Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

September 2026

We have recently been notified of proposals to redevelop the Oakwood Park Polo/Showground on the A22 just south of and adjoining the Maresfield Business Park. The proposals feature a new David Lloyd Tennis and Leisure complex and an Aldi grocery supermarket as well as further substantial unspecified retail and other commercial space. The proposed access is from the A22 as a "left in and left out" junction from and on to the northern carriageway. The developers have agreed to present their proposals and answer questions at a meeting of the Parish Council's Planning Committee on 14th September in the Fairwarp Village Hall. This meeting will effectively be a Public Meeting and is open to all so please come along and hear more and put your questions to the developers.

Wealden District Council continues to work on its draft Local Plan. We are expecting a new draft this Autumn for a further period of consultation before being finalised and approved by the District Council by 31st December 2026. We will be very interested in seeing whether the new draft includes plans for further development of the Ashdown Business Park in Maresfield and an allocation of the land at Owlsbury Farm for residential development.

The Parish Council is organising a basic First Aid ((including defibrillator operation) training course which will be held on Monday 26th October. The venue is the Maresfield Recreation Ground Pavillion but the time is yet to be confirmed. The course will be free to attend on a first come first served basis so please register your interest with Liz, our Assistant Clerk, on 01825 714555.

A reminder that as we are now out of the bird nesting season hedges and other vegetation which may be intruding on to footpaths or roads should be cut back so pedestrians, pram users and disability scooters are not impeded.

The Parish Council makes annual grants to many local organisations throughout the Parish. These need to be applied for each year and the closing date for applications for grants to be paid in May 2027 is Friday 25th September 2026. The Grants Policy and application forms are available on our website maresfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or from the Parish Office. New applicants are welcome!

All Parish Council meetings and committee meetings are open to the public and preceded by a public session when questions can be asked and issues raised. Parish Council meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month with no meetings in February or August and the meeting venue rotates round our three villages. The September meeting will be on 15h at 7.30pm in Nutley Church Hall. Agendas for all our meetings are published a few days beforehand and displayed on our notice boards in each of our villages as well as on the Council's web site.

I make no apologies for mentioning again that being a Parish Councillor is an interesting and rewarding form of voluntary service and as you may already know we are two councillors short of our quota. Please give serious consideration to becoming a councillor and should you wish to learn what it entails please do contact our Parish Clerk (Nancy O'Hanlon - 01825 714555) for an informal discussion.

The Police seem unable to enforce speed limits but an effective Community Speedwatch can make a difference. Community Speedwatch is comprised of volunteers who give say three hours a month and, armed with a radar speed gun, note details of speeding cars and then input them into a police data base. Warning letters are sent by the police and persistent offenders face a visit from police officers and possibly further action against them. We understand that offending vehicles are also checked as to whether the vehicle is insured, taxed and has a valid MOT and appropriate follow up action is taken.
Our Speedwatch exercises take place at Straight Half Mile, Maresfield, on the B2026 approaching Fairwarp Village, on the A22 approaching Nutley and also near to Nutley School as well as on the Crowborough Road in Nutley. During the last three months twelve Speedwatch sessions were carried out on Crowborough Road

during which 15% of motorists were exceeding the speed limit and 11% of motorists checked in eight sessions on Straight Half Mile, Maresfield, were exceeding the speed limit.
We are always on the lookout for more volunteers. So, please "step up" and our Parish Clerk will be happy to give you more information on what it entails. (Nancy O'Hanlon on 714555.)

And lastly we do seem to be coping well with our recently introduced food waste collection routine. However Wealden does not distribute replacement biodegradable bags but the Parish Office has a supply which are freely available while stocks last. Please collect but make an appointment as the Office has very limited opening hours. (714555)

Be informed !

To keep up to date about local matters the internet and social media are invaluable resources.
Useful links are:
https://my.wealden.gov.uk/ https://maresfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/ https://www.ashdownforest.org/

Martin Craddock – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council