



# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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**Town Clerk – Holly Goring**

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A Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00pm**  
in  
**The Council Chamber, Civic Centre**

## **AGENDA**

### **1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda. Should any Member consider that they require a dispensation in relation to any prejudicial interest that they may have, they are asked to make a written application to the Clerk well in advance of the meeting.

Notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration. The nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

### **2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

### **3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **4.0. MINUTES**

#### **4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

#### **4.2. Action list – For information only (Attached)**

#### **4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only (Attached)**

### **5.0. FINANCE**

#### **5.1. To note bills paid**

#### **5.2. Financial Forecast (Attached)**

### **6.0. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **6.1. (No matters relating to Administration to report at this meeting)**

**7.0. ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1. Strengthening Local Relationships Meetings  
(Attached)
- 7.2. Harlands Farm Pond  
(Attached)
- 7.3. Speed Indicator Device  
(Attached)

**8.0. LEISURE**

- 8.1. Update on the Hughes Way play area  
(Attached)
- 8.2. The Reverend Cardale Memorial  
(Attached)

**9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND TO AGREE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 9.1. Ridgewood Recreation Ground  
(Attached)
- 9.2. Road Safety

**10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- 10.1. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes  
(Attached)
- 10.2. Informal Wealden Line Steering Group
- 10.3. West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group  
(Attached)
- 10.4. Uckfield and District Twinning
- 10.5. Age Concern
- 10.6. Luxford Centre Management Committee  
(Attached)
- 10.7. Uck Valley Flood Forum
- 10.8. Active Uckfield Group  
(Attached)
- 10.9. Wealden Bus Alliance
- 10.10 Millennium Green Trust

**11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Holly Goring**  
**Town Clerk**  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2017

	Apr 16 Actuals £	May 16 Actuals £	Jun 16 Actuals £	Jul 16 Actuals £	Aug 16 Actuals £	Sep 16 Actuals £	Oct 16 Actuals £	Nov 16 Actuals £	Dec 16 Actuals £	Jan 17 Actuals £	Feb 17 Actuals £	Mar 17 Actuals £	Total £	2016/2017 Budget
<b>Income</b>														
Cemetery	3,389	2,169	1,888	4,540	6,807	579	5,840	2,948	2,919	4,335	2,074	2,361	39,849	23,800
Allotments	227	13	89	18	16	(16)	0	5,306	(12)	46	85	(23)	5,749	5,198
Sport Income	(103)	388	50	2,348	0	149	149	69	5,095	138	(69)	59	8,273	7,000
Event Income	0	1,229	(659)	3,552	0	242	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,364	4,365
Delegated Functions	0	0	320	0	0	0	320	0	320	0	0	0	960	0
Delegated Litter Function	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320	320	0
Civic Centre Events	772	1,131	156	444	1,004	1,351	1,776	1,420	321	960	619	775	10,729	4,000
Road Safety	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0
Environment Sundry Income	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	11	100
Roundabout Income	0	873	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	873	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>5,803</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>11,102</b>	<b>7,836</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>8,085</b>	<b>9,743</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>5,479</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>3,492</b>	<b>71,328</b>	<b>44,463</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>														
Street Lights Supply & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,000
Street Light Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,000
Bus Shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	0	0	0	0	68	56
Playing Fields & Pitches	684	15	5,674	3,825	148	522	44	0	340	0	188	1,041	12,481	19,158
Play Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	40	0	715	40	0	319	84	41	0	874	0	216	2,329	2,732
General Equipment Repairs	0	0	107	0	0	0	301	290	0	36	145	8	887	3,189
New Equipment	0	0	795	0	0	0	0	146	0	167	1,311	1,847	4,266	5,000
Grounds Maintenance General	137	128	153	132	211	90	99	113	0	686	433	146	2,328	2,185
West Park/HMLNR & Sites of Interest Working Budget	2	972	3	0	11	50	6	243	0	950	960	80	3,277	3,183
Tractor Maintenance & Running Costs	37	33	42	106	35	40	0	48	0	48	0	40	429	849
Tata Running Costs	40	43	47	45	0	(56)	0	0	0	0	0	0	119	2,163
Fencing	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	189	0	0	198	1,030
Horticulture	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	134	318
Trees	660	330	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	900	0	1,890	4,120
LitterTrade Collection	792	115	0	907	0	71	878	0	0	878	0	20	3,661	3,806
Litter Bins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	520
Corporate Signage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	0	0	0	0	258	258
Festival Tent	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	100
Groundsmens Salaries	8,343	8,981	8,662	8,662	8,662	8,662	8,662	10,670	8,662	8,662	8,662	8,662	105,952	125,439
Clothing-Corporate & Protective	76	0	17	0	0	0	62	150	0	53	0	92	450	1,000
Graffiti Removal	0	0	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	60
Town CCTV	41	865	41	40	41	41	40	41	40	41	41	39	1,311	4,000
Road Safety Week	675	0	521	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,196	1,600
Civic Centre Events	335	1,305	600	0	49	0	136	995	2,789	22	45	156	6,432	3,000
Floral Displays	0	70	0	0	0	0	310	0	408	0	0	0	788	4,005
Cemetery	95	1,289	196	372	2,076	133	1,012	413	786	1,415	640	0	8,427	6,901
Allotments	236	25	0	0	9	60	1,317	0	0	0	0	48	1,695	1,854
Hire of Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Cleaning Materials	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	73	103
Grounds Maintenance Contract	0	0	4,758	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,026	0	0	12,784	13,266
Civic Hospitality	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	50
Movano	65	67	69	71	68	71	84	73	73	76	119	300	1,136	2,163
Roundabout Expenditure	35	0	0	0	0	0	106	0	0	0	0	34	175	0
Ford Ranger	105	56	181	56	330	56	0	629	59	60	42	116	1,690	1,390
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,398</b>	<b>14,333</b>	<b>22,610</b>	<b>14,313</b>	<b>11,670</b>	<b>10,059</b>	<b>13,141</b>	<b>14,178</b>	<b>13,157</b>	<b>22,226</b>	<b>13,486</b>	<b>12,960</b>	<b>174,531</b>	<b>226,598</b>
<b>New Initiatives</b>														
Olives Meadow Upgrade Street Lights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17,100
French Twin Signs x 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,261	5,261	6,000
Renewal/upgrade Interp Boards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,200
Rev.Cardale Monument	0	0	0	0	1,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,150	5,000
<b>Total New Initiatives</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>6,411</b>	<b>31,300</b>

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## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 7.1**

#### **Strengthening Local Relationships Meetings**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1. The report details a member's suggestion regarding items for consideration at the Strengthening Local Relationships Meetings.

##### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1. The Strengthening Local Relationships Meetings are a County Council initiative and have been held for many years. Meetings are held twice a year, normally January and July, and give both parties the opportunity to discuss various issues in the town which relate to County Council responsibilities.

- 2.2. Meetings are normally attended by County and Town Councillors and County and Town Council Officers. Both Councils can place items on the agenda and these are requested by the County a few weeks prior to the meeting.

- 2.3. Unfortunately at the last few meetings there has been no Town Councillor presence as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Committee have been unable to attend due to work commitments.

- 2.4. At the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March it was agreed that:  
*'Members of the committee be invited to the meetings if the Chairman or Vice Chairman are unable to attend'.*

##### **3.0. Member Suggestion**

- 3.1. Following the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March a couple of committee members have said that they may be available to attend the July meeting, including one non-committee member.

- 3.2. A member has suggested that a few weeks prior to a meeting all Councillors be asked to submit any issues that could/might be raised at meetings.

