EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT
DALLINGTON PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019

The County has had another difficult year financially, but has either delivered the planned savings or has met the overspend out of the contingency set in place in anticipation that demand led services, particularly where the service is statutory, may not come in on budget. Hence the budget continues to be delivered to plan. There is a danger that the extremely difficult financial situation in which the East Sussex County Council finds itself, in common with local government more generally, can cause us to overlook the progress it is making in delivering some very worthwhile goals. It is probably worth reminding ourselves that in the coming financial year our current expenditure will b e £375 million and that we are therefore a major economic entity in our own right.

Perhaps our most important task at the moment is the leadership we are giving, not least through the Health and Well Being board, of which I am a member, to the integration of Health and Social Care. Our success in this field was praised recently by the Secretary of State for Health when he visited Hastings. I think it true to say that this proceeds more successfully where local government is in the lead, which is true of East Sussex, but what is notable is the readiness of all concerned to innovate to the benefit of those who use either the health service or care services. The overriding goal is to ensure that as many people as possible are treated in community settings and that all are treated in the right place at the right time. Obviously the aim of public health is to keep people well, but where they are not early intervention is essential and some measure of our success is that our record on health checks is second to none in the South East. Currently we are piloting Home First, a discharge system that assesses people after they have been discharged to their own home or an intermediate care bed as this seems to work best. Delayed discharges, which have at times been a major problem, have substantially improved over the year from November 1917 to November 1918, down from 12.7 per 100,000 to 10.3, and I am told that the improvement is continuing. Those attributable to social care rather than health have been brought down by 68 per cent. Where people have been discharged successfully, it is important that they do not make an unnecessary or unwanted return. In the past we have had rather too many "frequent flyers" as the NHS terms those continually in and out of an acute care setting. Here again we are moving to a better position. No less than 93 out of every 100 people discharged from hospital are still at home 91 days later. Those who are frail often deteriorate rapidly if admitted to hospital, hence it is best to ensure that wherever possible that their frailty is managed with extra care in the community and our local teams have made substantial progress to see that is the case. Against a background of large financial deficits in the NHS, which preclude "double running", progress is inevitably slower than we would wish, but it is real and ultimately it will deliver a system that is more cost effective for the country and better for those served.

I will be brief about our Children's services which rank among the very best in the whole country, with our work with vulnerable families rated as 'Outstanding', The Hastings Community Support Service, based in Bexhill, which helps people with learning difficulties to lead independent lives has also been rated 'Outstanding' recently. Partly through government policy and partly through the economies have been forced to make, we are going to be able to do less to support schools in the future, but the good work we have done in recent years means that 4/5ths of our seconday schools, 93% of our primary schools and 100% of our special schools are rated good or outstanding, levels that are now better than the national average, and we are now going ahead with a Careers Hub to help those in education to make the right career choices.

Although the condition of our roads overall is better than it has been for a good many years, and we have been able to use the capital budget to do something for minor roads for the first time this century, I cannot pretend that there is not a lot more to do. Last year, as I understand it we

resurfaced 26 miles of highway and over 160 carriageway improvement schemes were completed in the last nine months of 2018. The reconstructed Heathfield High Street was completed ahead of schedule and at long last Burwash High Street was resurfaced. A good deal of capital is going into major schemes. The Newhaven port access road and the second stage of the Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement scheme have been started and these of course like improvements to the main through routes under our control are part of our regeneration strategy that looks to enhance the local economy. Our wage levels remain low (Rother is still the poorest area in England) but they are improving faster than the rest of the South East. More than 150 new jobs were created in the last nine months of 2018; and some thirty businesses were helped to move into or to relocate within the County. Some of the businesses that we helped to get off the ground are now international players. The company that we created in partnership with Rother and Hastings, Seachange, continues to deliver for thoe towns, not least in the progress being made in north-east Bexhill, where recently the northern access to the link road has been completed. Although Trading Standards is now a key player in the partnership to fight scams, and continues to deliver the 'Buy with Confidence' and 'Support with Confidence' schemes, it has nevertheless found the time to create a new Business Advice and Support Partnership, which delivered fifteen workshops in the nine months to the end of 2018.

In the course of last year we consulted upon and finalised our core offer. This was not designed, as some supposed, to identify where we could make further cuts, although some are likely to be made, but rather to educate the Government about the situation in which we find ourselves after the complete removal of the Government's general grant to local authorities and to start a national debate. Considerable lobbying took place on the back of it and a number of ministers visited East Sussex at our invitation. The term achieved national currency. Our lobbying had some effect, producing a substantial amount of one-off funding, part of which has been set aside to underpin our three year plan. We are also developing our use of AI, have become involved in a successful Business rates retention pilot, and developed ways of generating income that have enabled us to reduce the cuts we have to make in the coming year by about £12 million. We shall still have deliver further economies of £5 million pound and have had to raise Council Tac by the maximum permitted without going to a referendum. We are looking to the Comprehensive Review, the Fairer Funding Review and the Green Paper proposals on care for the elderly, all promised by autumn, to come to our relief like the US 7th Cavalry, but planning ahead in case neither they nor further one-off offers from Government offer relief. For this and other reasons I cannot recall a time when the future for local government finance looked as uncertain as it does now, but you can be assured that unlike some other authorities, our finances are being effectively managed and the overall situation remains under control. I think and hope that, now that the Government's finances are in better shape, austerity will be coming to an end, but our lobbying cannot. Local government both needs and deserves a better means of funding its services and there is much work to do to establish just what that is.

