

NEWS

from **Wisborough Green Parish Council**

Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4

Photo: Mr Peter Edmonds

Keeping you informed of the work of the Parish Council and the community of Wisborough Green

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Although the Parish Council does not meet in August, we have still been busy working behind the scenes on two important projects. Firstly, I hope that you will have noticed the Community Led Plan questionnaire which has arrived with this newsletter; please do not discard it. It is important that one is completed for each household so do read the article in this newsletter to find out why this project is so significant for our village. Secondly, you may have seen the posters, flyers or received an email about the Natwest Community Project and potential funding for refurbishment of the village playground. At the time of writing, we do not know the outcome of this application but fingers crossed! This is a large and exciting project for the village and again more details are included in this newsletter.

Over the summer West Sussex County Council (WSCC) announced that it was creating Community Development Teams to work closely with Parish Councils. We now have a Principal Officer who will be working with us to ensure that community concerns, whether complaints, issues or suggestions, are fully understood in order to identify the priorities. We have taken the opportunity to list a number of issues we want WSCC to consider, the main concern being the flooding problem around the pavilion and the potential blockage of the drain under the Green. We've already tried a number of avenues to get this resolved and hope that help from WSCC will be forthcoming. We have also raised the issue of surface water in Kirdford Road in heavy rain which could be linked to this drainage problem. We have spoken to WSCC regarding the relocation of the bus stop on the north side in Kirdford Road and the creation of a larger pedestrian waiting area; I know that the existing site and size has been a concern to many. We will obviously keep you updated.

You may have noticed that the top of Harsfold Lane has now been re-surfaced. Ownership of this top section is unknown but as it is heavily used by the community, the Parish Council took the decision to contribute to the repair, along with the residents and Scout Group. With the rise in level of the new surface the opportunity has been taken to re-surface the parking area beside the road, so we hope this will be of benefit to all users.

We have also been successful in sourcing three new Chestnut trees of the variety which has shown resistance to disease. These will replace the one which was removed in Durbans Road two years ago and two further trees which are sadly dying; one on the Little Green and one by the Cricketer's Arms. We will continue to monitor the trees and undertake replacements as required.

Traffic and speed is always a concern. We are continuing our talks with WSCC to investigate improvements on the A272, west of the village. In addition, traffic counters are to be put on the B2133 at Newpound in order to record actual numbers and speed of vehicles, so that any remedial measures required can be put in place. These observations and recommendations were put forward as a result of the work undertaken by the Community Speed Watch Group. We will obviously keep you updated. As the weather inevitably worsens we ask everyone to be vigilant and to not park on the grass verges around the village green. We all take pride in our green and a great deal of effort (as well as money) goes into its well being. Let's prevent as much damage as we can and keep vehicles on the road.

Finally, our thanks to all those who put such effort into our great summer events – the Bank Holiday weekend and the balloon weekend! Both such a unique aspect of enjoying living in the village. Also, thank you to the volunteers who turned out for the

litter picking afternoon; this team effort makes a huge difference to the village. Would that it were not necessary!

Keith Charman, Chairman



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COMMUNITY LED PLAN PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE BY 16TH DECEMBER 2011

As a Wisborough Green resident, we are sure you are keen that our Parish should continue to be one of the best places to live in West Sussex.


In 2004 your Parish Council, in consultation with the residents, developed a Parish Plan which identified a number of improvements which have subsequently been implemented, such as the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch in all areas of the village, the creation of a permissive footpath to help deal with road safety issues on the A272 and the provision of a display board for village events on the verge below the Church. Not only have these things been done but the current Government plans are to put the emphasis on local initiatives and hence the need for Parish or Community Led Planning as it is now called. It is therefore time to think again about what sort of future we would like to see for Wisborough Green and its residents. We are hopeful that when the Localism Bill is passed (expected in December) that the plans we develop at a local level will then have greater influence on the plans made by a range of outside agencies that impact upon our lives.

It's difficult to plan for the future if you don't know your starting point so we would like to establish a 'baseline' of information gleaned from our community. This questionnaire is asking you

what you think about Wisborough Green, what's good and what's not so good, as well as asking for your ideas on how you would like the community to develop in the future.

The world has moved on since we last carried out a survey and we now have the facility for questionnaires to be completed online, a process that will make the analysing and reporting of the results a far easier process for us. So we would encourage everyone who has access to the internet to use this facility. If you do not have internet access or you don't feel comfortable using it, 'pen and paper' is still very much OK. Please complete the form and submit it by 16th December. If you have filled in the paper version there are collection boxes at the shop and all three pubs or use the Parish Council letter box at the Village Hall. There will also be Parish Council representatives at the Village Market on 8th December who will be on hand to collect surveys and answer any questions about the survey and Community Led Planning process.

The online facility has been provided by working closely with Action in Rural Sussex and Brighton University, utilising their online community planning tool called Community 21 (<http://wisboroughgreen.community21.org> – there is also a link from the village website). This provides us with a website of our



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own that will enable us to develop our Community Led Plan by fully engaging with our residents. Not only has it facilities for online questionnaires it also provides us with an opportunity to map the important assets in our community and to encourage greater discussion around important issues. The use of the site will develop further as we progress through the Community Led Plan process.