- 3.3. The following issues have already been submitted as possible agenda items:

- The "Children Slow Down" corex boards displayed along Browns Lane are now missing or damaged. They were to be replaced but that was several months ago. Update required.
- Residents in Downsview Crescent are still very unhappy with motorists, mainly dropping off and collecting school children, who are parking on the verges so making them very unsightly. There was a suggestion that dolly posts could be used to stop this without being a crash risk. Is there any possibility of this being done? The Manor Park Residents Association would look at any cost sharing proposal.
- There is great concern about the speed of traffic along Browns Lane even though the surface is not good. Apart from the signs mentioned above, what are the prospects of a 20mph limit? It is understood that a speed check would need

to be undertaken and the Manor Park Residents Association would again consider cost sharing if this was a certainty to happen.

**4.0. Recommendation**

- 4.1. The purpose of the report is for the Committee to approve a procedure on how items are placed on the Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting agendas, and if non-committee members can attend.

If agreed that items can be submitted by all Councillors these would form a report to the Environment & Leisure Committee prior to each Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting.

- 4.2. Members are asked to note the report and give consideration to the following:
- 1) Confirm if non- committee members are able to attend;
  - 2) If all Councillors are able to submit issues/items for inclusion;
- and
- 3) If these issues/items should have prior approval by the Environment & Leisure Committee.

Contact Officer: Christine Wheatley

Background Papers: None

## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 7.2**

#### **HARLAND'S FARM POND**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1. The report details the current condition of Harland's Farm pond following concerns over the excessive feeding of ducks by local residents.

##### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1. The pond was transferred to the Town Council from Charles Church South East Ltd as part of a Section 52 Agreement when the estate was built in 1989.
- 2.2. The pond is important for the conservation of wildlife and has recently been designated by Wealden District Council as a Local Wildlife Site due to its significant toad population.
- 2.3. Over the years local residents have been active in helping the toads, in particular to cross the road, during the breeding season and the attached report explains this in more detail (see appendix A).

##### **3.0 Concerns**

- 3.1. Residents have reported that ducks are being fed by a local resident/s and have expressed concern that this could in turn pollute the pond, especially as their natural diet is being supplemented by processed foods. The groundstaff have confirmed that the ducks are being fed but were unsure as to what affect this would have on the pond.
- 3.2. In order to ascertain the ponds current condition a survey was commissioned and the full report is attached (see appendix B).

##### **4.0 Survey findings**

- 4.1. The survey findings have been of great interest and the conclusion has shown that the public should be dissuaded from feeding in general:-

*'Management should focus on regular monitoring and dissuading the public from interfering with the pond. This interference may take the form of feeding the ducks and other animals associated with the pond and the introduction of fish or any other animals or plants, at least without consulting a Council authority first'.*

- 4.2. In order to help dissuade the feeding of ducks in particular, a sign will shortly be erected.

## **5.0. Recommendation**

5.1. Members are asked to note the report and the findings of the survey.

Contact Officer: Christine Wheatley

Background Papers:

Pond Survey

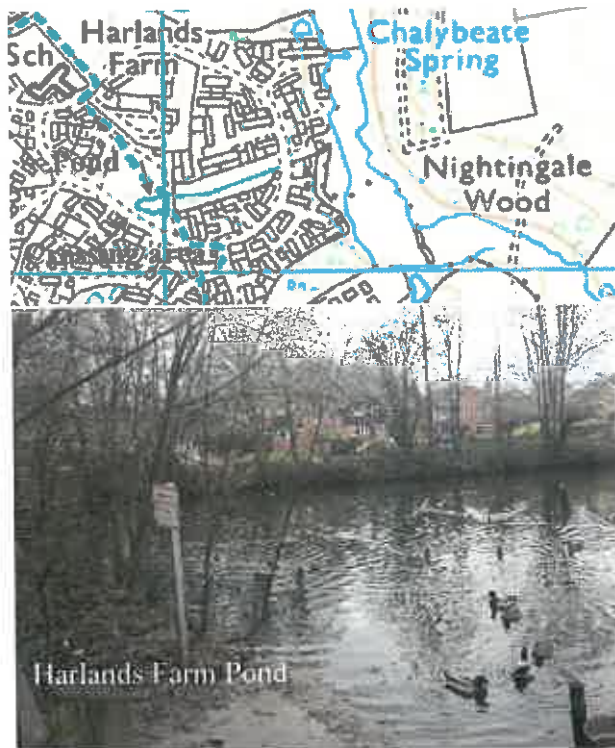
Tale of the Toads by Jenny Bacon



# Harlands Farm Pond – Mallard Drive Uckfield

## My 22 year Tale of the Toads at Mallard Drive by Jenny Bacon

When I moved to Mallard Drive in June 1994 the Harland's estate was in the early stages of being developed by several different house builders. By the following spring we as a family were involved in the annual Toad Migration.



Despite all the earth movement that took place over the years and the ever changing landscape the toads still migrated to the old farm pond each



spring when the conditions were right. The migration could last well over a month depending on the night time temperatures. One of the main

problems the toads faced was unless there was a driveway nearby the toads were unable to climb up the kerb stones to cross to the pond and therefore they were trapped on the road and vulnerable to being squashed by passing cars. Uckfield Town Council were persuaded to lower 8 or 9 of the kerbstones adjacent to the pond, which helped.

Another hazard were the surface water drains which the toads could fall down and if not rescued would ultimately drown.

In the early days the number of toads we helped across the roads each year were between 150 and



300, with numbers staying at this level for several years. However during a hot summer in 1997 the water levels in the pond became dangerously low, with high levels of silt in the pond so the National Rivers Authority (as they were then known) came out and removed all the fish. From recollection I think they were Rudd.

With the fish removed, after a few years the pond's diversity changed and became dominated by frogs. We also found common newts and palmate newts crossing the roads. In 2003/4 we helped over 1000 frogs to the pond whilst the toad numbers were just about holding their own. However in my opinion this was due to the fact that the fish had been removed some years earlier, so the frog tadpoles no longer were predated by fish.

Over the following years more houses were built and soon goldfish had been introduced to the pond. This was another turning point in that we found the frog population starting to decrease with the toad population increasing. We also found fewer newts crossing the road in the spring.

Since 2012/13 the toad numbers have gone from strength to strength. The numbers of toads that we helped across the road and those found at the pond



reached over 1000, with the frog numbers having dropped to the low hundreds.

This seems to have been the turning point in favour of the toads, further development had stopped and the toad numbers increased steadily each year. The numbers of toads crossing the roads now appears to have levelled off at just over 1000.

As well as crossing the roads the toads also travel along the wooded stream which takes the overflow water from the pond that runs through the middle of the estate. We have tried to record the number of toads travelling to and from the pond via the stream and would estimate well over 1000 each year. It was imperative that this stretch of woodland be protected and left undisturbed as we believe many toads use the woodland during their terrestrial phases and also use it as a corridor into the open country side heading out towards Bird in Eye.

In 2016 East Sussex County Council agreed that Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Group could trial the use of special amphibian escape ladders by installing them into 20 of road drains (gully pots) on the site.

The ladders consist of a nylon mesh (Enkamat) fixed onto a flexible strip of metal which is temporarily fitted into the gully pot during the migration period. This enables toads and newts to climb out of the drains on their own. The trial proved to be a success and meant that volunteers no longer had to struggle lifting heavy drain covers at night and fishing out toads from what can be very unpleasant water.

Without the dedication of the few people that helped the toads over the years we would not have the numbers now seen in the pond – In particular I would like to mention Rita who lived by the pond and Caroline Dobbins who lives opposite.

## Update :

In July 2016 Wealden District Council designated the Harlands Farm toad site as a Local Wildlife Site. Local Wildlife Sites (formerly known as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - SNCI's) are identified and selected by Local Authorities as areas which are locally important for the conservation of wildlife. Their selection takes into account the most important, distinctive and threatened species and habitats within the county. As a result, these special sites have a huge part to play in the natural green fabric of our towns and countryside. They make up a web of stepping stones and corridors for wildlife.

Common toads are suffering devastating declines across the UK and the Harlands Farm site is one of the most important sites in Sussex where toads are in danger of being killed by traffic. The LWS designation, covers the Harlands Farm pond, the wooded stream and the surrounding grassland.