John Barnes

RDC Update for Dallington Parish Assembly

Rother
District Council

Council Budget News

From 2019/20 Rother District Council will no longer receive a revenue support grant from the government and will be reliant solely on income from business rates, council tax, charges for services and income generation. We've recently been informed the government accepted the East Sussex Business Rate Pool to pilot 75% rates retention in 2019/20. We do not know the financial impact yet. The advantage will be that RDC could keep more of any growth in business rates (currently we get 50%). However, the Government's fair funding review and business rates reset in 2020 may divert funding and growth in business rate income from district councils to meet pressures in other areas.

More detailed information on the Council's finances can be read in our draft medium term financial strategy. Our Sustainability and Efficiency Plan sets out how we will decide which services to prioritise and how lower priority services might be delivered over the next three years. You can find both documents on the Council's website at http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/1059/Budgets-and-accounts.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Localism Act (2011) introduced several new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development, including the provision to prepare a 'Neighbourhood Plan' for their area.

Like Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans are statutory plans and once adopted, will form part of the statutory Development Plan used for determining planning applications within the respective designated Neighbourhood Areas. So far in Rother, there are two adopted Neighbourhood Plans (Salehurst & Robertsbridge and Sedlescombe). Battle, Burwash and Etchingham are three amongst the further nine in preparation.

A new waste contractor (Biffa) has been procured in partnership with Hastings Borough Council and Wealden District Council. The new contract will start from late June 2019 and include alternate weekly collections of co-mingled dry waste and residual waste, and a fortnightly chargeable garden waste collection service.

Housing

In response to concerns about the cost of housing, lack of affordable housing, and increases in homelessness and rough sleeping we undertook a scrutiny review to understand the issues and develop recommendations regarding how we might tackle these issues. We consulted on these recommendations during the latter part of last year and have since developed a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy which is currently being considered by Council for adoption from 2019/20.

Response to Anti-Social Behaviour

Last year we reported that in response to residents' concerns we had created a new part-time role of a community warden to work with the police to enforce low level anti-social behaviour. From March 2019 the Council will be employing two Community Wardens to take on this role and they can be contacted at pollution@rother.gov.uk.

Civil Parking Enforcement

During 2018 we undertook a scrutiny review on the implications of moving to civil parking enforcement throughout Rother. The County Council have recently completed a consultation exercise and we are awaiting their final proposals. Taking into account the statutory consultation process if CPE does come in to force it will not be until summer 2020.

Supporting Community Projects and Events

Last summer we awarded a total of £66,601 in community grants to support twelve separate projects or events. These included:

- Improvements to Battle's football pitch and the addition of a covered shelter at their recreation ground
- Development of a community garden at Burghwood House, Etchingham
- Playground equipment in Northiam
- A lifeboat launch vehicle in Pett
- A community space project in Sidley
- Outdoor cricket nets and children's play facilities in Westfield
- Equipment for the angling club, a grant towards the cost of the Remembrance Day parade (to celebrate 100th anniversary of WW1), and a grant towards the cost of a children's music festival in Bexhill

A further £72,561 in grant applications is up for consideration during February 2019.

Communications

Over 16,400 residents receive a My Alerts email. This has reduced from over 29,000 at this time last year. This is primarily as a result of GDPR as subscribers were asked to confirm their subscription. We anticipate that numbers receiving the monthly email will increase in the future and encourage anyone who no longer receives the emails to re-register.

Art Club report for Parish Assembly 24th April 2018

The Art Club continues to meet on Monday mornings (10-12) in the Old School village hall throughout the year (including Bank Holidays when people want to).
We are a sociable and informal group with varied levels of experience and confidence. Although we lost one regular member this year due to other commitments, we still have a core group of half a dozen but always welcome new members and guests (including occasional visiting grandchildren during school holidays).
Members pay £3.00 per session to help cover room hire and contribute to running costs of the hall. Over the last year, we contributed over £400 and also built up a sufficient surplus to purchase a large noticeboard to display a changing selection of work. As this shows, the range of styles and subject matter is wide. Most sessions provide opportunities for observational drawing from still life etc, but members can also choose to work from their own photographs or reference materials if they prefer. Tutorial advice and feedback is available to those who want it but everyone is encouraged to work at their own pace and to try out different materials and techniques. To find out more, please just come along on a Monday morning or contact Pauline Ridley on 01435 830152 or email p.ridley@brighton.ac.uk

DALLINGTON W.I

Report to the Dallington Parish Assembly. Dallington WI.

Our membership continues between 15 and 18 and we try to enjoy all of the benefits of belonging to a large organisation. However, as our income is from subscription we have to spend wisely. A visiting speaker, when travel is taken into account, will cost, on average, £100 and so, as we have a number of talented members and neighbours, we are finding more ways to entertain ourselves at meetings.
WI members are to be found in most aspects of the life of the village. Painting the hall and collecting books for the new bookshelves? Filling the church with flowers? No job too large or too small.
Everyone gives generously of their time and energy, the refreshments at meetings are always delicious An annual fund-raising coffee morning pays for members to visit a garden and have tea made for them for a change.
We enjoy a quiz and, thanks to Pam and John Fuller, have great fun at the Beetle Drive.
The Christmas lunch, provided by all of the members, is a happy affair and would probably have been just the same 100 years ago.
One hundred years is what the WI central office records say we have achieved this year and, although we are certain that 2017 marked that anniversary, 100 or 101 not out is worth celebrating.

DALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TREE WARDEN

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting, April 2019

by Doug Edworthy

Here is a summary of my Tree Warden activities since my report to Dallington Parish in April last year: -

1. 'treewarden@dallington.org.uk' email account established
2. Dallington Forest May Day Bank Holiday walk on 07/05/18
3. Dallington Forest walk on 07/07/18
4. Taking on role as Tree Warden for Brightling as well as Dallington
5. Dallington Forest walk on 18/09/18

Maps of the walks are appended to this report.

Please contact me by email treewarden@dallington.org.uk, 07711 090 925 or when you see me in the parish.

1 'treewarden@dallington.org.uk' email account

A treewarden@dallington.org.uk email account has been set up under the control of the Parish Council.

Emails sent to this address are automatically sent to my email account and all replies carry the Tree Warden email signature.

The email address (together with my mobile number: 07711 090 925) has been published on the Dallington website and it would be good to share this more widely so that people know how to contact me.

2 Dallington Forest May Day Bank Holiday walk on 07/05/18

Around a dozen people joined me for the first guided walk through a bluebell-carpeted Dallington Forest on May Bank Holiday last year.

We visited the 'Prisoner of War' tree, undisturbed ancient and semi-natural woodland, a Dinosaur-era seabed, ancient hollow ways that could be prehistoric, majestic ancient

Beech and Yew trees, and commercial Hemlock plantations that threaten the ancient woodlands and the Forest's SSSI.

James Jeremy videoed part of the walk and has made a draft version available for upload to the parish website.

3 Dallington Forest walk on 07/07/18

A second guided walk was attended in blistering summer heat by Brightling as well as Dallington visitors. For ease of car parking the walk started at the 'Observatory triangle' on Brightling Down, affording us a view of the wooded High Weald that allowed us to put its pre- and ancient-history in context before walking down the bridleway into the Forest.

We visited ancient hollow ways, the 'PoW' tree, walked a long-lost track running atop a ghyll of ancient replanted woodland, understood the threats to majestic ancient Beech and Yew trees from commercial Hemlock plantations and from the removal of habitat for saproxylic insects, plants and fungi, and then, to the great relief of the visitors, emerged into the area of the Forest under conservation management.

In the words of one visitor who was kind enough to write to me after the walk; "Everyone was impressed with what you showed and the lessons you drove home. The depression and indignation were palpable as the walk went on and the relief when you finished on Jamie's work equally so. There are tough lessons to be learned in Dallington Forest."

4 Taking on role as Tree Warden for Brightling as well as Dallington

One of the visitors on the 7th July walk was the Chairman of Brightling Parish Council who asked me to become the Tree Warden for Brightling Parish too.

I was appointed by Brightling PC at their meeting on 30th July 2018 and met them on 19th November to present a plan of action (similar to the plan presented to Dallington PC in my report on 15th November 2016) which was agreed by the Brightling Councillors.

Since then I have been involved in tree surveys, pursuing the Forestry Commission to enforce felling licence conditions, setting up a Brightling Tree Group, and planting close to Brightling footpath #20 a rare female Black Poplar donated by Jamie Simpson (on the condition that it was accessible to the public of the parishes).

5 Dallington Forest walk on 18/09/18

The third guided walk was attended by nine people from Brightling and Dallington. Once again, the walk started from the Observatory triangle and took in much of the previous walk but this time included a visit to an ancient overgrown hedgerow, the base of which could be very many hundreds of years old.

Walkers admiring the ancient hedgerow tree bases. (Photo by Jane Beard of Brightling)

Thoughts about the future

I would still like to

- complete a survey of all the rare, veteran or ancient trees in the Parish, posting photos and information on the village website
- publish the findings on the village website and provide the PC with a documented record of the state of our trees
- work with the PC and interested Parishioners to produce a management plan for adoption by the Parish
- work with the Churchwardens to produce a management plan for the trees in the churchyard
- liaise and work with the Tree Wardens from neighbouring parishes to co-ordinate our management of the parishes' trees, woods and forests
- act as the focal point for establishing village tree-related events (I don't have the skills or aptitude for arranging these myself)
- post information on the Dallington Village website about the care, maintenance and preservation of trees.

Parishioners can help by

a) inviting me to survey trees and woodland on their land

b) volunteering to help with a parish tree survey

c) alerting me to trees under threat and possible tree diseases.

