

# Friends of Lewes

the Lewes Civic Society



## Spring 2011 Newsletter

### NATIONAL PARK

On 1<sup>st</sup> April the National Park Authority took up its powers as planning and access authority. Within the town it is likely that only major or controversial planning applications will be determined by it as the remainder will be dealt with on its behalf by the District Council. However they will be taking into account the purposes of the National Park which is to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; promote understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities; as well as its duty to foster the social and economic well-being of the local communities. The Society hopes this will lead to better planning decisions, particularly in relation to design, but it will inevitably take some time before the changes are noticed and a judgement can be made on the National Park Authority's effectiveness.



### ON-STREET PARKING

The Society submitted a detailed response to the County Council's consultation. We recognised the need for a parking scheme

which balances parking provision with factors such as the street ambience and traffic flow. We took a firm view that bank holidays should



be treated in the same way as Sundays and that the need for controls in the residential areas on Saturdays needs to be reviewed. As for pricing we said that there should be more short term parking in the town centre with an escalating scale of charges there to deter long term parking. We objected to the current very rigid enforcement and suggested an excess charge should be levied rather than a fine for a slight overrun of the time bought. The County Council's consultants are now considering the various responses and then there will be a further consultation on their proposals. Members having views are welcome to send them to the Society. A copy of the Societies response is on the Current Concerns page of the web site [www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk/current/](http://www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk/current/)

## **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

This will now be jointly prepared with the National Park Authority. The proposed Core Strategy should be published for consultation later this year. In the meantime the Society has commented on sites suggested for housing or employment uses. In particular we have made it clear that we are opposed to the green field land near Old Malling Farm being used for such purposes as it is highly visible, outside the built up boundary and has archaeological significance.

## **WAITROSE**

The Society is in touch with Waitrose and



currently await seeing their plans to build a new store on the Wenban-Smith site. What will then happen to their current store will also be discussed with them.

## **TREES AT THE PRISON**

Concern has been expressed to the Prison Governor about the felling of more trees at the Prison and an enquiry made as to what proposals they have to reinstate trees or other vegetation outside the prison walls.

## **HIGHWAY REINSTATEMENTS & DRAIN BLOCKAGES**

Whilst contractors are permitted to use black-top as a temporary surface to a road or pavement whilst the backfill settles, they should return within 6 months to provide a permanent reinstatement of a similar nature to what previously existed. Often the permanent reinstatement is forgotten and in these circumstances a report should be made to the Highways Office at Ringmer giving details of the problem. Drain blockages should also be reported to this office as soon as they occur so that remedial action can be taken.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

We are grateful to all those members who returned our recent questionnaire. The results have now been analysed and it is recognised that the Society needs to try to broaden its membership and be more proactive in the town. In particular we intend to try and publicise our work in Viva Lewes and to produce a leaflet designed for newcomers to the town that includes guidance on planning and conservation matters. We will also try to put on member events that have a wider audience appeal and in that connection if you have a suggestion for a speaker please let us know.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday 29 September – Autumn General Meeting.

Thursday 10 November – Lewes Priory: Past, Present & Future. A presentation by the Lewes Priory Trust about the creation of the Priory Park and their plans for its future.

Both meetings are in the Lecture Room of the Town Hall and start promptly at 7.45pm.