# Harland's Pond

Survey date: 21.3.2017

Data collection from 10:00 to 13:00 hrs.

Surveyor and report author:

Dr Martyn Stenning M.Phil. D.Phil. C.Sci. MRSB.

In attendance: Mr Gavin Wilkinson

## Background

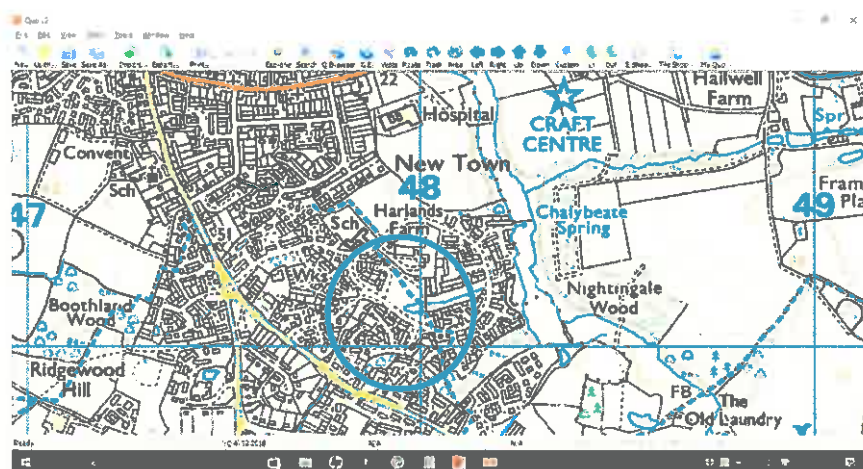


Photo Martyn Stenning



Harland's Pond (TQ479201) is a traditional farm pond, created by the anthropogenic formation of a clay dam at its Eastern end, which interdicts a ghyll stream, draining and flowing from its origin at the sandstone and clay High Weald ridge at Ridgewood Village. The ghyll stream flows from West to East and enters the Framfield Stream at TQ482202, which then flows into the River Uck at TQ479211 and on into the River Ouse at TQ443177, which subsequently enters the English Channel at Newhaven.

Harland's Pond is historically an important breeding site for the native species of amphibians mentioned below. It is therefore important to manage it by trying to keep negative Human influences to a minimum. This report is a response to an enquiry about whether Humans should be allowed to feed the ducks that use the pond.



Photo Martyn Stenning



Photo Martyn Stenning

## History

Harland's Farm was an active dairy farm for several decades until about 1980 and was owned by the Hughes family who gradually reduced the extent of farming activity until eventually selling the farm for development during the 1990s. The grazing of Domestic Cattle (*Bos Taurus*) in the fields surrounding the pond may, from time to time, have allowed eutrophication of the pond to occur. However, there were apparently Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) in the pond at this time (Bacon 2016), but these were removed in 1997 by the National Rivers Authority (Bacon 2016) in response to calls to save them during a drought that drastically reduced the water level in the pond. However, the annual migration of a large population of Common Toads (*Bufo bufo*) to the pond suggests that eutrophication was probably minimal as the pond clearly supported their breeding, growth and



development, which could have occurred for many decades. This is indicated by the huge numbers, probably several hundred, of Common Toads that returned to the pond annually after farming had ceased.

A residential housing estate was subsequently built around the pond over several years.



Photo Martyn Stenning

After the houses were built, strong smells from the inflow stream was evidence that sewage may have entered it from time to time. This was investigated at the request of Uckfield Town Council, and apparently solved. The inflow of dilute sewage may have led to eutrophication and a rich flush of duckweed (*Lemna* spp.) which carpeted the pond for many years. However, Common Toads continued to breed in the pond annually, although many were killed on the estate roads during their migration to and from the pond. Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and Herons (*Ardea cinerea*) were also regularly observed attending the pond to feed suggesting a healthy biological diversity. The numbers of Common Toads visiting the pond seems to have declined in recent years, but is recorded as being somewhat variable (Bacon 2016).

Another consequence of the neighbouring housing estate was the surreptitious introduction of Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) into the pond which bred and multiplied very rapidly. These and the water-birds together consumed the Duckweed which eventually disappeared from the surface of the pond. Although, there are reports of Duckweed returning to the pond on occasion since. Duckweed is often an indication of Eutrophication and an unbalanced nutrient regime.

It should be noted that many fish consume the tadpoles of Common Frogs (*Rana temporaria*) and Newts (*Triturus* spp.), but are unable to eat the tadpoles of Common Toads (*Bufo bufo*) because they are distasteful.

For many years after the building of the Harland's housing estate, local people took an interest in the pond. They helped the Toads and other amphibians across the roads during their breeding migration each February (Bacon 2016) and monitored other aspects of the pond such as the Duckweed and the condition of the outflow. However, many locals also regularly fed the water-birds and fish with bread, scraps and bird food. This should be unnecessary as the pond should achieve a nutrient balance without this. Indeed, the regular input of anthropogenic nutrients is likely to lead to an overpopulation of water-birds and fish which inevitably results in further Eutrophication. **The practice of feeding the animals in the pond should be discouraged even in the absence of an ecological survey of the pond.** However, several parameters were surveyed to assess the health of Harland's pond

## Survey

On the day of the survey the weather was fine and dry with sunshine and occasional fair-weather cumulous clouds and a light variable breeze.



Photo Gavin Wilkinson

The pond occupies about 0.1 ha of surface water and probably goes to a depth of about 2 - 3 metres at its centre, but the underlying clay bottom is covered with a thick layer of detritus material which probably emanates mainly from the surrounding Willow (*Salix* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) European (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Grey Alder (*A. incana*) trees.



Photo Martyn Stenning

On the day of the survey there were about 13 Mallard ducks swimming on the pond, but no other waterfowl. There was also a Chiffchaff (*Philloscopus collybita*) singing from the Alder trees, this is a ground-nesting summer African sub-Saharan migrant that probably nests among the copious good bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) thicket surrounding the pond. There was no Duckweed on the surface of the pond at the time of the survey. There were also no sub-aquatic plants evident within the pond. However, there was a good population of Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) around the perimeter of the pond and numerous Hemlock Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) plants growing along the inflow stream. Other plants may develop as the seasons progress.

The inflow stream was flowing steadily at low capacity, followed by a slightly lower outflow at the eastern end of the pond; the difference being accounted for by evapotranspiration from the surface of the pond.





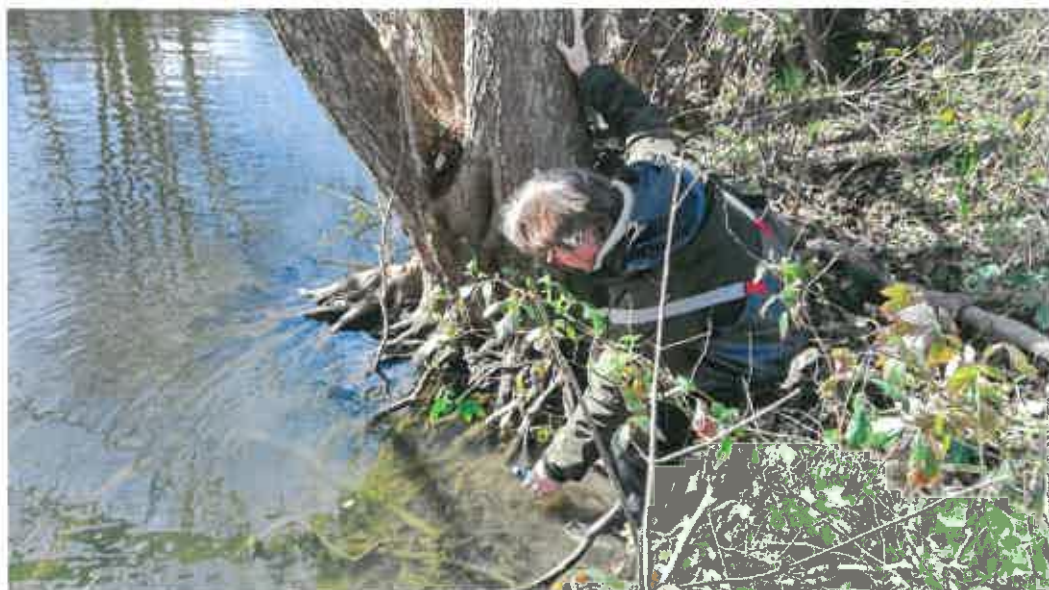
The chemical survey began by measuring the oxygen concentration at 10 locations around the perimeter of the pond using a dissolved oxygen meter. Oxygen concentration can be super-saturated and exceed 100%.



location	% O <sub>2</sub>
1	96.9
2	92.8
3	102.1
4	97.9
5	94.2
6	88.2
7	87.5
8	95.5
9	92.4
10	105
mean	95.25

These values indicate that the oxygen concentration in water column is healthy and can support life.