The **Parish Council** can help by

a) approving the parish-wide tree survey

b) alerting me to any planning applications that include, or could include, work on or disturbance of trees or the ground in their vicinity

c) helping to communicate with our Parishioners

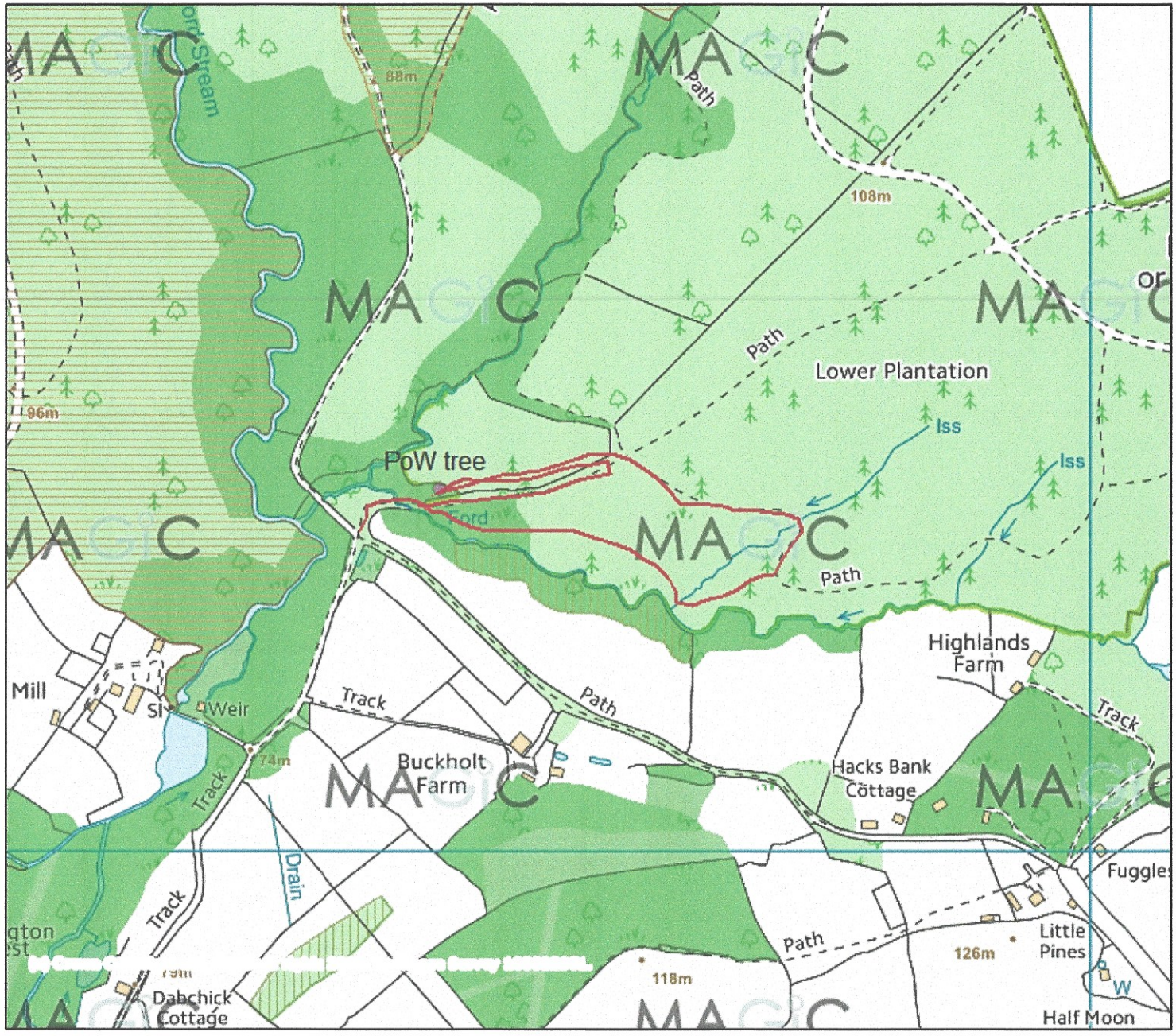
d) helping me organise tree-related events in Dallington.

End of report.

