

Your Parish Council

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YOUTH WORKER NEEDED FOR WISBOROUGH GREEN'S YOUTH CLUB

The Club meets in the Village Hall on three Thursdays each month during school time. The Youth Worker will be required to work from 6 until 9pm, with additional preparation, admin and training time. Around 20 young people attend on a regular basis. An assistant youth worker also helps with the sessions. For more info, please contact Mike King (Chair, Management Committee) on 700713 or email mnking23@gmail.com

How to contact your Parish Council

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

What's on in the village ?
Check out the village website
www.wisboroughgreen.org

Wisborough Green Parish Council Parish Council News

Issue: 22

November 2015

Chairman's Message

A year ago it would have been difficult to believe that the weather could have been any worse on August Bank Holiday Monday than in 2014. However, it was and our Fete Society wisely decided to reduce the event to a small number of stalls due to the weather and wet ground conditions. Never mind, the Horticultural Show and other events over the weekend were first class and there's always another year! We thank the Fete Society for their sterling effort in the face of adversity and for making what was a difficult decision to help protect the Green.

Despite not meeting in August, your Parish Council continued its work over the Summer and as you will see in this newsletter, there is quite a lot in the pipeline! We can only give you brief updates in this newsletter on a few of the main items, so for full details, do refer to the Council meeting minutes available on the Village website.

We're nearly there with our Neighbourhood Plan! The adoption of a Plan is so important for the village. Firstly, the views of the Village on so many aspects are clearly expressed and informed decisions made as a result. With a Plan in place, we know the number of houses and where development will occur. Secondly, the presence of an adopted Plan means that funding made available to the Village as a result of housing developments (Community Infrastructure Levy) will be a larger amount with a Plan in place.

Key issues raised in our Neighbourhood Plan consultations were traffic speed and parking. There are no easy solutions but your Parish Council is starting work on a Village Traffic Management Plan. Another big issue facing us is that of Gatwick Airport and at last there is some news to report, thanks to the efforts of all the campaign groups.

On the back page is an advertisement for a Youth Worker for the Wisborough Green Youth Club. The Club is looking for an enthusiastic and motivational individual to work with young people in our community. Full details of this paid position can be found on the village website.

Finally, we bid farewell this month to Grace Stewart, the Parish Council's tenant in The Old Workhouse for many years and a former Parish Council Clerk. We wish her well in her move to Wales to be nearer her family.

Keith Charman, Chairman

Gatwick Airport - the story so far...

Airbus A320 Series: The debilitating whine from the Airbus A318/319/320 aircraft has been known to the Civil Aviation Authority since 2005. It is incredibly distinctive and blights WG when arriving Airbus turn overhead. Without getting too technical, the whine from these older Airbus planes can be easily fixed by fitting the planes with a simple piece of kit called a vortex generator. Lufthansa has retrofitted all its Airbus fleet but EasyJet, Gatwick's largest user and therefore biggest offender, said that it would not retrofit as they were replacing their fleet and would base the new planes at Gatwick. This then changed to a commitment to modify their aircraft by 2018, but realising the fury the company has caused, EasyJet's CEO said in July that they will bring forward the timetable: by June 2016 around 100 planes will be adapted. In addition BA has said it will modify its 130 older Airbus A320 planes from October 2015. This will make a small but significant improvement to WG.

The Independent Airspace Review of Arrivals: A full Review of Arrivals, inspired by Sir John Major (Chair of the Advisory Board to Gatwick's majority shareholders, GIP) is under way. The Terms of Reference have been agreed with the Chairman of Gatwick, Sir Roy McNulty, after some weeks of negotiation.

Through the Summer, protest groups to the east of the airport, led by Gatwick Obviously Not (GON), who endure more arrivals and greater disruption than we do, pursued Sir John Major (and Gatwick's other owners) to seek his help in bringing back some tranquility to the skies. He did not let them down. Once the offer of a Review was received, GON worked fast to gather in the other campaign groups, including CAGNE, with whom the Parish Council is affiliated and I am a Committee Member. For this Review the various groups are working as the GatOne Group and the Review will be dealing with arrivals from the west and east.

On 23rd September we all sat across a table at Gatwick from the man leading the Review, Bo Redeborn (a world class airspace consultant) and his Specialist Adviser, Graham Lake. This was an initial meeting to test the credibility of the Review and the independence of Mr Redeborn. We came away content with the details of the Review and with confidence in its Chairman.

The Project Delivery Plan is available on the Wisborough Green website. On page 7 are the final, agreed Terms of Reference. We fought particularly hard to have 'dispersal' included in the Review. One of our requests under the Terms of Reference was for a Communities Agent - in effect technical back-up to advise us on the changes we want to see happen. We have duly appointed Airspace Designers to70 in Holland, and Gatwick will be funding their work. GON have been to see to70 in The Hague for very interesting and constructive first discussions.