The next environmental variable measured was conductivity.



Conductivity gives an indication of the concentration of dissolved salts in the water, which if too high would indicate salt toxicity. This is measured in units of micro-Siemens per metre ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{m}$ ). Local tap water has a conductivity of about 500  $\mu\text{S}/\text{m}$ . The range found in Harlands Pond was as follows:

location	$\mu\text{S}/\text{m}$
1	528
2	526
3	526
4	518
5	521
6	531
7	517
8	524
9	525
10	522
mean	523.8



These values indicate that the water in Harland's Pond is not too salty and is similar in dissolved salts (ions) to tap water, and so would support fresh-water life.

Measurements were also taken of the acidity of the water (pH) at 10 sampling sites; however, the meter was subsequently shown by testing pH standards to be giving readings of one unit higher than it should have. However, the readings were consistent at either 8.6 or 8.7. So by subtracting one unit and averaging the readings I can conclude that the pH of Harland's Pond was about 7.65. This is just above neutral, and is therefore ideal for supporting aquatic life.

At the time of sampling, the water flow in and out of the pond was constant and approximately 10 Litres/second. This will ensure that there was not an unlimited accumulation of nutrients or toxins.



However, because of the accumulation of detritus material in the pond, mainly consisting of leaves from the autumn leaf-fall. There were large volumes of methane trapped below the surface that was only released in the form of very large gas bubbles when the surveyor walked through the water in chest-waders. Methane could limit the survival of some organisms. The accumulated leaves are expected to decay slowly during the summer before being replaced during the following autumn by a fresh leaf-fall. This is probably a natural cycle that the pond has experienced since construction. The only ways leaf accumulation can be reduced is to coppice or remove the trees. However, the benefits of the trees to wildlife, oxygen production and bank stability probably outweigh the disadvantages, and therefore coppicing or removal is not recommended.

Finally, an examination of the living organisms in Harland's Pond was made using a standard pond-net and a white bucket.



Photo Gavin Wilkinson

There were many clumps of Frog spawn



Photo Gavin Wilkinson



and Toad spawn



Photo Gavin Wilkinson

around the perimeter of the pond, but no newts or fish were seen. There were two dead frogs,



Photo Gavin Wilkinson

one at the stream inlet and the other at the outlet. It was impossible to deduce the cause of death, but the animals were intact, suggesting either disease or some form of toxin.

The good news was that there were a number of living invertebrates recorded in Harland's Pond. These were large numbers of *Cyclops*, which is a small copepod crustacean, and Lesser Water

Boatman (*Corixa punctata*) which is an aquatic water insect that can also fly. However, the numbers of water boatmen were small, and no other invertebrates were observed indicating that there may have been a period recently when life for invertebrates was not possible, and that colonisation of the pond may have had to start again.

## **Conclusions**

Harland's pond is functioning like a farm pond that may experience periodic eutrophication and cycle through different stages of ability to support aquatic life. However, if the natural balance of the pond is disturbed through Human intervention, this may jeopardise the survival of some organisms. There is evidence that there may have been some kind of pollution incident in recent weeks as the biodiversity within the pond was rather low and there were two dead frogs without apparent injury in the water.

**Management should focus on regular monitoring and dissuading the public from interfering with the pond. This interference may take the form of feeding the ducks and other animals associated with the pond and the introduction of fish or any other animals or plants, at least without consulting a Council authority first.**

## **References**

Bacon, J. (2016) Harlands Farm Pond – Mallard Drive Uckfield, My 22 year Tale of the Toads at Mallard Drive. Sussex Amphibian and Reptile Group Web-site.  
[www.sussexarg.org.uk/uploads/7/1/7/1/7171006/toadcross.pdf](http://www.sussexarg.org.uk/uploads/7/1/7/1/7171006/toadcross.pdf)

## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 7.3**

#### **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1. The report details information from the County Council regarding a Speed Indicator Device (SID)

##### **2.0. Background**

- 2.1. The Town Council for many years owned its own SID and was regularly operated by volunteers. Unfortunately overtime volunteers dwindle and the device, due to its age, was deemed unrepairable when it broke down.

##### **3.0 County Council Offer**

- 3.1. The County Council has sent the following information regarding SID:-

*"I am pleased to inform you that the County Council's Road Safety Education Team has invested in a new generation of Speed Indication Device (SID) which is available for community use.*

*SID is a portable road sign that indicates the speed of approaching vehicles and encourages them to slow down with a smile, if within the speed limit, or scowl if not.*

*Studies have demonstrated their effectiveness in reducing speeds by as much as 8.8 mph. During a monitored trial, analysis of 4730 vehicles identified that 2091 (44%) were over the speed limit when the SID first registered them. By the time the vehicles had reached the SID only 80 were still in excess of the speed limit (3.7%).*

*Since their introduction SIDs have proved extremely popular with the general public as a means of reminding motorists of the speed they are travelling and encouraging them to slow down. Following the success of local SID deployments a number of Town and Parish Councils have purchased their own SID which are operated in their community by trained volunteers.*

*In order to support Town and Parish Councils wishing to operate a SID in their community the County Council has made the SID available for loans of up to one week at a time, at no cost. Volunteers would need to be trained by Road Safety Staff and suitable sites risk assessed for SID deployment. (The SID could be loaned to coincide with community events such as Fetes, Shows and Safety Weeks etc.) Please note that we will operate a waiting list for deployment if oversubscribed.*

*Should you be interested in borrowing a SID or would like further information about this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the Road Safety Team at [Traffic.Safety@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Traffic.Safety@eastsussex.gov.uk)."*

**4.0. Recommendation**

- 4.1. Members are asked to note the report and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officer: Christine Wheatley



# **Hughes Way Play Area**

## **Residents' Survey**



**Uckfield Town Council**  
**March 2017**

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Hughes Way Play Area**

1.1.1 Hughes Way Play Area is a small recreational space located in the heart of a residential area within Uckfield. It's nestled between the housing estate of Churchcoombe (roads include Manor Close, Manor Way, Manor End), the newer residential area of Hughes Way and a traditional row of cottages in North Row, which lead residents to the main thoroughfare of the High Street/London Road.

1.1.2 The existing play area is fairly small and the equipment is now a number of years old. The space is underused and the equipment is only practical for small children; from toddlers to those aged under the age of five years old.

1.1.3 It should be noted that due to the close proximity of the play area to properties at the end of Manor Close, Hughes Way and North Row, any proposed changes could have an impact on nearby residents. It is therefore necessary to undertake a full process of consultation to ensure residents are fully engaged throughout the process.

1.1.4 The Town Council has secured a budget of £50,000 for improvements to the play area and the local Churchcoombe Community Association has secured an additional £5,000 grant funding from Wealden District Council. Play area equipment and surface matting can be costly, however initial enquiries confirmed that it would be possible to make reasonable improvements to the play area with this level of funding.

### **1.2 Aim of the consultation**

1.2.1 At the meeting of Full Council in January 2017, members adopted the precept for 2017-18 and as part of the budget setting process agreed that Hughes Way Play Area would be the next space to upgrade by setting aside funds for improvements.

