

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

**FIVE YEAR PLAN SUMMARY
JANUARY 2020**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Fairlight Parish Council's (FPC) last Parish Plan was published in 2006 and was intended as a four year plan. This Five Year Plan has been produced as a statement of Fairlight Parish Council's vision, values, objectives and key priorities for Fairlight. This Plan will be a 'live, on going and updated' document that sets out what the Parish Council believe they can achieve by directly involving the residents. The aim is to provide Fairlight residents with a clear insight of what the Parish Council is trying to achieve and its delivery. The Plan will identify what the Parish Council plans to focus on for the next five years and will be used as a guide each year to set the budget for the next financial year.

With that in mind, the Parish Council sanctioned a survey to find out from the residents of Fairlight, the key issues, highlighted by residents, that would drive the work of FPC for the period of the plan. It covered roads, transport and traffic, housing, recreation, social and community, environment and commercial development.

2. METHODOLOGY

New Councillors joined the Parish Council in May 2019 and felt that a five year plan study group should be formed, to agree the content of a survey to drive the next Five Year Plan. Questions on how people felt about living in the Parish, as well as about housing, services, dogs, crime prevention, cars and speed limits, road hazards, businesses in the parish, transport, parish information, parish facilities, leisure activities, tourism, young people's involvement, activities and clubs that people would like to see for both young and the not so young.

The questions were generally multiple choice with the opportunity for free text comments.

This survey was delivered to all the properties in Fairlight in hard copy, as there was not one individual type of media that we could ensure would cover sufficient properties.

The survey was advertised through the Village Store, the Fairlight Resident's Association email system, Facebook and banners were placed at the entrance to the village and at the Village Hall. There were also two drop in afternoons in October for residents who would like help with filling in the survey.

3. VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is for Fairlight Parish Council and the local Community to work together to protect and improve the social, recreational and environmental well-being of Fairlight and the lives of all who live, visit and work here.

This Five Year Plan has been produced as a statement of Fairlight Village Parish Council's vision, values, objectives and key priorities for Fairlight. This Plan will be a live, on going and updated document that sets out what the Parish Council believes they can achieve by directly involving the residents.

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 To be a strong voice of the community and represent their views.

How do we do it now?

Communicate - via the current website of the Fairlight Residents Association (FRA), FRA email system, noticeboards, bus stops, word of mouth, Fairlight magazine, Hastings & Rye Observer, the Post Office, telegraph poles and private notice boards.

Action

- To listen
- To launch a new Parish Council website
- To provide Councillors and the Clerk with new Parish Council emails addresses
- To launch a Facebook page
- To continue using all the above means to communicate
- To provide a newsletter
- To convey the communities views, needs and aspirations to the appropriate statutory body or non-governing bodies.

4.2 To engage with the Community and support the work of the village, voluntary organisations, clubs and groups.

How?

- Questionnaire/Survey
- Open days to assist the community in filling in the questionnaire and other issues.

Who?

- Young and not so young residents
- Clubs, groups, societies, organisations, agencies and individuals.

Action

- To publish the Actions of the survey on FRA email system, notice boards, bus stops, word of mouth, Fairlight magazine, Hastings & Rye Observer, the Post Office, telegraph poles and private notice boards
- To encourage the Community to come to the PC meetings and HAVE THEIR SAY
- To provide a public forum at every council meeting.

4.3 To maintain the health and well-being of all residents in Fairlight.

Action

- To explore the provision of a monthly drop-in cafe
- To publicise and support sports activities
- To publicise and support exercise/fitness organisations
- To explore transportation facilities and requirements.

4.4 To provide planning information and notification.

Action

- To continue to provide a Planning Committee to review and comment on applications
- To advise on current development sites - Wakehams Farm, The Cove Public House, Market Garden Site and other future applications
- To monitor Tree Preservation Orders.

4.5 To highlight environmental issues and local concerns.

- Proposed solar panel array in Hastings Country Park
- Wood Field Recreation Ground usage
- Wood Field Children's Play Area
- Knowle Wood woodland management and usage
- Use of Parish Council assets including bus shelters, notice boards
- Road traffic management
- Parking in the village
- Speed limits and other highway issues.

Action

- To aim to increase a Police presence in the village
- To ensure Councillors are aware of issues within the community using working groups and volunteers
- To provide information on current FRA website, FRA email systems, noticeboards, buses stops, word of mouth, Fairlight magazine, Hastings & Rye Observer, the Post Office, telegraph poles, private notice boards, new Parish Council website and Facebook page.