I will be working with other members of CAGNE on a presentation to the Review that focuses on the very real, and preventable, blight that WG (and Loxwood, and Alfold, and Plaistow, and Billingshurst, and so on) experience to ensure that this is addressed by the Review and included within its recommendations. All parties are keen on speed and the Review will report in January 2016. No party is bound by its findings, which can work both ways of course.

Bonfires - please consider your neighbours

It's that time of year again when there are leaves to clear and gardens to tidy. Should you feel that a bonfire is necessary, can we please remind you to be considerate of your neighbours. Smoke can ruin a person's enjoyment of their garden, prevent them from opening their windows or hanging out washing, and can have severe health implications for susceptible people such as children, asthma and bronchitis sufferers or those with heart problems. Please think of others.

Be prepared for Winter & possible power loss

Every year we remind residents at this time to get prepared for Winter – we never know if or when bad weather will arrive. Plan ahead and get yourselves prepared for extreme weather and possible power loss. Do remember to look out for your neighbours, particularly the elderly or less able.

- * 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 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?
- * Perhaps some tinned and other non perishable food stocks would be useful to those who would be unable to leave their homes in treacherous conditions.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

In the Committee Room at the
back of the Village Hall
7.45 pm on the following

Tuesdays:

17 November
20 January 2016
16 February
15 March

No meetings in August & December.
Additional meetings may be called.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. The agenda is published on the village notice boards and website. It includes a Public Questions item, which allows you to make any comments or raise concerns to the Parish Council.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please refer to the agendas displayed on the village notice boards and website for information on when meetings will be held - a meeting will only be called to meet CDC deadlines. Meetings are held on a Tuesday in the Committee Room at the Village Hall at 8.00 pm and are currently schedule for:

3 November
1 & 15 December
5 January 2016
2 February
1 March

A Village Hall fit for the 21st Century - exciting times ahead !

Plans are at a very early stage, but the Parish Council is delighted to be working with the Village Hall Management Committee to improve the Village Hall. Watch this space !



Drainage improvements around the Pavilion

After many years of flooding around the Pavilion, it is with much relief that a new drain has been installed. The old pipe was potentially blocked with tree roots and in addition to the flooding around the building, water also accumulated on the Kirdford Road pavement and road. The new pipe is much larger and now takes surface water from the estates under the village green to the ditch on the opposite side of Kirdford Road. The Parish Council also took the opportunity to have French drains installed at the front of the Pavilion to hopefully resolve this waterlogged area. The work was made possible by WSCC Watershed Funding, for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful.

Roping off the Football Pitch

Congratulations to the Wisborough Green Football Club which has gained promotion this season from second to first division (being called Championship).

As part of the Football Association rules, this now means the football pitch has to be roped off one metre from the side lines to help the linesmen with decisions and to also stop spectators moving onto the pitch during the match. The ropes will be put up on the morning of a match at about 9 am and taken down at the end of the match. **The Parish Council is delighted to support the Football Club, but it is important to highlight that although roped off, the pitch area can still be used by members of the public until the match starts!**

New Cricket Nets

The Parish Council is delighted that the Cricket Club is encouraging so many new younger members into the sport and is therefore pleased to support the Club's proposal to replace the current cricket net provision on the Green. The existing concrete area will be replaced with permanent green matting and the unsightly nets will be removed, replaced by nets which are installed when required for net practice. This will not affect the use of the area for general recreation, but will improve the appearance. As for the basketball net, don't worry, this will be retained.



Gatwick Airport - the story so far...

The Department for Transport: Earlier this year CAGNE played its part in bringing together flight path campaign groups from around Gatwick, Heathrow and City Airports. Now known as the Aviation Communities Forum, through the skillful drafting and diligence of its Chairman (from GON's Strategic Team) we have secured a meeting in November with the Minister for Aviation, Robert Goodwill. Rest assured the most productive Agenda possible will be agreed.

National Air Traffic Service and Gatwick: The campaign groups have now met twice with the recently appointed NATS CEO, Martin Rolfe, and his team. The first meeting in September was held at the Civil Aviation Authority under the Chairmanship of Phil Roberts (CAA) and stewardship of Richard Streatfield, MBE, Chair of the increasingly important High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group. Stewart Wingate, CEO of Gatwick, also attended. We sensed a change in attitude towards those on the ground, particularly from NATS and Gatwick's CEO.

On 1st October the campaign groups travelled to NATS HQ at Swannick and the tone from Martin Rolfe was again very definitely one of wanting to make constructive and positive changes to the airspace that the communities could agree on. You read that right: **constructive and positive changes to your airspace.**

It seems we are starting to be heard and they are listening very hard indeed. Now our job is to turn that into real changes in the skies above us all. Previously we could not raise a response from NATS. Now they are inviting us to discuss and asking what we collectively want to happen. CAGNE has presented a scheme for dispersal of departures to the west (not a major problem for us today but one looming in the future) that demonstrated how modern navigation methods could be used to minimize noise pollution for rural communities. NATS did not dismiss it and the proposals are being worked up with a view to getting endorsement from the affected rural communities before they begin the time consuming passage through NATS, the CAA and the DfT. The fight is not won, it hasn't even begun to be won, but at least we are at last squaring up to the right guys.