1.2.2 It was therefore considered important to obtain key information from both residents and visitors to the play area, to understand:

- current usage;
- the preferred age range for new facilities;
- the type of equipment children would like to see and tend to prefer, and;
- any facilities adults would like to see.

## **2. Process of consultation**

### **2.1 Methodology**

#### **2.1.1 Targeting respondents**

To ensure we captured a range of views from residents, we visited properties within all of the roads which surround the play area.

Face to face methodology was chosen as it was considered to be more valuable in capturing detailed responses from residents and information on the type of facilities and equipment most preferred within the space.

A survey was created and volunteers consisting of local town councillors and members of the Churchcoombe Community Association visited properties over two dates (Saturday 25th February between 10am and 12noon and Wednesday 1st March 4.30pm - 7pm) within the vicinity of Hughes Way Play Area.

Working door to door, interviewers asked local residents using a survey, on whether they currently used the facilities, the preferred age range for any new facilities, and the type of equipment they would like to see for young people and adults. If residents were not at home, a survey form was posted through the door and the interviewers returned later that week and the following week to collect the completed forms.

#### **2.1.2 Face to face survey**

The survey consisted of ten questions. A mix of closed and open questions were incorporated in the survey, which assisted with analysis and provided respondents with the opportunity to explain in detail what equipment or improvements they thought would be best for the play area. They were also provided with the opportunity to make more general comments relating to the recreational space.

The face to face survey was created in a specific style to encourage conversation between the interviewer and respondent and was generally well received by local residents and visitors.

#### **2.1.3 Response and analysis**

In total, we received feedback from a total of 107 householders during the consultation exercise.

A total of 53 survey forms were completed via face to face interviews on Saturday 25th February 2017 and Wednesday 1st March 2017 and a further 54 survey forms were completed by residents in their own time, and collected afterwards by volunteers.

Responses were received from residents in the following roads:

Road	Number
Hughes Way	25
North Row	17
High Street	<5
Manor Close	7
Crown Close	8
Manor End	27
Manor Way	16
The Drive	<5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>

The detail and information made available through these responses has helped to provide a snapshot of views from those using or living near to the play area, and in particular their preference for the play area's age range, the types of facilities preferred for young people and any facilities that adults would like to see within the space.

Responses received from the consultation exercise were coded and analysed using analytical software package SPSS to make comparisons within the development of this report.

## **2.2 Profile of respondents**

### **2.2.1 Gender and household set up**

Three quarters of respondents were female (75.0%) with a quarter of respondents male (25.0%).

Responses to the survey were captured from a good spread of households. Nearly half of respondents had dependents (children) with 5.6% - lone parents with dependents and 38.9% - a couple with dependents. The remaining respondents were either living in one person households or were in a couple but with no dependents. It should be noted however that a number of respondents who didn't have children, did have young relatives (such as grandchildren or nieces/nephews) and therefore still had a keen interest in the play area and the facilities provided.

Figure 1 presents the breakdown of respondents by gender and figure 2 illustrates the profile of respondents by gender and age.

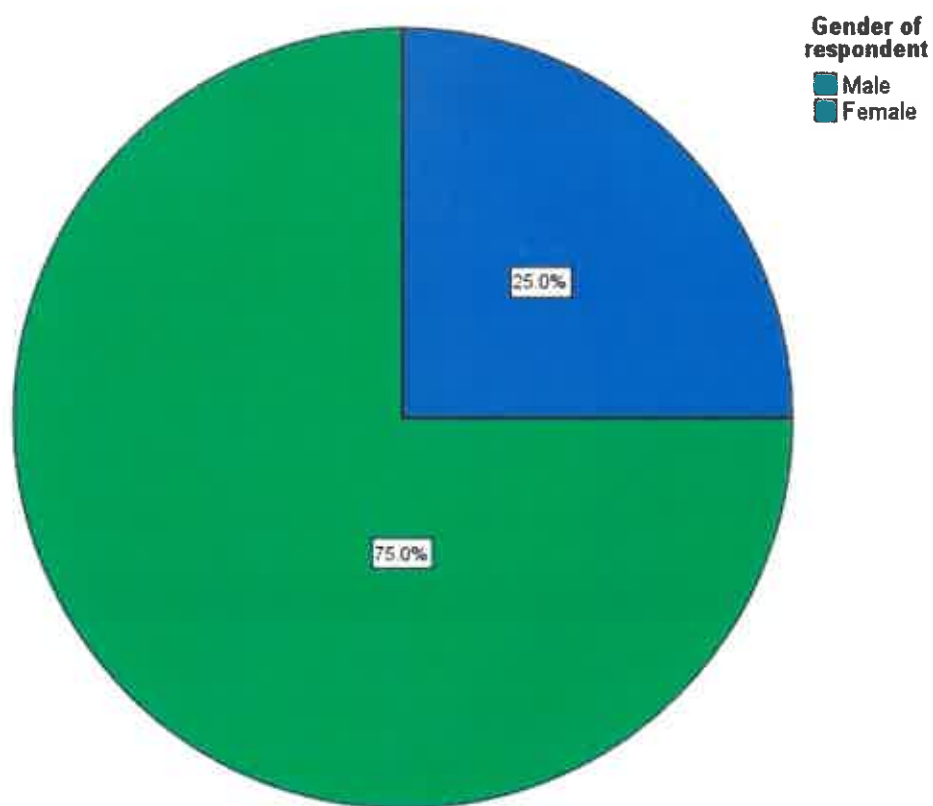


Figure 1: Gender profile of respondents (sample base - 96)

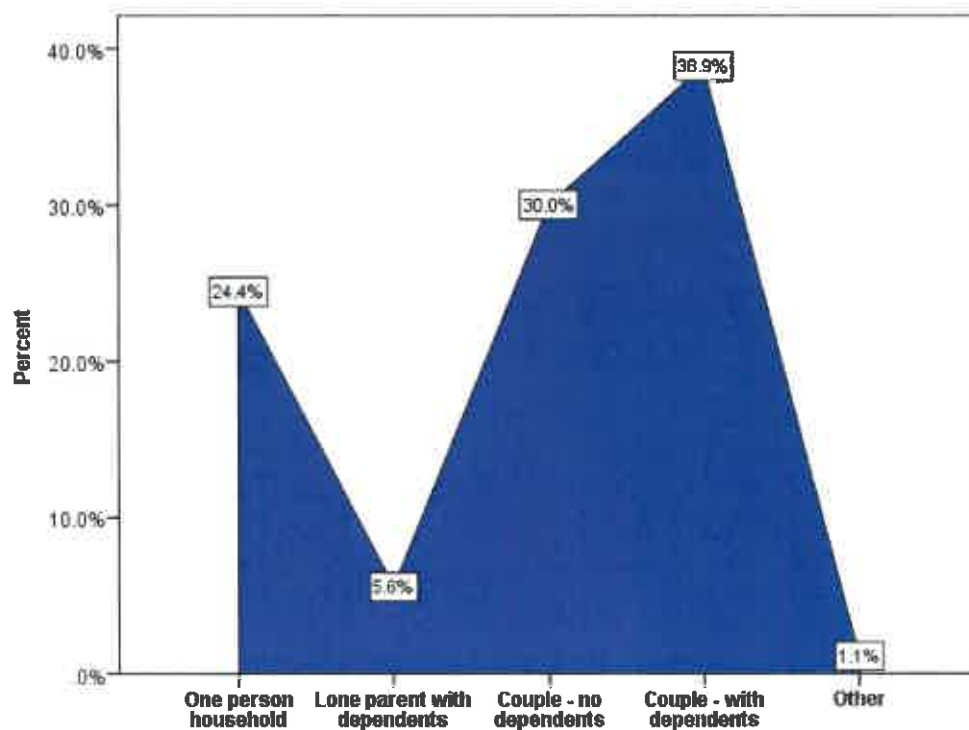


Figure 2: Household set up of respondents (sample base - 90)

### 3. Visiting Hughes Way Play Area

#### 3.1. Length of time lived in local area

The first question respondents were asked is how long they had lived in the local area.