4.6 To maintaining existing public recreation spaces, buildings and equipment including litter bins and dog bins.

Action

- To continue to provide a Land Management Group to oversee day-to-day maintenance
- To regularly check condition of all facilities and carry-out risk assessments annually.

4.7 To be well managed, providing sound governance and financial management.

Action

- To ensure Councillors and Clerk/RFO have the opportunity to attend high level training with annual reviews to provide the best possible service to the community as agreed by PC/Chair
- To carry out annual risk assessments and act on findings
- To review all policies and procedures on an annual basis
- To adhere to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and continue to provide accurate financial records and audited accounts.

4.8 To work in partnership with external statutory and non-statutory bodies.

- East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council
- Other Parish Council
- Charities and voluntary organisations
- Agencies and contractors employed by the Parish Council.

5. SURVEY RESPONSES

Of the 965 surveys sent out here were 358 responses. This equates to a 37% response of residents in the Parish. The following is a summary of answers question by question.

5.1 Length of time in village

About You		% Received
Less than 1 year	12	3
Between 1 & 4 years	52	15
Between 5 & 9 years	70	20
More than 10 years	220	61

5.2 Age of respondents

Under 11 years		% Received
11 – 18 years	0	0
19 – 25 years	1	0
26 – 35 years	3	1
36 – 65 years	112	31
66 – 79 years	182	51
Over 80	67	19

5.3 Length of time in village

		% Received
I was born in the Parish	9	3
Moved into the Parish by choice/ work/retirement	339	95
Was found housing in the Parish	7	2

5.4 Overall

		% Received
I love living in the Parish and belong here	284	79
I like living here but may not stay	58	16
I feel no attachment to this Parish at all	9	3
I am unhappy here and am looking to move	1	0
I am happy living here, but feel it is unlikely I will be able to stay (e.g. lack of suitable housing)	10	3

5.5 What is it about the Parish that makes you proud to live here?

Top Responses in Priority Order:

- lovely neighbours
- community spirit
- peace and quiet
- countryside
- the surroundings.

5.6 **If there was one thing you could change?**

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Do Not Want

- No more housing
- No parking on the pavement
- Discourage parking on the verges
- Street lighting
- More frequent bus service

Want

- Improve road surfaces in and out of the village
- Pub
- 20mph in the village
- Amenities

5.7 **Do you belong to any clubs in the village?**

Top Responses in Priority Order:

- Pilates
- Chess
- Yoga

5.8 **Housing**

Types of house to be built if new building takes place	Yes	No	No Opinion
Homes for local people	225	25	34
Properties with small business potential (w'shop, offices)	77	126	48
Starter home with 1-2 bedrooms	140	90	36
Family homes with 3 or more bedrooms	108	104	46
Executive homes with 4 more more bedrooms	44	160	38
Flats or apartments	74	130	40
Retirement properties with ease of access	227	39	31
Adapted housing (e.g. for disabilities)	181	44	47

5.9 **Infrastructure**

What is your view on the following services	Adequate	Inadequate	No Opinion
Hedge management	144	118	69
Drainage and gully clearance	137	140	61
Paved footways	180	105	49
Non-paved footways	141	96	82
Refuse collection/recycling	312	31	4
Community recycling facilities (bottle bank)	106	141	77

Road maintenance	56	281	9
Road sweeping and litter management	212	93	34
Grass verge cutting	187	120	31
Freezing weather mgt (gritting, snow clearing etc)	158	135	51
Sign posting (footpaths, villages, road names, amenities)	261	49	29
Public footpaths (stiles, gates)	238	60	41

Top Responses in Priority Order:

- roads in a deplorable state
- hedges over pavements and main road
- pot holes
- signs need cleaning and repairing
- some footpaths need clearing of vegetation.

