

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

Issue: 28

January 2018

Chairman's Message

At the time of writing the evenings are still getting shorter, by the time you read this the evenings will be starting ever so slightly to lengthen, albeit by only about a minute a day. The pace of change can seem glacial in its slowness and the same could be said about things in Wisborough Green; something I applaud. As the French are wont to say "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose"— the more it changes, the more it's the same thing. Wisborough Green will always change but we will and must preserve its heart.

Whilst it can be frustrating that it takes a long time to get things done it affords the time to get them right which, mostly, I think is the case. The Parish Council recently undertook a review of its five-year objectives and it was immensely encouraging to see progress on many items and final ticks against some: things like the new village website which I happen to think is one of the best I have seen, the community applications for traffic improvements in the centre of the village, the parking area in Butts Meadow after years of chasing, a new community noticeboard on the bus shelter, great progress with plans to convert the BT kiosk to a village information point and the prospect of affordable homes for rent. Through this newsletter we are only able to provide a brief insight into the work of the Parish Council. For more detailed updates, please do read the Council meeting minutes which are posted on the website every month.

Part of the Parish Council's job is to keep examining and chipping away at, mostly small, stuff but be ready to take on the big jobs when they arise, the Neighbourhood Plan was one such job; it was an immense undertaking (thankfully all but put to bed before I joined the PC) and I cannot praise the Parish Councillors who put in all the long hours and hard work to create it. The Neighbourhood Plan is Wisborough Green's plan and one that everyone had the chance to, and many did, vote on.

The Parish Council is involved in resisting, along with CDC, the appeal against the refusal of planning for an old-age complex at Stable Field, Kirdford Rd, a development outside the Neighbourhood Plan we agreed. We are at a loss as to why the developer doesn't 'get' that what is proposed is wrong for the village, on so many levels. The Public Inquiry will be held from Tuesday 30th January 2018 for 4 days. Anyone who wishes to make representation must attend and register at 10 am on the first morning.

A very happy New Year; we can look forward to 2018 in Wisborough Green with optimism and excitement. Ever onwards.

Peter Drummond

Community Land Trust (please read this, it's important)

Wisborough Green is similar to many places but also different. We have a shortage of affordable housing; homes for people who have grown up here, people who want to stay here, people who love WG and, most importantly, people who can't afford to live here because it's such a wonderful place that demand has outstripped supply and prices have been pushed ever upwards.

When there is any new development site, of which we currently have two (the Jones Homes site on the Petworth Road and the Runnymede Homes site behind the Cricketers) there is a requirement that a percentage is provided as affordable homes. The Government's preferred scheme is that these are delivered on a 'shared ownership' basis, however, shared ownership in WG is still unaffordable; this is why WG is different. The Parish Council therefore wants these homes to be available at a properly affordable rent and is committed to delivering this, one way or another.

The Parish Council has had discussions with housing associations and this is still a viable option although some housing associations appear more committed to shared ownership than the Council. Another option is that we establish a Community Land Trust (CLT) which would own the homes and decide, more or less, who could live in them. A CLT is not the Parish Council and is established as a separate legal entity. Before a CLT can be set up it has to demonstrate that it has the support of the community and this is where YOU come in.

A few pointers about a CLT:

- ◆ In the first instance the WG CLT would own some of the village's housing, which would eventually become valuable village assets generating income.
- ◆ These homes would be for people that WG wants, and needs, living here.
- ◆ A CLT could, in the future, build homes, which would be available to house our own and the people we want to come to our village.
- ◆ A CLT could, if needed, take-over and/or build village assets like the shop.
- ◆ The form it takes is quite fluid, we decide. The ownership of the CLT entity can be nominal or alternatively it could be owned by way of WG villagers buying shares, such as recently promoted for the new Fittleworth Community Shop; if every man, woman and child were to spend just £10 each to buy a share this would give everyone a genuine stake in the village and its future and a financial base to help get the CLT underway.

The downside:

This is one more entity that needs volunteers. I am happy to lead on this but really need others to step up. The dream team would be:

- ◆ A member of the Parish Council
- ◆ Someone who is properly embedded in Wisborough Green
- ◆ Someone with financial expertise
- ◆ Someone with legal expertise
- ◆ Someone with experience owning/running rental property
- ◆ An administration clerk (Louise Davies, our Parish Clerk has offered)

Community Land Trust - what I'm asking you to do

Please complete the questionnaire on the back page of this newsletter and return it via the box in the Village Shop, the Parish Council letter box at the Village Hall or send your response to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

- ⇒ **Think, could you/would you like to volunteer as a CLT trustee/director.**
- ⇒ **Throw in anything that you think we should be thinking about.**

If you have kept reading to the end, thank you; Wisborough Green is just-the-best and don't we all want to keep it that way – volunteer.