Of the 107 respondents, nearly two thirds (61.7%) had lived in the local area for ten or more years (see figure 3 below). Only a very small proportion of respondents had lived in the local area for up to 12 months (3.7%) which suggests that the majority of respondents would have reasonable knowledge of the play area and its history.

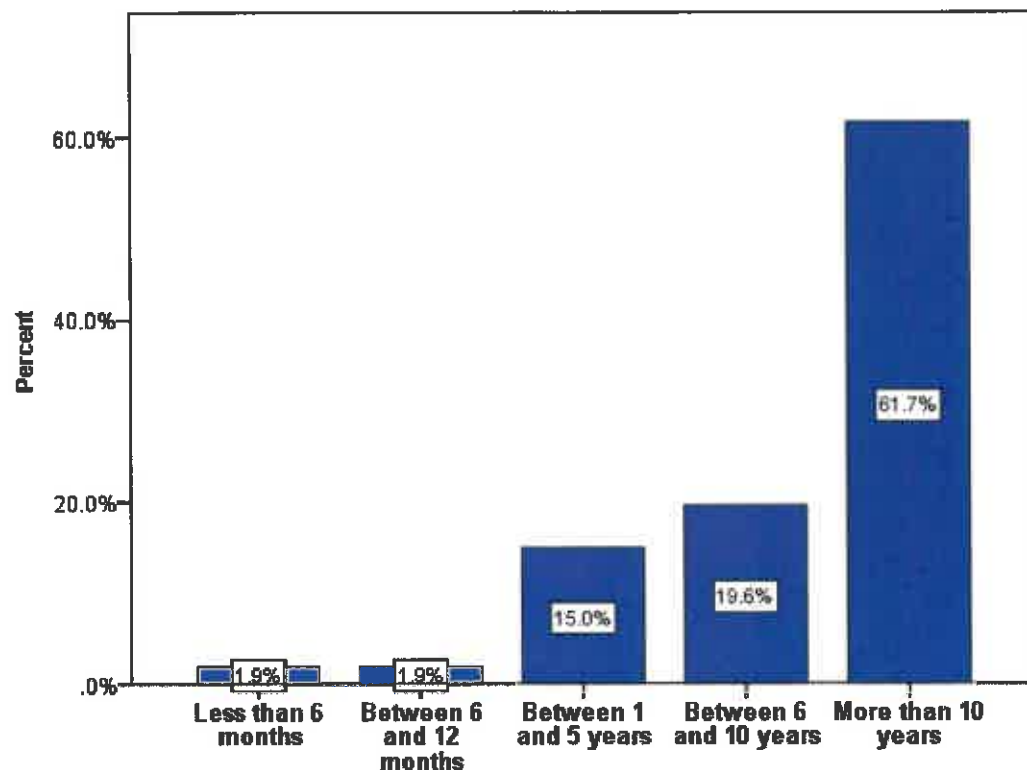


Figure 3: Length of time respondents had lived in the local area (sample base - 107)

#### 3.2. Frequency of visit

The survey asked respondents whether they or any of their family members had visited Hughes Way Play Area in the previous 12 months. This question created a fairly polarised response with 44.7% of respondents having visited the play area in the past year but 55.3% of respondents who had not visited the play area for a number of years or at all.

Nearly three quarters (73.3%) of those who had visited the play area in the past 12 months tended to visit at different times in the week (both weekdays and weekends). This was shortly followed by a fifth of respondents (20.0%) who visited the play area on weekdays only.

Figure 4 illustrates the proportion of respondents who visited the play area and figure 5 highlights when in the week these respondents tended to visit.

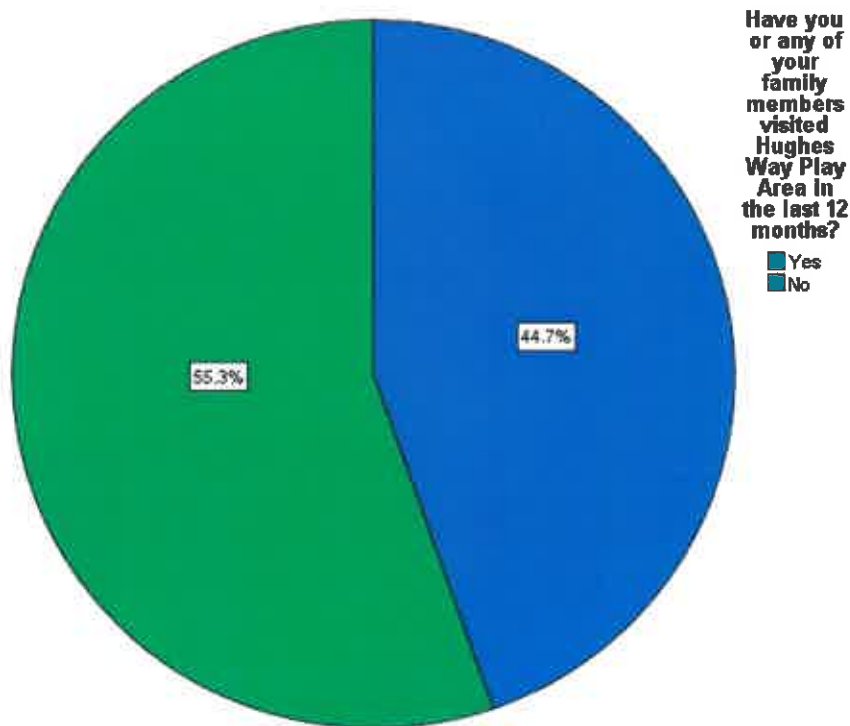


Figure 4: Visits to the play area in previous 12 months (sample base – 103)

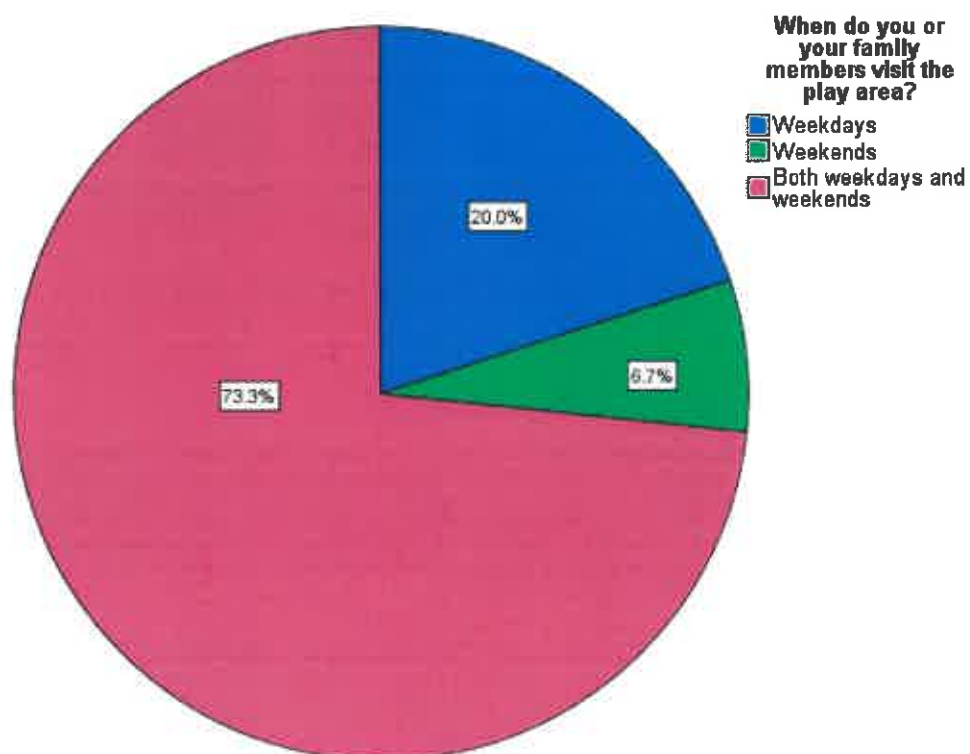


Figure 5: Times in the week that respondents who visit the play are, visit (sample base – 45)



Those who had visited the play area were asked about the frequency of their visits. A good proportion of visitors to the play area attended on a regular basis, with over half visiting at least once a week (53.5%). This was shortly followed by a quarter of respondents who visited the play area at least once a month (25.6%). This demonstrates that the play area is a valuable space for local residents and those who do visit the play area, visit often and therefore have good knowledge of the facilities available and what improvements could be made.