2nd Runway: Despite Howard Davies's Airport Commission unequivocally recommending a third runway at Heathrow, the matter is far from settled. The Government has said it will announce how it will approach the decision by November and take a decision by Christmas; the decision might be taken by the Prime Minister and a Cabinet Committee or there are rumours it will be put to a free vote in the Commons. The first option is hampered by Mr Cameron's 2010 'no ifs, no buts, no third runway at Heathrow' pledge. The second, which at one point would have favoured Heathrow comfortably, is now not so certain with rumours that SNP votes being bought for a pledge of more connections from Gatwick.

We will do everything we can to try and prevent Gatwick getting a second runway but the strongest argument we have is the Howard Commission's report.

Peter Drummond, Parish Councillor & CAGNE Committee Member

Neighbourhood Plan

In the last newsletter we reported that the Chichester's Local Plan had been adopted and our village Neighbourhood Plan was also progressing along the process of adoption. Our Plan is currently with the examiner and we await his comments with interest. Once his report has been received, it will be factually checked before being published by CDC. The Parish Council will then discuss and agree with CDC any amendment required by the Examiner, before a recommendation for a Parish referendum is made to the CDC Cabinet. In order to allow sufficient time and to meet the CDC Cabinet meeting dates (not helped by Christmas in the way too!), it does now look as though the referendum will be held next Spring. This process does seem very drawn out, but we are getting there! We will keep you informed.

STOP PRESS Winterfold Planning Application just received - 15/03366/OUT. Parish Council will review early Nov. Details will be on website & noticeboards.

Boxal Bridge

Thanks to the efforts of Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green, the future of the bridge was discussed at the WSCC Meeting on 16 October. Peter Mann, a local resident, presented the case for Boxal Bridge, which was supported by both Kirdford and Wisborough Green Parish Councils; the Parish Councils were unable to speak at the meeting. The WS Councillors who spoke agreed with the petition, supported the case made by village residents and did not want it to be demolished. A resolution, calling on the Highways Department to work with both Parishes to ensure that a satisfactory solution can be reached, was unanimously adopted with one abstention. The Parish Councils now look forward to working closely with Mr John O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, in the knowledge that WSCC was against unnecessary replacement!

Parking on the west road leading to the Pavilion

In almost every newsletter, inconsiderate parking somewhere in the village is mentioned! Over the Summer there have been some parking difficulties associated with sport and the use of the west road, leading to the Pavilion. Discussions between the Parish Council and Sports Association have hopefully gone some way to resolve the problems. However, it is also important to highlight to all members of the community that the use of west road is restricted to residents, their visitors, deliveries, and Sports Association officials and staff. If you are playing in a match or visiting the Pavilion or Green, please park elsewhere.

The area at the top of the road has been used for parking, restricting access to the cottage; unfortunately, the new 'no parking' notices have not only been ignored, but were removed! As preventing parking is difficult to manage, the Parish Council has had to make the decision to have hatched 'no parking' lines installed which will hopefully be seen and not ignored.

School Road One-Way System - reminder to all

There will be new residents in the village who are perhaps not aware of the voluntary one way system in School Road which was introduced to help with the school traffic. Perhaps a good opportunity to remind us all! **In operation for school drop-off and pick-up: enter from the pond off the A272 between 8.30 – 9.15 am and 3.00-3.45 pm.**

Thank you for supporting this scheme – it has certainly gone some way to ease congestion and improve road safety during these busy times.



Traffic Management Plan

Traffic problems are not going away. Through the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, we sought your opinion and you certainly told us! There has now been a great deal of research into traffic calming and some very interesting reports published on different approaches. Future development in the village may put more pressure on our current road network but also provides us with limited funding to potentially make some improvements. The Parish Council is now working towards producing a village wide Traffic Management Plan to hopefully address many of your concerns. Again, we will keep you posted as our investigations and plans progress.

Please cut back your hedges along roads & pavements

Vegetation has grown exceptionally well again this year and over the Winter (and before the birds start nesting again, officially from 1st March!) is the time to cut back hard. Can we please remind all landowners that it is your responsibility to cut road side hedges. This is particularly important for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders that may need to make a hasty retreat from the road, as well as being important to keep road signage clear. Likewise, clear pedestrian access, especially for those with wheelchairs and pushchairs, is important, so please cut back vegetation bordering pavements. This is a general reminder to all and the Parish Council will be dropping a note into properties where there is a particular concern. Thank you for your cooperation.

VILLAGE POND UPDATE
Despite having the pond weed cleared last Autumn, it is back with a vengeance and the pond now looks in a sorry state. Even the ducks are fed up! We are therefore seeking advice to see what should be done to restore the condition in the short and longer term.

THANK YOU LITTER PICKERS !
Thank you to all those who helped at the recent litter pick. Yet again, a staggering amount of litter was collected, which is rather a sad reflection of our society these days. The MacDonalds at Buck Barn crossroads has a lot to answer for!!