If you complete the questionnaire online you will be asked for your postcode. This is purely to ensure that your questionnaire responses are attributed to Wisborough Green and not connected to your individual survey results. The Parish Council does not have access to email addresses. Please be assured that **ALL DATA WILL REMAIN ENTIRELY UNATTRIBUTABLE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL.** Filling in the questionnaire online allows you to see

the emerging results so you may wish to return to the site at regular intervals to see how the results are changing.

We would like to receive one completed survey from each household in the Parish. We would appreciate it if the person who fills it in also involves other members of the household so we get the views of all sectors of our community. Please do not miss this opportunity to have your voice heard and influence future changes in your community. The more people who take part at this stage the stronger the plan will be.

We are planning to hold a consultation event in April 2012 when we will feedback to the community the results of the survey and start a discussion about what this means for the future. At the April event we will also be giving more specific consideration to planning matters such as the location of any future housing development.

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Every year the Parish Council puts up the Christmas tree which adds some cheer to the festive season. Earlier in the year we looked into the possibility of planting a rooted tree which would be more cost effective in the longer term and obviously the 'greener' option. Unfortunately, we cannot plant a large tree as the chances of survival are reduced, however, once this year's cut tree has been removed, we will be planting a rooted tree. It is obviously going to take a little while to get to a suitable size, so in the meantime, we will continue to buy a cut tree but watch our new tree grow. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Three Crowns for again agreeing to provide the electricity for the lights.

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WHERE ARE THE LITTER BINS OFF TO?!

Many people may be wondering why some of the litter bins are to be removed. You may be surprised to know that we have 23 dotted around the village, the highest number in any village in the Chichester District. Last year each bin cost just over £55 per year to empty and having carried out a usage survey, it became apparent that some were being used infrequently. As we were unable to alter the emptying schedule, the Parish Council made the decision to remove seven, therefore saving £386 per year.



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EXCITING TIMES AHEAD – THE VILLAGE PLAYGROUND IS TO GET A REFURBISHMENT

We are all fond of the village playground – many of us have happy memories of times spent there, whether as children, parents or grandparents, but sadly, like many of us, it's beginning to feel its age!

The Parish Council acknowledges that for today's standards the equipment falls short in provision and does not address the needs for the younger members of the community or those with a disability. As such, the Council has agreed to undertake a refurbishment to mark the exciting events of 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics, and to create a fantastic legacy for the children and the village.

Details of the proposed plan will be displayed at the Community Led Plan exhibition next year, but to wet the appetite of the younger members of our community, we hope to include a new small climbing frame with slide for the little ones, a new roundabout, see-saw and junior swings including a nest swing for group play. But rest assured, the popular old slide will remain! Those with little ones will also be pleased to know that the remaining open side will be fenced to enclose the area.

The total cost of the project could be as much as £50,000 which is obviously a huge undertaking for the village. The Parish Council has agreed to fund up to a maximum of £25,000 by taking advantage

of a low interest loan available to us from the Government but the other funds will have to be found from grant funding applications, funding raising activities or donations. The objective is to get as close as we can to our target figure in order to provide the best possible playground for our children. To kick start our fund raising we are delighted that the Wisborough Green Fete Society has agreed to donate £2000 from this year's fete. We also submitted a bid for Community Natwest funding and have been encouraging you to vote (the result is as yet unknown) and have also submitted several other grant applications. If you feel that you would be able to help make this project happen, whether by organising a fund raising event or making a donation, then please contact the Clerk, Louise Davies, on 701102.

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**BE PREPARED
THIS WINTER...
A REMINDER TO ALL**

With winter fast approaching can we please remind you to get yourselves prepared for the extreme weather and power loss that we have experienced during the last couple of winters. The checklist below may be a useful aide memoire:-

- Do you have a camping stove? If so, do you have any gas including a spare? Best buy now whilst stocks are plentiful.
- Check your supply of candles/matches and obtain spare batteries for torches.
- If you have an open fire, ensure that you always have a supply of logs, coal

and firelighters. Has your chimney been swept and is your fire ready for use?

- Do you have a corded telephone somewhere in the house? This is worth remembering as the cordless ones we so frequently use generally don't work without power.
- Do you have a flask that could be filled with hot water if required?
- What about a traditional hot water bottle (without power the microwaveable ones can't be heated).
- Perhaps some tinned/packet soups and other non perishable food stocks would be useful to those who would be unable to leave their homes in treacherous conditions.

Please spread the word so that as a village we are well prepared this winter.

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Louise Davies, Wisborough Green Parish Council, PO Box 255, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 0WT
Tel: 01403 701102
E-mail: clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Alternatively, letters can be posted in the Parish Council letterbox at the Village Hall.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council will be meeting in the Committee Room at the back of the Village Hall at 7.45 pm on: No meeting in December, Tuesday 17 January, and 21 February 2012. Members of public are welcome to attend. Main meeting and planning agendas are published on the village notice boards and website – www.wisboroughgreen.org – and includes a Public Questions item, which allows you to make any comments or raise concerns to the Parish Council.

PLANNING MEETINGS

Meetings will be held on the following dates only if required: 6 December; 20 December 2011; 3 January; and 31 January 2012

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