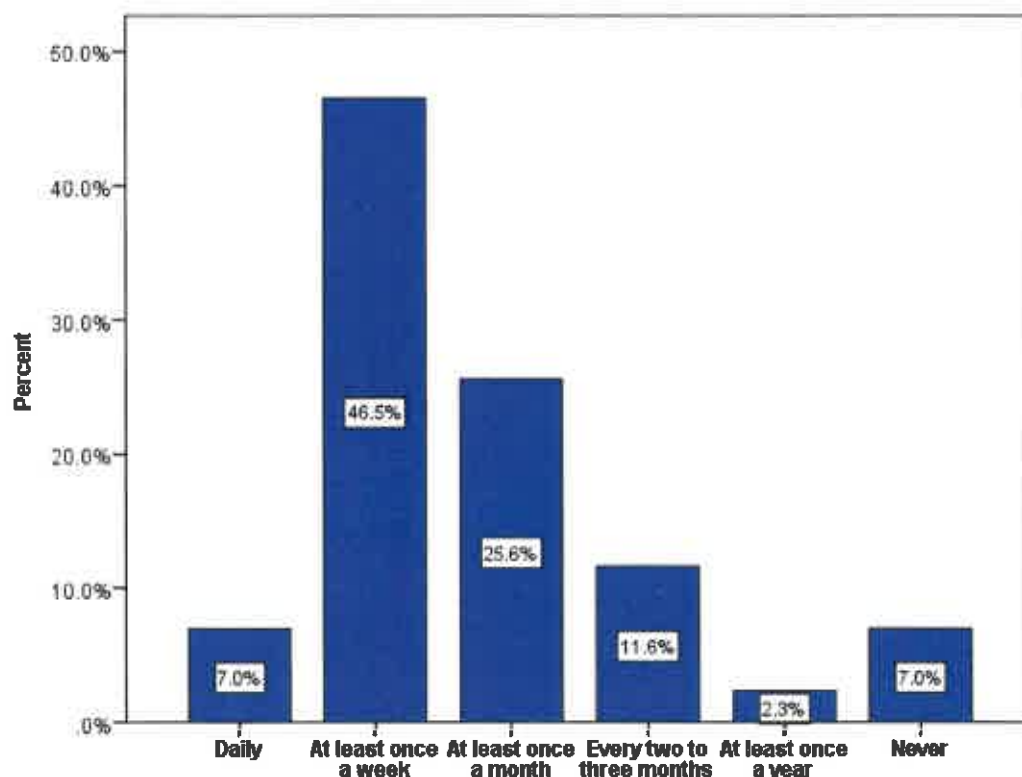


Figure 6: Frequency of visit (sample base – 43)

### 3.3 Main reasons for not visiting the play area

In order to understand the profile of respondents and why they might not visit the play area, respondents were asked about their main reason for not visiting Hughes Way Play Area.

The main reasons were:

- The respondents didn't have children;
- Respondents' children had outgrown the age range of the play equipment currently available;
- The respondent was too old.

**Comments made by respondents – Question: If you or your family members haven't visited the play area, what are the main reasons for this?**

**Respondents did not have children**

Don't have children

I currently do not have grandchildren but look forward to a time when I do and I can take them into

I live on my own, no children
Just moved here. No children in family.
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children
No children - if we did would certainly use the play area.
No children in the household
No grandchildren
No young children
No young people in household
We do not have children/grandchildren and as there is currently no adult equipment on site. There is nothing for us to use.
We have no children
We have no children of this age group. Only time would use is occasionally with grandchildren when they visit.
<b>Respondents' children had outgrown the age range of the play equipment currently available</b>
Children are now 12 and 14 years olds
Children grown up and no longer use the facility
Daughter playing with friend
I don't have children of the appropriate age. I enjoy watching people using it though.
Kids too old.
No children of that age but grandchildren in future
Not visiting now due to ages.

Our children are grown up. But if our younger relatives visit the facilities are too young for them (ages 6 and 8 years)
Play area too young for my sons
We have no small children now
<b>Did not know about the play area</b>
Didn't know it was there.
Don't know where it is
(Children are) wrong age
<b>Respondent felt they were too old</b>
I am a senior citizen and family all grown up
I'm a pensioner, not applicable.
Too old
Too old
Too old
Too old
Too old
Too old
Too old
Too old
<b>Other</b>
At one stage too many broken beer bottles smashed and in grass
Especially during school holidays
Fresh air and to entertain kids
I don't have children however I have visited in past with friends, family and they have used it.
It's local
It's not inviting or inspiring as it is. Need improving or updating i.e. like Hempstead
Not enough fun equipment, boring and outdated and not aimed at older than 5 yr olds
Not enough play equipment
Seating
Son doesn't live here
Summer months only

(Children) too young at the moment
Until now there have been no small children at this address
Will use it in future

Figure 7: Reasons why respondents did not visit the play area

## 4.0 Preferred facilities for young people

### 4.1 Preferred age groups

Taking into account both respondents who visited the play area and those who lived in the vicinity of the play area, we were interested to learn what age range they felt was appropriate for the play area.

		Responses	
		N	Percent
\$AGE_GROUP <sup>a</sup>	0-3 years	65	29.7%
	4 - 6 years	61	27.9%
	7 - 10 years	53	24.2%
	10 - 12 years	28	12.8%
	13 years or over	12	5.5%
Total		219	100.0%

Figure 8: Preferred age range for the play area

Figure 8 presents the variation in responses. Please note that respondents could select more than one age range, and these have been calculated together to produce a cumulative response.

The above table clearly shows that the majority of respondents (81.8%) felt that the play area should provide facilities for children up to the age of 10 years, of which 57.6% of respondents felt that there should be facilities for children aged 0 - 3 years and 4 - 6 years.

Interestingly, the households who thought that the play area should provide facilities for older children had lived in the area longer but were from a mix of household set ups.

## 4.2 Preferred equipment

In the survey, respondents were asked from a list of play equipment what they would like to see in the play area for children and young people.

A number of respondents identified more than one piece of equipment. The order in which the equipment received interest is as follows:

- **Slide** (84.0%)
- **Swing** (83.1%)
- **Climbing frame** (80.5%)
- **Roundabout** (77.1%)
- **Rocker** (74.7%)
- **Multi-play** (70.4%)
- **Basket swing** (66.3%)
- **Toddler area** (63.2%)
- **Rope** (50.6%)
- **Carousel** (50.0%)

The most popular pieces of equipment were slides, swings, climbing frames and roundabouts. The above results and preferences of respondents will be added to the brief to enable play area companies tendering for the contract to understand the most popular choices.

The climbing frame, swing, slide and multi-play equipment were the most popular choices for couples with dependents.

The climbing frame, swing, slide and roundabout were the most popular choices for lone parents with dependents.

The slide, swing and roundabout were the most popular choices for couples without dependents and one person households selected the slide, climbing frame and rocker as the most popular choices.

Respondents were also asked for general feedback in terms of equipment. Figure 9 provides the detail of these comments.