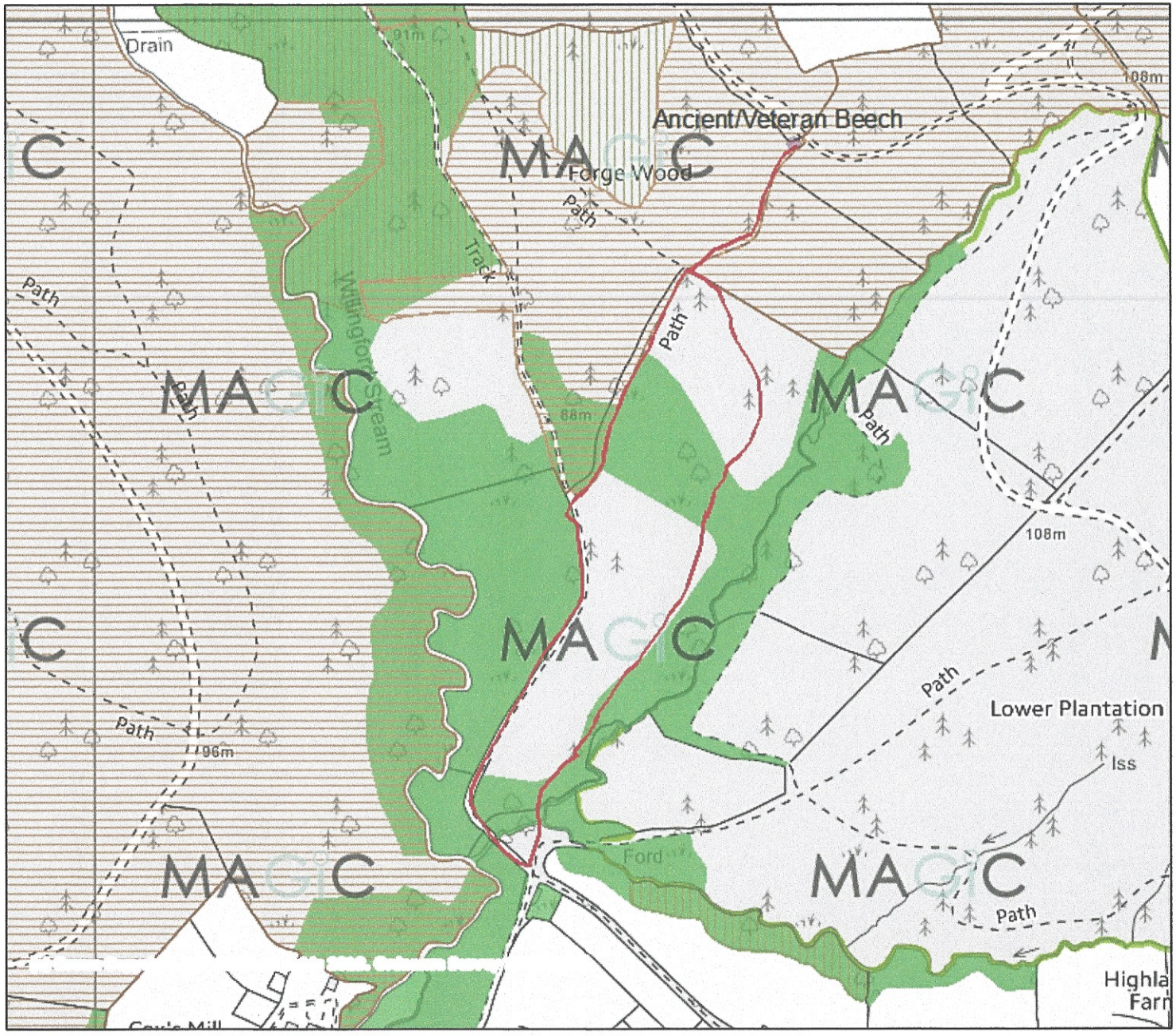
Doug Edworthy

22/03/19

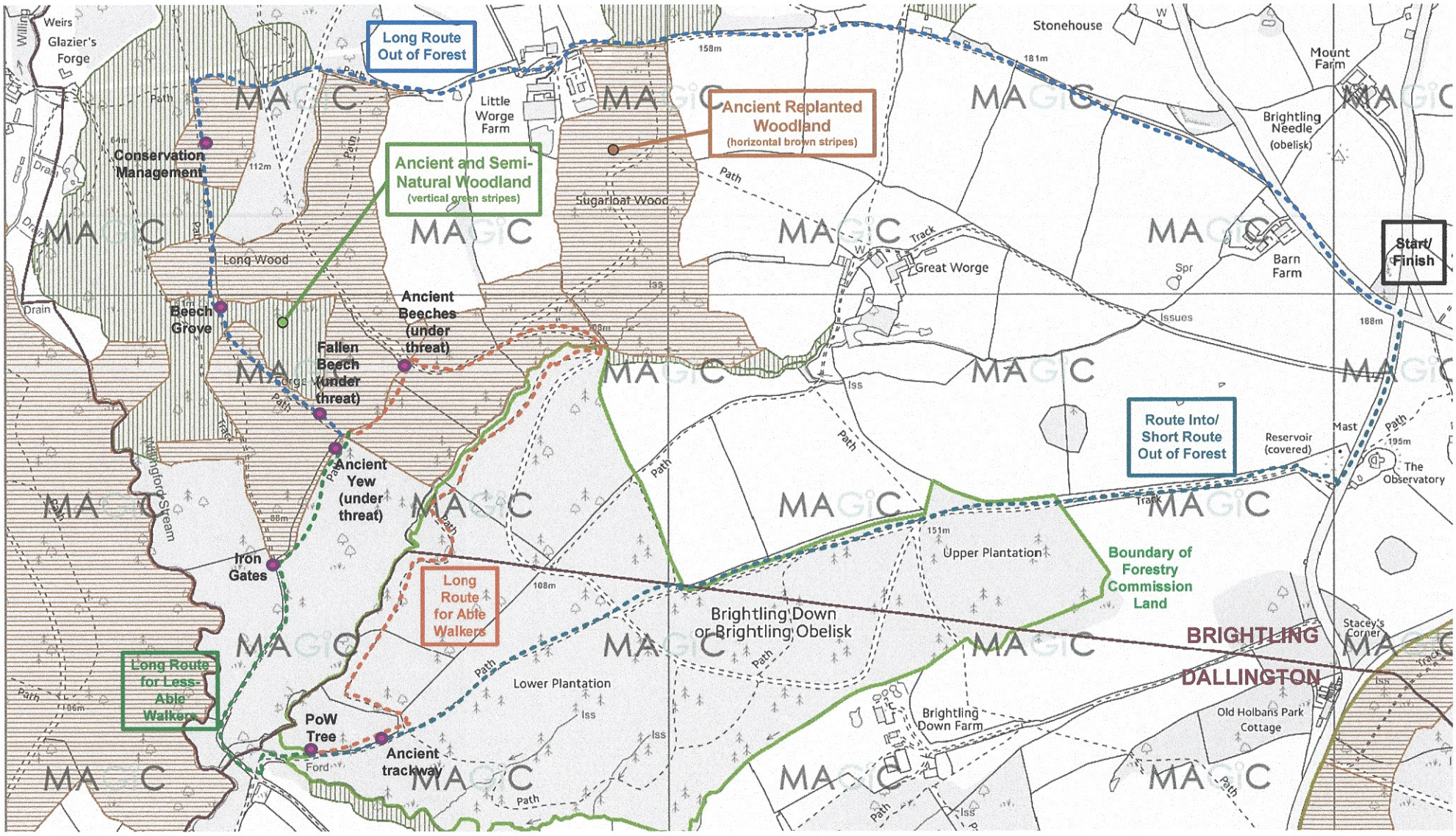
Dallington Forest Walk #1 (first part)