5.10 **What is your view on the following services in the village?**

	Adequate	Inadequate	No Opinion
Mains electricity supply	328	14	5
Mains gas supply	322	5	18
Mains water supply	314	28	5
Foul drainage	197	101	41
Telephone services	291	38	14
Mobile phone reception	150	186	12
Broadband/fibre optic	166	154	26
Television reception	218	118	13
Access to the internet	211	98	30
Village website	228	20	92

Top Responses In Priority Order:

Bad

- Low broadband
- Mobile phone service
- TV reception
- Elec and water services out of date and need replacing
- Foul drainage

Good

- Village web site

5.11 **Dogs**

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Do you consider dog fouling to be a problem where you live	103	229	16
Are there enough dog bins where dogs are frequently walked	148	125	74
Do you have any dog related concerns (strays, livestock etc)	29	243	68

5.12 **Crime Prevention**

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Have you been affected by crime within the last five years	60	284	5
Is the response to reported crime adequate	63	72	196
Do you feel that more could be done to enhance crime prev.	164	35	122

Crime Prevention

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Would Like

- Our own PCSO
- More visible PC presence
- More CCTV coverage
- Internet and phone scams more freely communicated
- More police visibility would deter would be offenders

Don't Like

- Youths racing around the Country Park at night

5.13 **Car Parking and Speed Limits**

Number of cars in your household - include all vehicles	Yes	No	No opinion
No vehicles	28		
1 vehicle	155		
2 vehicles	120		
3 or more vehicles	47		1
Do you have an issue with parking near your home	73	267	2
Is there sufficient parking to access community facilities -village hall, shop, play ground recreation ground	168	141	35

Are designated community car parks adequate?	133	117	75
Are the needs of the pedestrians adequate given the nature of a rural community	212	99	31
Are the needs of cyclists adequate given the nature of the roads within the Parish	140	100	93
Are the speed limits set to high where you live*	144	183	16

* In Priority Order: Battery Hill, Waites Lane, Fairlight Road, LWL, LWL and spur roads.

Are speed limits to low where you live	Yes	No	No Opinion
	13	290	24

	Yes**	No	No Opinion
I live near a serious road hazard	162	108	3

****Top Responses in Priority Order:**

- outside hairdressers and Meadow Way
- Coastguards Lane and main road
- Village Hall corner to Broadway and Waites Lane
- cars opposite each other in Waites Lane
- LWL and Broadway corner.

5.14 Business, Trade and Employment

For Business Owners/Employees Only	Yes	No	No Opinion
Did you acquire an existing building within the Parish	1	33	0
Did you establish a new business within the Parish	22	12	0
Is your business home based	22	11	0
Were you attracted to the Parish specifically to establish a business	1	32	0
Number of employees in your business	1	0	0
Sole worker	21	0	0
From 2- 4	10	1	0

From 5 – 7	2	0	0
From 8 – 10	0	0	0
From 11+	3	2	0
Are there benefits to running your business within the Parish*	9	18	7
Are there issues running your business from within the Parish**	4	21	3

*Close to home, all work is in the village

**Poor Broadband.

5.15 Transport

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Do you use any bus services to travel within the Parish	139	198	3
Do you use any bus services to travel beyond the Parish eg. Hastings, Rye or further afield	186	160	2
Do you use the Tesco bus	7	318	3
Are the bus services adequate given the rural nature of the Parish	177	96	73

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Not Good

- No evening service after 6pm
- More frequent service
- Should use smaller buses
- No timetable
- Buses are half empty

Good

- Normally good bus service

Types of transport used by you	Nos.	% Received
Private car	322	90
Motorbike/Moped	13	4
Bicycle	25	7
Bus	119	33
School bus	4	1
Taxi	101	28
Car share arrangement	12	3

5.16 **Parish Information**

Indicate how you get info about the Parish	Yes	% Received
Church/Parish Magazine	91	25
Notice Boards	210	59
Local newspaper	119	33
Fairlight News quarterly mag.	289	81
Fairlight Residents Ass. website	202	56
Shop noticeboard	147	41
Word of mouth	239	67
Flyers and leaflets	108	30
Email	178	50
Facebook groups relating to Fairlight	89	25

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Poor

- Media communication needs to be better monitored
- Email system slow and mixed emails
- FRA email system is not a professional system but random
- Email system needs to be factual

Good

- FRA email system is good
- Good comm in the village

5.17 **Which Parish facilities do you use?**

	Frequent	Occasional	No Opinion
Children's play area	21	94	185
Recreation ground	78	160	83
Public footpaths (stiles, gates)	198	113	19
Parish Churches	29	116	163
Village Hall	128	180	32
Community library	18	37	246
Wildlife and country areas	225	87	23
Knowle Wood	96	162	68
Other places	17	3	9