Are there any other pieces of play equipment that you would like to see in the play area for children?
A good mix for lots of ages, to help them develop
A solid wooden wall designed for kicking a ball against and a basketball hoop
Adult monkey bars
(Keep) As it is currently but updated and smartened up.
Cannot say as never been there
Carousel, tree house
Dome, climbing frame
Flying fox or sandpit, tunnel

Football nets
Football nets/ball games area. Or improve the football cage off the Drive so they can use it safely.
Hop-scotch and sunk in ground trampoline
I would be concerned if a closed playhouse or obscured view could result in a place for drink/drug use.
I would like to see a section with a turf pitch so it doesn't get muddy and for people to play football on.
If you make it for older kids you then get groups hanging around smoking, drinking. From experience living opposite, this is not a pleasant experience.
More places for them to sit and have a picnic etc.
Natural wood equipment would be good.
No shelter please
No, the area is not large enough to accommodate more equipment
No. Site not suitable for any other equipment other than that listed - roundabout, basket swing, slide, climb, rocker and toddler area
Play area not big enough. not being able to play ball games. No space for games.
Safety materials
Small trampoline set in the ground (like at Princes Park, Eastbourne)
Sorry I have no ideas as it does not affect me.
Trampoline
Trampoline with net at ground level
Up to 8 years old only and toddler area not necessary as whole area is well enclosed
Would like all but space limited. Basketball hoop, climbing wall, revolving table.
Zip-line
Zip-wire
Zip-wire and sprung loaded car

Figure 9: Comments relating to equipment preferences for young people

## 5.0 Preferred facilities for adults

### 5.1 Preferred facilities

The Council felt it was important to consider the facilities that adults would like to see within the space. Adults were asked from a short list, what improvements they would like to see in the play area.

This question produced mixed reviews with some respondents not providing much response to this section, feeling that equipment for young people was more important. The order in which the adult facilities received interest is as follows:

- **Seating** (86.8%)
- **Picnic table** (80.6%)
- Planting (55.2%)
- Adult fitness equipment (46.7%)
- Bike rack (33.7%)

This demonstrates that local residents were keen to see improvements to seating, and would benefit from these improvements whilst taking their young children to the play area. A mix of seating or picnic style tables would therefore be appropriate within the space.

Once again respondents were given the opportunity to make general comments which are listed below in figure 10:

Do you have any suggestions about the way in which facilities can be improved for adults visiting the play area?
Chin up bar
Coffee hut?
Covered seating
Covered seating area
Decent seating and covered seating
Easier access - current opening very small
Fitness equipment not good in this space. Need robust planting.
Flowers in tubs?
For grandchildren visiting regularly.
High fencing so children can play ball games instead of on the road.
Increase exercise
Just seating and picnic tables
Keep for kids
Litter bins

Maybe adult fitness equipment
Other areas I don't mind but this is more about the children
Parking??
Patrol visiting to keep older kids away
Perimeter fencing
Remember litter bins. Range of facilities and comfortable benches to sit on.
Scooter parking and bins
Seating and less teen night use!
Shaded area
Shelter
Somewhere to have a natter
Surface not grass
The area is not large enough to accommodate more equipment.
The park is a great idea, however in the short time living in Hughes Way I have noticed teenagers hanging around, throwing rubbish and drinking alcohol. Anything to deter this would be better for the homes facing the park.
Two accesses - Hughes Way and end of Manor Close
Used to use the area a lot when the children were younger. Often see teenagers in there.

Figure 10: Comments relating to facilities for adults

## 6.0 Conclusion

This survey provided valuable insight into the views of local residents whether they visited the play area with young relatives or lived nearby. In total, 107 responses were received from a spread of roads in the vicinity of the play area and the number of responses provided a good range of views, from households within young children to households without.

Respondents were in support of improvements being made but felt that the maximum age range should be 0 - 10 years due to the size of the space. Respondents supported the need for equipment to be improved for young people but were less interested in facilities being provided for adults, other than improved seating. The most popular types of equipment for young people included climbing frames, swings, slides, and roundabout. This information will now be used to create a brief and a procurement process will follow to invite play companies to tender for the improvement works.



## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 8.2**

#### **THE REVEREND CARDALE MEMORIAL**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1. The report details the current issues regarding the re-location of the Reverend Cardale Drinking Trough Memorial

##### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 the Environment & Leisure Committee discussed a report regarding the renovation and re-positioning of the Reverend Cardale memorial which is currently located at Victoria Pleasure Ground.
- 2.2. The report was based on information received from the Preservation Society which included photographs of the unveiling of the Cardale drinking trough in 1894 and in its current location and condition (attached).
- 2.3. The Committee agreed that the memorial be renovated and allocated £5,000 in the 2016/2017 budgets for the works.
- 2.4. It was anticipated that the memorial could be re-located in one of the following areas:
- on the footpath by the bridge;
  - where the red telephone box is situated once this has been re-located;
  - to replace one of the two High Street telephone boxes when it has been removed.
- 2.5. According to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) the memorial would be too large to place on the footpath by the bridge as it was restrict pedestrian access. A suitable location would be the current position of the red telephone box, as the pavement is wider at this point, it would not restrict visibility for vehicles leaving the station car park.
- 2.6. On the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 the Environment & Leisure Committee again discussed a possible location for the memorial and it was agreed:
- EL.45.12.16** Following further discussions it was **RESOLVED** to ask East Sussex County Council to look at all options within the town where the memorial could be placed and not to proceed with the renovations until a site had been agreed.

**3.0. Site meeting**

- 3.1. On the 30<sup>th</sup> March ESCC met with Officers to look at possible locations. Due to the size of the memorial no suitable locations could be found on the High Street without impeding the footway. It was however agreed that a suitable site could be on land outside the cinema in Library which the Town Council currently has a licence to cultivate.

If in agreement ESCC have stated that they would be happy to change the terms of the licence to include the installation of the memorial.

- 3.2. Alternatively the memorial could be restored and left in its current location.

**4.0. Recommendation**

- 4.1. Members are asked to note the report and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officer: Christine Wheatley

## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 10.1**

#### **Uckfield Railway Line Parishes**

Committee meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Following concerns raised at previous meetings the Chairman advised he had written to Southern on passengers concerns particularly the termination of trains at Crowborough, with no onward provision of secure waiting facilities.

The meeting was advised on the provision of rolling stock and problems relating to the track side fire at Oxted and evacuation at London Bridge.

There were extensive discussions on the release - 1 year late on the London and South Coast Rail Study and it was agreed all parishes should lobby the Minister to bring forward the improvement to the Uckfield line extension to Lewes and consider BML2 in a more positive light.

Cllr. C. Macve

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**Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Agenda Item 10.3**

**HEMPSTEAD MEADOWS LNR – SUPPORTERS GROUP**

There have been no official meetings yet but I attended an informal supporters' group meeting on 30th March 2017.

This comprised of short talks by Geoff Pollard (Ranger) and David Hall about the local reserves, what local wildlife we can look forward to seeing in April and the events and work planned for the spring/summer.

Geoff emphasised his need for new volunteers to assist him in his work.

Cllr Donna French

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## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 10.6**

#### **LUXFORD CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee meeting Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

The meeting welcomed Sandra Boniface who has taken over as booking secretary for the centre she was co-opted onto the committee.

Extensive discussions on insurance liability for the various users of the hall followed with a representative of our brokers with agreement on ongoing procedure.

Various items of 'housekeeping' followed to ensure the facility is kept in good serviceable order and ways forward to enable adequate funds are available to allow the centre to continue.

Cllr.C. Macve



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## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Agenda Item 10.8**

**The Active Uckfield Group met on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**The meeting was preceded by the AGM where Officers were elected.**

It was agreed to set the fees for the member sports group at £25 for the year.

The group discussed the upcoming Sports for All Day to be held on Aprils 1st at the Leisure Centre and the main event in July.

The group will consider the type of permanent signage suitable for Victoria Pleasure Ground.

### **Active Uckfield & Freedom Leisure Spring Sports For All Day**

The first Spring time Sports for All Day was held on 1st April.

Many sports groups came together to offer free 'try outs' to all who wanted a go?

The group will discuss the success of the event at their next meeting.

Cllr D. French

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