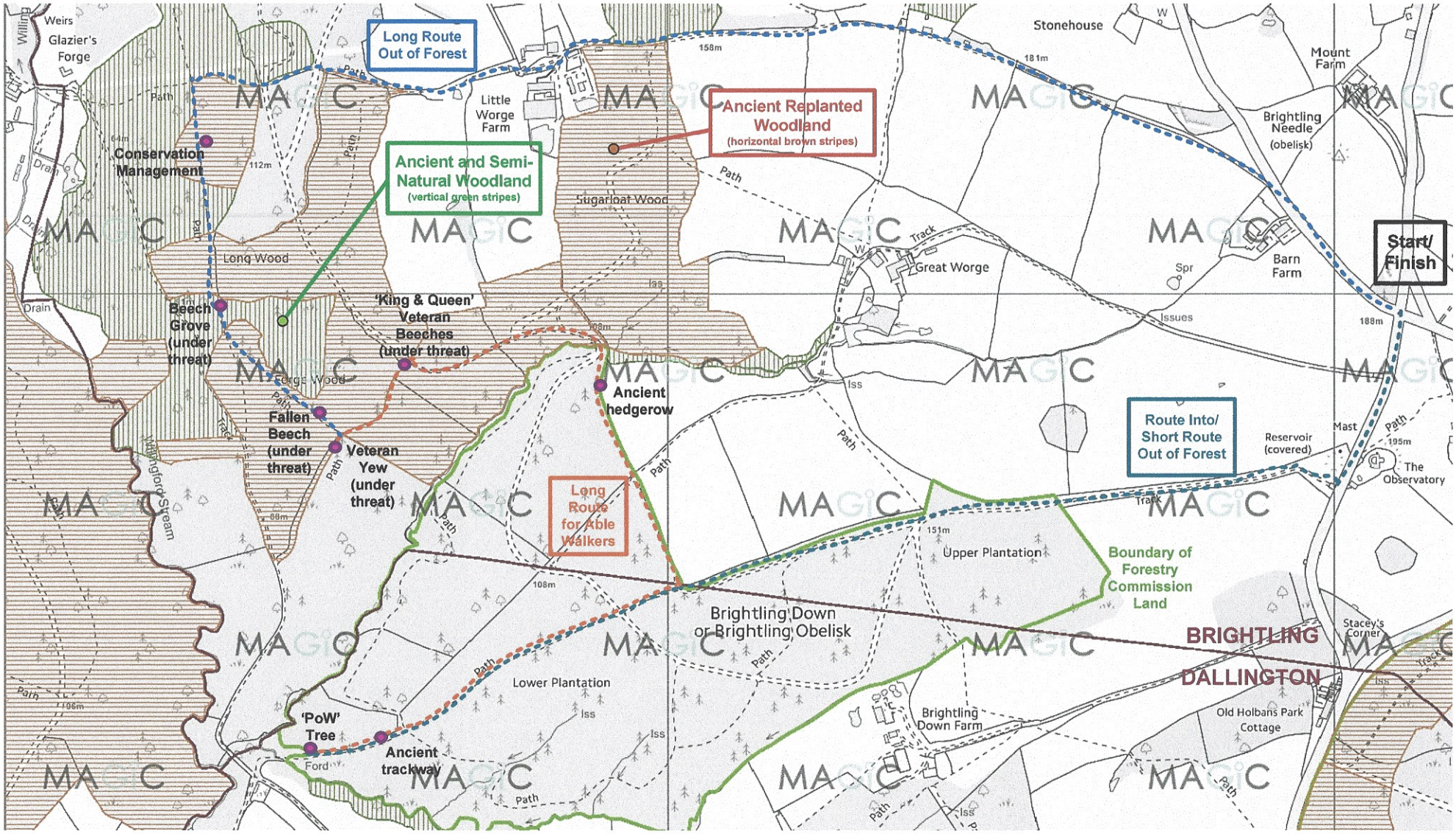
Dallington Forest Walk #1 (second part)



Dallington Forest Walk #2



Dallington Forest Walk #3



DALLINGTON BOOK CLUB

We have had another enjoyable year of reading and discussing a good selection of books.

Sadly, our founder member Marion Pilbeam moved from the area and felt that she should support her new local book club. We wish her well with her new reading companions!

