular and we have decided to try to have at least one councillor present to answer questions or give advice every week. This will be publicised through the FRA email scheme,

online and at DISH, giving details of who is going to be present, so if you have a specific question, you can hopefully put it to the relevant councillor.

Dish is also a great place to arrange to meet up with friends either for a light lunch or refreshments, there is usually cake as well. It is all free although a small donation is gratefully received to help keep it running.

**War Memorial Steering Group**

The War Memorial Steering Group would like to thank everyone who has donated. The total amount raised is moving closer to the new target and the process of getting it installed continues, this will be a worthy tribute for years to come.

**Southern Water Pathfinder Project**

The Pathfinder project led by Southern Water is progressing. They will be sending out letters about “leaky water butts” in the next few weeks.

We strongly urge everyone to take up the offer. They will come and check your downpipes before free supply and installation. Also, you will be able to discuss any questions you might have. All the installers who work for Rescue 2 will have identification, do not be afraid to ask to see it. The water butts can be connected to any existing ones you might have. These butts will help to slow the flow of water in times of heavy rainfall and reduce the problem of sewage overflow in the lower parts of Fairlight. For this to work as many households as possible all over Fairlight need to have them installed. More information and illustrations on how they work will be available on the letters you receive and at DISH.

**Cold Callers**

Can I remind everyone that if they get a “cold caller” that is causing a nuisance, you should ask them to leave, if you can get a number plate and details of their vehicle or a calling card, you can report that to the Police. Any details will help the Police to build up a profile, this may allow them to apprehend the vehicle even if that is in another village. No cold calling signs for your front door can be obtained from DISH.

If you see any suspicious activity, please report it to the Police. The PCSOs patrol areas are based on reported activity. If you don’t report it, then the Police don’t know it has happened. All reports are logged and collated.

**Volunteer Drivers Required**

We are lucky in the village to have several groups whose main aim is to provide a service for specific groups. These groups rely on donations, grants and volunteers to keep running.

Currently, the Friday Lunch Club (MOPPS) is looking for volunteer drivers to help with the pickup and/or drop off of its members. It doesn’t take much time and petrol money will be reimbursed. This saves considerable resources as otherwise taxis need to be hired. If you are interested in giving up to one hour of your time on a Friday please contact Annette Holmes – email - mopps.fairlight@gmail.com

Thank you

Issy Horsley - Chair of Fairlight Parish Council Email: cllrihorsley.fairlightpc@gmail.com