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Don't Like

- Knowle Wood has been over cleared
- Used to walk a lot in Knowle Wood before its destruction

Would Like

- Outside gym facilities
- RHNR
- Application for funding for a new village hall

5.18 **Other Leisure Activities**

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Are there enough organised leisure activities in the Parish	264	14	69
Are you aware of the new Community Hub (building) being planned on Wood Field	240	106	4
Are there enough leisure activities to attract people outside the Parish	167	47	129

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Don't Want

- Village Hall is enough – more cars parked at the new Hub will cause a problem
- a new village hub is not needed village hall is sufficient
- the number of clubs is amazing

Want

- more activities
- info for new arrivals
- petanque court

5.19 **Tourism**

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Are there enough leisure activities/tourist attractions to bring people into the Parish	133	91	115
Do you support the encouragement of tourism into the area	149	105	87

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Don't Want

- the village has enough tourism
- apart from walkers, nothing should attract visitors
- support tourism but NOT off roaders, quad bikes etc
- why would we want more tourists?

Need

- pub
- amenities, cafe, toilets
- a leaflet of walks
- more signs NO beach access

5.20 **Volunteering Activities**

	Yes	No	% Yes	% No	
Are you involved in any volunteering activities*	103	238	29	66	*Rye Harbour, UA3, reading in schools, care for the elderly, housebound library service.
Would you like to be involved in volunteering	38	211	11	59	

5.21 **Children and Young People Responses**

How many childrens' responses are included in this survey	
1	10
2	3
3	2
4	1
Child 1 Male/Female	
Under 8	5
Between 9-12	6
Between 13-15	5

What do you like about living here	
My friends are here	6
Playing on outside spaces	8
Access to the countryside	11
Close to school	6
Social activities/clubs	6
What don't you like about living here	
Not enough to do	7
Not enough sport	4
No transport	5
Too dark	3
Dangerous Roads	2

Child 2 Male/Female	
Under 8	4
Between 9-12	3
Between 13-15	0
What do you like about living here	
My friends are here	3
Playing on outside spaces	6
Access to the countryside	7
Close to school	4
Social activities/clubs	3
What don't you like about living here	
Not enough to do	2
Not enough sport	1
No transport	3
Too dark	3
Dangerous Roads	1

Child 3 Male/Female	
Under 8	1
Between 9-12	2
Between 13-15	0
What do you like about living here	
My friends are here	2

Playing on outside spaces	2
Access to the countryside	2
Close to school	1
Social activities/clubs	1
What don't you like about living here	
Not enough to do	1
Not enough sport	1
No transport	1
Too dark	2
Dangerous Roads	1

The survey asked 'What could be done to make life better for young people'?

Don't Like

Dealing with cars blocking pavements

Would Like

- More support for groups and clubs for youngsters
- more sports clubs
- good football posts

The survey asked 'What activities or clubs would you like to see for young people'?

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Would Like

- football
- tennis for the young
- rounders at night for families
- scouts
- swimming
- more things to do on the playground
- large plastic buckets for children with disabilities

Don't Like

- play area is a bit boring

5.22 **Questions for the not so young**

	Yes	No	% of Yes Received
Do you live alone	74	228	21
Do you have regular contact with neighbours	274	31	77
If NO would you like more contact with others	14	53	4

What do you like about living here

My friends are here	152		42
Access to countryside	264		74
Social activities/clubs	141		39
I have my own transport	251		70

What don't you like about living here

Not enough to do	9	0
Not enough sport	4	0
No transport	16	0
Too dark	14	0
Dangerous roads	64	2

Top Responses in Priority Order:

Don't Like

- large scale redevelopment drives out local residents
- some villagers are too cliquy
- mechanical devices and speeding cars at weekend

Do Like

- pleasant environment
- seeing stars at night
- seeing foxes and badgers
- need more housing
- voluntary helping organisation helping the elderly in the village

5.23 Fairlight Parish Council

	Yes	No	Possibly
I am interested in PC matters and in becoming involved in the working parted	261	250	85

6. MEET THE PARISH COUNCIL

David Shortman – Chair

- Planning Committee
- Fairlight Preservation Trust Liaison

Issy Horsley – Vice Chair

- Planning Committee
- Chair of Faircomm
- Lower Waites Lane Drainage Incident Coordinator