We have now settled in nicely at our new venue, that being Dallington village hall. We meet once a month for an hour, seamlessly following on from the book swap and café session. We are all enjoying the hospitality and ambience of the new reinvented hall with all its facilities.

As usual our range of books has been wide and varied, the last two books being, Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, this book was given very positive reviews from us all; a rare event for us to have a unanimous agreement! Our most recent book, a biography , Alan Turin: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges, will certainly give rise to some interesting lengthy discussions!

We read a wide variety of books, thrillers, satires, classics and novels both old and new, all chosen by us on a democratic system of each member choosing two books from a long list of titles provided by Heathfield library.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and welcome any new members who would like to join us for a lively discussion helped along by tea and biscuits!

For further information call Trish Wilson on 01435 830389.

BELLRINGING

As anyone who lives locally can testify bellringing is alive and well in Dallington.
We have made great progress and are now ringing more difficult methods.
Services ringing takes place twice a month and for church festivals.
Anyone interested in seeing what takes place, or who wishes to learn is always welcome on a Monday night from 7pm. John Day Tower Captain.

Dallington Parish Church

Annual Report

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31 December 2018

St Giles Parish Church, Dallington, East Sussex. TN21 9NH

Incumbent: The Reverend Marc A Lloyd

The Rectory, Rookery Lane, Rushlake Green, Heathfield, TN21 9QJ

Independent Examiner: Richard Woodhams, Clock Cottage, Turners Green, TN21 9RA

Bank: Barclays' Bank, Heathfield

Parochial Church Council of St Giles, Dallington

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The PCC is a charity but is exempted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011.

During the year 2018 the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Incumbent:	The Reverend Marc Lloyd	Chairman
Churchwardens:	Wendy M Miers	Vice Chairman
	Diana Day	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	John Steel	
	Bobbie Steel	Secretary
Elected Members:	Douglas Sewell (Co-opted)	Treasurer
	Pam Fuller	
	Angela Keeley	
	Charlotte Maclean	
	Roz Welfare	
	Penelope Wrenbury	

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of ex-officio members (the incumbent and churchwarden) members of the Deanery Synod and up to 6 members of the church who must be elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members of the PCC are encouraged to stand for election to try to ensure a good balance of experience and skills, where possible.

Aims and Purposes

St Giles Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Marc Lloyd in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Giles, The Street, Dallington and the associated church grounds.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at St Giles. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out our faith as part of the parish community through:-

1) Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
2) Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
3) Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Giles and the associated church grounds.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

There are 28 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 4 of whom are not resident within the Parish. The average Sunday attendance counted during October was 50 which included the Harvest Festival. A representative attendance on a normal Sunday throughout the year is around 18. This is approximately 5% of the population of the Parish. This year a mid-week Harvest Festival was held for the school and parents and so around 300 people attended church in October. The number attending the Easter Day service was 32 including 24 communicants. 45 individuals attended the Carol Service on the 23rd December (no Christmas Communion). No Communion was celebrated from the 11th December 2018 (3rd Sunday in Advent) until the 6th January 2019 (Epiphany Sunday).

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 4 times during the year. 1 was cancelled through Rector's illness. No meetings of the Standing Committee were held during the year but members (Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary) remain in regular contact between PCC meetings.

There were 2 funerals and 1 wedding throughout the year.

Services

The PCC is pleased that a service is held every week. A "self organised" service takes place once a month. This is the pattern for the month:-

1st Week	11.00 am	CW Service of the Word
2nd Week	6.30 pm	BCP Evensong
3rd Week	11.00 am	CW Holy Communion
4th Week	9.30 am	CW Holy Communion
Tuesdays	8.15 am	BCP Holy Communion (term time only)

Fund Raising

A film "The Mission" was shown in the Old Rectory Barn to raise church funds. A number of those who are not regularly in church on a Sunday attended this event.

Flower Festival was organised by Mrs Pam Fuller which took place over three days of a weekend in June. The theme was the Queen's Life and Work and there were fourteen beautiful displays by the ladies and gentlemen of St. Giles. Food was served throughout. Just under a100 people visited the church. The Queen's Office was informed of the event and a letter from Balmoral was later received from the Lady in Waiting expressing the Queen's delight.

Thanks to all who provided:-

Harvest Supper in the Church
Lenten Lunches in the Church
Film Shows - Thanks to Charlotte and Nick Maclean
1st December Church Gift Day and Sale

Church Bells

The PCC are so fortunate in having a devoted group of bell Ringers who enhance our worship. Ringing on the 2nd (6.30 pm) and 4th (9.30 am) Sundays of each month and at all special services and festivals. The New Year is always celebrated by bells tolling, salutations and rum "tipple".

Charities

The Lent lunch collections were donated to Water Aid, St Wilfreds Hospice and St Michaels Hospice.

Proceeds from the Harvest Supper were sent to the Food Bank in Hailsham.

The church participated in the British Legion collection on Remembrance Sunday and the sale of poppies.

Church yards

The PCC is grateful for the hard work by the two Parishioners work regularly to keep the church yard in good condition. Hedges are cut, pathways edged and weeded, grass strimmed and cut and new bulbs planted. We are pleased with the continued achievements within the new church yard. Areas so far unkempt with nettles and brambles are now splendidly cleared and will be incorporated into the normal grass cutting regime. The Parish Council has donated £500 towards the upkeep of the church yard. The new paid help, Rob Saunders, is proving most successful.