Peter Drummond, Parish Council Chairman

Future Village Housing - progress update

Land South of Meadowbank: After further discussion with the Parish Council to amend final housing design, the Reserve Matters application was permitted by CDC in October. The PC hopes to continue to work closely with the developer.

Winterfold Fields: The Parish Council held a very encouraging early discussion with Runnymede Homes at the start of the year. Since then, Runnymede has been working further on the design and presented the drawings to be submitted for the Reserve Matters application at a Parish Council planning meeting in November. Again, the Parish Council was encouraged by the details presented – the developers had considered the site and situation within Wisborough Green very carefully and taken due regard of the design details within the Neighbourhood Plan. The Reserve Matters application will be submitted shortly and details will be posted on the village website.

As mentioned in the Community Land Trust article, both sites will provide the village with some affordable housing. If you have a local connection to Wisborough Green, meet CDC criteria and/or are in need of a rented home, please ensure that you register your interest with Chichester District Council.

Winterfold Community Land: We are all very excited that as part of this development, the village will gain another community open space, which will be gifted to the Parish Council. This will be for all to enjoy but obviously design and management needs to be considered. We are currently looking at the possibility of providing a walking route/fitness trail in wild flowers, fitness apparatus and perhaps a small cricket pitch for juniors. Watch this space!

***** Your New Year's Resolution ***** Grow your own veggies ?

Is the thought of growing your own fruit & veg appealing but yet you haven't enough space in the garden? Well, this is your opportunity as there is an allotment available. It's been lovingly maintained for a number of years with plenty of manure added, and is ready to go! For more information please call Louise Davies, Parish Council Clerk, on 701102.

Gatwick Airport

There is progress on matters Gatwick but it is painfully slow. Since Gatwick became such a 'hot' topic with the ADNID departure route trial in 2014 the most important thing to report is that Gatwick and associated aviation agencies (CAA, NATS, airlines etc) are taking the issue of noise and its effect on local communities seriously.



The Noise Management Board that was established as a result of the Independent Arrivals Review is having a beneficial effect; for instance, 70% of A320 aircraft using the airport are now modified and differential charging will provide a disincentive for the remainder; a definition has been created for what constitutes 'fair and equitable' distribution of noise and airlines are starting to introduce reduced arrival noise into their working practices.

The NMB has now moved on from implementing the findings of the Arrivals Review, which has been deemed completed although not actually complete and is now looking at reducing noise from departing aircraft and reducing night noise. Whilst the trial on the latter is not scheduled until early 2019 it is still to be welcomed.

There is much work still to do, but progress is being made.

Traffic Management Plan

Cricketers crossroads: In discussion with WSCC, a Community Highway Scheme application has been submitted to make safety improvements to the junction, extend the existing layby and provide a better crossing point from the Green to improve the walking to school route. The application has passed the first stage of the approval process so a little way to go, but fingers crossed!

Newpound Lane Junction with B2133: There are major safety concerns at this junction as a result of speed on the B2133, traffic movements from the various site entrances and poor visibility exiting Newpound Lane. By cutting the hedge hard back and with slight re-alignment, an improvement can be made; the landowners have now indicated their willingness to help so we will try to progress.

Speed Indicator Device: We are having sites assessed and obtaining quotations to obtain our own village device.

Durbans Road: An application for a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the 40 mph speed limit to 30 mph has been submitted to WSCC and is now being processed. We don't want to build up hopes, but it has passed the first stage.

Graphic Designer Needed

We have two exciting projects currently being worked on for the village. One is the conversion of the BT telephone kiosk into an information point for residents and tourists, and the other, is the design of history and walking leaflets. This is where we need some help. We have the information, we have the photos but we need someone with the expertise and artistic vision to put together into leaflets that will promote and open all our eyes to the wonderful village in which we live. If you can help, please contact Louise Davies, Parish Council Clerk, on 701102.

Social Prescribing

Coming to GP surgeries serving Wisborough Green soon.

Social prescribing is an NHS initiative for community referrals and there are more than 100 schemes in the UK. It enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. It aims to encourage and support patients in taking control of their own health and wellbeing, where appropriate, through community referrals rather than medical prescriptions. SP schemes involve a variety of activities provided by voluntary organisations and a link worker who 'signposts' people in accessing these local sources of support.