Pauline Collins - Parish Clerk

- Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer

Derek Greenup

- Grants Officer
- Police Liaison
- Speedwatch Liaison
- Planning Committee

Stephen Leadbetter

- Chair of Planning Committee

Dale Richards

- Land Management
- Knowle Wood

Steve Stewart

- Planning Committee
- Faircomm Committee
- Emergency Plan

Collette Slack

- Land Management
- Woodfield Play Area
- Emergency Plan

Geoff Smith

- TBC January 2020

Councillor Vacancy

- TBC

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fairlight Parish Council Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2019

	OTHER FUNDS	R & R FUND	GENERAL FUND	TOTAL
2017/18 INCOME			2018/19	
46750.00 Precept			47000.00	47000.00
319.28 Grants			0.00	0.00
100.00 Rents			305.00	305.00
16.37 Interest and Dividends			78.69	78.69
500.00 Other			0.00	0.00
1945.65 VAT reimbursement			1642.27	1642.27
<u>49631.30</u> Total receipts			<u>49025.96</u>	<u>49025.96</u>
EXPENDITURE				
17621.34 General Administration			25391.32	25391.32
502.45 Internal and External Audit			324.20	324.20
1169.59 Insurance			1017.00	1017.00
5240.00 Grants			7439.02	7439.02
150.00 S137			750.00	750.00
6629.24 Parks and Open Spaces			9689.68	9689.68
810.57 Environment			613.92	613.92
3090.17 Cliff Protection Scheme			2350.21	2350.21
1642.27 VAT paid			2451.58	2451.58
2473.02 Loan repayment			2473.02	2473.02
<u>39328.65</u> Total Payments			<u>52499.95</u>	<u>52499.95</u>
SUMMARY				
50642.68 Balances brought forward 1st April 2017/18			60445.33	60445.33
0.00 Transfer to/from Earmarked Funds			0.00	0.00
49131.30 Add - Receipts			49025.96	49025.96
0.00 PWLB Loan			0.00	0.00
99773.98 Sub total	0.00	0.00	109471.29	109471.29
39328.65 Less - Payments			52499.95	52499.95
39328.65 Sub total			52499.95	52499.95
<u>60445.33</u> Balance c/f at 31st March 2018/19	0.00	0.00	<u>56971.34</u>	<u>56971.34</u>
Represented by:				
51022.61 Natwest Bank (net of unrepresented cheques)				47548.62
9422.72 National Savings General Account				9422.72
0.00 Debtors				0.00
60445.33				<u>56971.34</u>
Less				
0.00 Creditors and Income in advance				0.00
<u>60445.33</u> Total				<u>56971.34</u>
0.00 Difference:				<u>0.00</u>

8. PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/20

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Budget	Budget	Budget
INCOME			
Precept	46,750	47,000	53000
Bank Interest		30	36
Rents/leases Received		180	355
Grants & donations received		-	0
Other		-	0
Salaries & Wages	-	-	
VAT receipts	-	1,642	1500
TOTAL INCOME	46,750	48,852	54891
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries & Wages	10,000	16,500	18657
Training	750	750	1900
Car Allowance - Clerk	300	300	500
Travel - Councillors	250	250	100
Chairmans Allowance	250	300	300
Insurance	1,600	1,152	1200
Audit	550	550	700
Halls Hire	850	850	600
Admin/Phone/Stationary	1,000	500	1455
Subscription/Other expenses	1,000	1,000	1060
Solicitors fees	1,500	500	0
Loan Repayment	2,500	2,500	2473
GDPR	0.00	0	150
Consultant	0.00	3,000	3000
Wood Field	1,000	1,000	500
Playground	750	750	1100
Knowle Wood	1,000	1,000	2750
Litter/Dog bins emptying	1,350	1,450	1560
Other/Beacon	1,250	1,250	0
Repairs & Renewal F.D.	1,000	1,000	1000
Grass Cutting	2,000	2,000	3000
CCTV	1,000	1,000	540
Generator/Cliff Prot Scheme	3,000	3,200	3500
Christmas Lights	200	0	75
Memorial Plaque Replacement	100	100	150
Noticeboards	200	200	500
Grants Paid	6,350	7,500	8000
S137	-	250	150
Neighbourhood Plan	7,000	-	0
VAT payments	-	-	0
Transfer from NP EMR		- 7,000	
Transfer to NP EMR		7,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46750.00	48852.00	54920
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE	0.00	0.00	-29