Parish Magazine

55 copies of the benefice magazine are distributed each month by 2 parishioners.

Approved by the PCC on 28th March and signed on its behalf.

Revd Marc Lloyd – Chairman

School

During term time our church hosts the Dallington C of E school at 9 am on Tuesdays every week to collective worship, usually under the leadership of our Rector. Parents are also invited. The children also come to a Leavers' Service (in July). The pupils also attend St. Giles for:-

Harvest Festival (in October)
Remembrance Service (in November)
Carol and Nativity Services (in December)

The congregation of St. Giles support activities of the school, e.g., services, school fete and Christian group.

Joint Services

We took pleasure in joining together with St John the Evangelist, Bodle Street Green and St Mary the Virgin, Warbleton.

Ash Wednesday	14th February
Churches Away Day	20th October
Women's World Day of Prayer	2nd March
Maundy Thursday	29th March

"Together on The Green" Marquee Service on Rushlake Green in July.

Parishioners also attend joint events in the benefice. For example, the Rector's Lent Course, the monthly benefice prayer meeting and the men's and ladies' breakfasts.

Special Services

11th March	Mothering Sunday
14th October	Harvest Festival
11th November	Remembrance Sunday
23rd December	Carol Service
24th December	Christmas Eve Service 11.30 pm
1st April	Palm Sunday Dramatised Passion Readings
30th March	Good Friday Hour at The Cross

Help with Services

The PCC wishes to thank Tim Hough (Lay Reader), Revd Patrick Sales and Rt Revd Ken Barham who assisted with services. With special gratitude to Revd Stuart Baker who is always so welcome. Our thanks to the Revd Geoff France who is retiring after many years of service.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The County has had another difficult year financially, but has either delivered the planned savings or has met the overspend out of the contingency set in place in anticipation that demand led services, particularly where the service is statutory, may not come in on budget. Hence the budget continues to be delivered to plan. There is a danger that the extremely difficult financial situation in which the East Sussex County Council finds itself, in common with local government more generally, can cause us to overlook the progress it is making in delivering some very worthwhile goals. It is probably worth reminding ourselves that in the coming financial year our current expenditure will b e £375 million and that we are therefore a major economic entity in our own right.

Perhaps our most important task at the moment is the leadership we are giving, not least through the Health and Well Being board, of which I am a member, to the integration of Health and Social Care. Our success in this field was praised recently by the Secretary of State for Health when he visited Hastings. I think it true to say that this proceeds more successfully where local government is in the lead, which is true of East Sussex, but what is notable is the readiness of all concerned to innovate to the benefit of those who use either the health service or care services. The overriding goal is to ensure that as many people as possible are treated in community settings and that all are treated in the right place at the right time. Obviously the aim of public health is to keep people well, but where they are not early intervention is essential and some measure of our success is that our record on health checks is second to none in the South East. Currently we are piloting Home First, a discharge system that assesses people after they have been discharged to their own home or an intermediate care bed as this seems to work best. Delayed discharges, which have at times been a major problem, have substantially improved over the year from November 1917 to November 1918, down from 12.7 per 100,000 to 10.3, and I am told that the improvement is continuing. Those attributable to social care rather than health have been brought down by 68 per cent. Where people have been discharged successfully, it is important that they do not make an unnecessary or unwanted return. In the past we have had rather too many "frequent flyers" as the NHS terms those continually in and out of an acute care setting. Here again we are moving to a better position. No less than 93 out of every 100 people discharged from hospital are still at home 91 days later. Those who are frail often deteriorate rapidly if admitted to hospital, hence it is best to ensure that wherever possible that their frailty is managed with extra care in the community and our local teams have made substantial progress to see that is the case. Against a background of large financial deficits in the NHS, which preclude "double running", progress is inevitably slower than we would wish, but it is real and ultimately it will deliver a system that is more cost effective for the country and better for those served.

I will be brief about our Children's services which rank among the very best in the whole country, with our work with vulnerable families rated as 'Outstanding', The Hastings Community Support Service, based in Bexhill, which helps people with learning difficulties to lead independent lives has also been rated 'Outstanding' recently. Partly through government policy and partly through the economies have been forced to make, we are going to be able to do less to support schools in the future, but the good work we have done in recent years means that 4/5ths of our seconday schools, 93% of our primary schools and 100% of our special schools are rated good or outstanding, levels that are now better than the national average, and we are now going ahead with a Careers Hub to help those in education to make the right career choices.

Although the condition of our roads overall is better than it has been for a good many years, and we have been able to use the capital budget to do something for minor roads for the first time this century, I cannot pretend that there is not a lot more to do. Last year, as I understand it we resurfaced 26 miles of highway and over 160 carriageway improvement schemes were completed in the last nine months of 2018. The reconstructed Heathfield High Street was completed ahead of schedule and at long last Burwash High Street was resurfaced. A good deal of capital is going into

DALLINGTON HISTORY GROUP

Dear Irene
Please find my report
The History Group has met twice so far this year and we have two more meetings arranged, both in April. At the first evening Roy Iremonger told us about the Police Officers who had served in Dallington including the last one to live here P.C.Latter. On the second evening David Wilson, who had done lots of research into the history of his cottage, told us all the information he had discovered
Angela