

# U-turning to the people's wishes

NO change! Mid Sussex District Council has taken a U-turn by supporting the status quo in the Local Government shake up.

Councillors met to approve a final recommendation in favour of a four unitary authority solution for West Sussex last Thursday but pulled out at the 11th hour.

The full council changed its mind in support of the unanimous feeling of parish councils and opted for status quo instead, taking its own council chairman by surprise.

Cllr Janice Mackelden of Turners Hill put forward the new recommendation of no change in the present structure of local government in West Sussex and 27 councillors voted in favour against an

opposition of 15.

There is now no turning back — the deadline for submissions to the Local Government Commission was Monday.

During stage one of the review in Sussex, the period during which the Local Government Commission sought initial views, MSDC debated its position on many occasions.

In March, the full council stated its first preference was a unitary authority formed from Mid Sussex/Horsham/Crawley with a sub-option of Mid Sussex/Horsham.

But certain factors have since swayed their decision including the results of a MORI survey published this month which showed 62 per cent of 2,400 people in West Sussex

wanting no change to the present structure. A mere 12 per cent backed the Commission's alternative option of breaking West Sussex up into three new unitary authorities.

After the meeting a surprised MSDC chairman Wilf Knighton told the Middy: "I'm a chairman which very much supports a unitary authority. It's a principle I strongly believe in and think would have worked well for the electorate."

"But we had to take a decision, we had a time limit. While I'm disappointed the future doesn't appear to be with unitary authorities in West Sussex and the decision took me by surprise, we are in democracy and the majority view prevailed."

## Girl found in pool of blood

A YOUNG woman was punched in the face during a late night brawl near 7-Eleven in Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, on Friday.

Several police officers were sent to the scene around midnight after a member of the public reported the disturbance.

Haywards Heath uniformed patrol officer Allan Philip said: "The girl was lying on the ground in a pool of blood when we arrived."

Police managed to disperse the crowd around her, a lot of whom had been drinking, but PC Philip added: "A member of the group started shouting and swearing at us while we were trying to deal with the girl, who had quite bad injuries, which didn't help matters."

The woman was taken to Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, for treatment.

A man is helping police with their inquiries.

## For sale: The £2 million mansion

CLOSE on £2 million will buy you a Mid Sussex mansion that looks like a cross between a French chateau and the Palace of Westminster.

Wykehurst Park, a magnificent mid-Victorian house near Warringlid, comes on to the market this week through Cluttons of Haywards Heath.

Architect was Edward Barry, son of the famous Charles who designed the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

According to Stephen Hardwick of Cluttons, the Victorians were refreshingly un-

stuffy about mixing up styles they liked.

As a result, Wykehurst sports a Louis Quinze drawing room, Adam library and dining room panelled with carved walnut from a cardinal's palace in Florence.

It was built for banker Henry Huth, occupied by the Canadians during World War II then expensively and lovingly restored in the 1970s, since when it's been a family home.

Cluttons say they've already escorted several potential customers around the house, even at an asking price of £1.95 million.

## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

SLAUGHAM parish kicked up its heels in style for a bumper birthday bash to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Villagers partied for two days last weekend — and the knees up will last for another three months' worth of events.

Slaugham Parish Council centenary committee roped in organisers from residents associations throughout the parish, covering Warringlid, Handcross and Pease Pottage as well as Slaugham itself.

"We handed out the jobs and it was a real team effort," said parish council chairman Daphne Simpson. "Everyone had a wonderful time and it all went off very well."

Highlights of the weekend were a memorabilia exhibition which included Just a Council Minute — a dramatic presentation by Warringlid Players of extracts from the council minutes over the last ten decades; a children's fun day on Handcross recreation ground; a Victorian Street Fair organised by the Slaugham Society; and an outdoor Songs of Praise on Sunday afternoon, conducted by the Rector, the Rev John Postill.

Future centenary celebration dates for the diary are October 21, an inter-village quiz in Seaford Hall, Warringlid at 8pm; November 26, a Young Time Music Hall in Seaford Hall at 7pm; December 3, a supper cabaret dance in the parish hall; and December 4, a centenary church service.



It's a serious business, reliving the council minutes of the war-torn 1940s - Warringlid Players bring history to life 9409/41.28C



Enjoying the children's fun day are Jennifer Jerez-Harris and Louise Brinkley 9409/41.35C



A dab of paint and another face starts to glow - Katherine Green and Sam Ash of Horsham Road, Handcross get to grips with the brushes 9409/41.33C

## Mean theft

A STUDENT nurse was heartbroken to discover thieves had helped themselves to uninsured items from her home.

Mette Jensen, 24, who lives in Hayward Heath, lost a stereo, more than 100 CDs, a video and a suitcase which belonged to her late Danish grandparents.

"I even lost my Danish CDs. Our three head tape recorder, which is quite unusual, was stolen and I am hoping perhaps someone might recognise this or the big leather suitcase," she said.

## TEC award

THE county training team is to receive an award for its work with employers and the unemployed.

Sussex TEC will make a Quality Management System award to the Employment Services Division of West Sussex County Council tomorrow. Bill Tegner, County Personnel Officer, said: "This award has been achieved ahead of many training competitors and well before the March 1995 deadline."

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