

## **Report of the Outwood Parish Council Meeting ~**

**September 2005**

County Councillor Ken Rimington explained that overall planning policies are now being set by the unelected South East England Regional Authority (SEERA) which answers to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. SEERA is demanding a massive increase in house building throughout our region; but, for Tandridge, the requirement is 110 new houses per year, a figure which is already being exceeded.

Tandridge District Councillor Alan Jones briefed the Council on the progress of the new pub licensing arrangements which are being hampered by the excessive (and expensive) amounts of paperwork involved. The licence is a yearly one and, although the date for comments on the initial applications has passed, further comments may be made at the time of the yearly review. Councillor Jones reported that Surrey County Council's Government grant is expected to fall yet further next year and this, combined with the restrictions of 'rate capping', may mean that for the first time Tandridge Council might have to borrow money to maintain its services.

There was no discussion on Law and Order. Regret was expressed at the absence of either of our two community police officers and it is hoped that one of them might attend at least a few of the Council meeting every year.

The saga of the boundary changes should soon end. For the benefit of the Electoral Commission the local Councillors (both County and District) have each been requested to confirm their approval in writing to the Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council by 14<sup>th</sup> October. Those present assured us they would do so and we believe that, once these letters are on file, the boundary changes will take place. Disappointment was expressed at the excessive time taken to achieve changes which had been agreed by all those affected some time ago.

The wording of the new signs on Dayseys Hill has caused some confusion particularly since the grass WAS mowed soon after they were erected! To create the eventual objective of a 'wild flower meadow' grass cutting must be at specific times of year. The notices are to prevent TDC workers from cutting the area at the wrong time. It is not intended to extend the new kerb any further. Views are mixed on the need for any form of footpath so this idea is being left in abeyance.

The Council agreed to investigate the practicability and cost of 'Vehicle Activated' signs, a proven way of reducing traffic speed.

The 2001 census revealed that 22% of Outwood's population at that time was under the age of 16 and the percentage is unlikely to have decreased since then. The Parish Council is proposing to have an agenda item for its November meeting which will enable us to assess firstly, what facilities/clubs are already available to the young people of Outwood, then subsequently to determine what else is needed. Anyone who has an interest in this issue would be welcome to make their views known either before or during the November Parish Council meeting.

*Ian Frow – September 2005*