A recent Daily Mail article (21 Nov) detailed the success of a scheme in Gloucestershire where GPs referred to local services including arts/social groups, exercise classes and organisations offering help with home life and legal advice. The success of a GP surgery in Hull was also highlighted where services such as Teen Health, psychiatric nurse support and cookery and nutritional advice were introduced. Chichester District Council, in partnership with local GPs and other health professionals, is now working to develop a Social Prescribing project, initially over a 2 year period starting in April 2018. If you feel that a scheme such as this could benefit you or if you are a volunteer who could offer support, speak to your local surgery and ask what 'prescriptions for participation' might be available in your area!

Sheena Overington, Parish Councillor

Get Prepared for Winter

As we write this newsletter, many parts of the country have already experienced the first snow of the season. Do remember that it wasn't so long ago that we had power loss in cold snowy weather, and then the storms and flooding at Christmas. Don't put it off, get yourself prepared just in case. **More information on the village website.**

Dealing with Snow and Ice

In the event of extreme winter conditions, arrangements have been put in place to have key areas in the village cleared by E P Clark. However, we have to be realistic about what can be done and therefore help from the community to clear pavements is needed. The following article has been taken from the Government information website. If we do get heavy snow this winter, then please do your bit to keep the village moving. Every little helps! Government Information Website www.gov.uk
You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself. It's unlikely that you'll be sued or held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if you've cleared it carefully.

When you clear snow and ice:

- * do it early in the day - it's easier to move fresh, loose snow
- * don't use water - it might refreeze and turn to black ice
- * use salt if possible - it will melt the ice or snow and stop it from refreezing overnight (but don't use the salt from salting bins as this is used to keep roads clear)
- * you can use ash and sand if you don't have enough salt - it will provide grip underfoot
- * pay extra attention when clearing steps and steep pathways - using more salt may help

It's time to get the shears & hedge cutter out!

It's that time of year again to crack on and get your hedges cut back before the birds start nesting again in the spring. This is particularly important for those with hedges along pavements, where overgrowth causes access difficulties especially for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Roadside hedges need to be cut to ensure that signage is clear, visibility at junctions is not obscured and cyclists and pedestrians have space if they need to make a hasty retreat. Remember the birds officially get building again on 1st March!

Myth Buster - the minibus is not just for the elderly!

With the limited public bus service, we are very fortunate in WG to have an amazing community minibus service which is run by volunteers, but perhaps there is a misunderstanding that this service is purely for the elderly. Thankfully not. It's available to anyone, young and older! Jump aboard and enjoy a convenient service from your home right into the centre of popular shopping destinations or perhaps one of the interesting excursions planned each month. Take the hassle out of shopping, appreciate the ride and scenery, and enjoy the community chatter along the way. A small annual membership of £5 is charged to cover insurance and after that, it's just a small charge for each journey. Far cheaper than running a car and you avoid paying high parking charges too. For more information about forthcoming trips please look in the Parish Magazine or village website.

How to contact your Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Louise Davies
Wisborough Green Parish Council
PO Box 255, Wisborough Green
Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 0WT

T: 01403 701102
E: clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org
W: www.wisboroughgreen.org

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please refer to the agendas displayed on the village notice boards and website for information - 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:

2 January
6 February
6 March
3 April

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS In the Committee Room at the Village Hall, 7.45 pm on the following Tuesdays:

16 January
20 February
20 March
17 April
19 April - Annual Parish Meeting
**Members of the public most
welcome to attend.**

Community Speed Watch

It has taken longer than expected to get this scheme off the ground, but we are finally getting there. To those who have already volunteered, we will be in touch shortly, but if you would like to get involved, there is still time and we would appreciate your support – please contact Louise, Parish Council Clerk, on 701012 or email clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

What is Community Speed Watch?

- ◆ A locally driven initiative where members of the community, with the support of the Police, monitor vehicle speeds using detection devices.
- ◆ Speeding vehicles are referred to the police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce speed.
- ◆ Volunteers receive training and are supported by the neighbourhood policing team.
- ◆ The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending.

More information can be found at: www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk

**WHAT'S ON IN THE VILLAGE?
HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE LATELY?
All the latest news and village contact details.
www.wisboroughgreen.org**

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**PLEASE COMPLETE THE
SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE REVERSE
AND RETURN TO THE PARISH COUNCIL
BY 31 JANUARY 2018**

Please return to the Parish Council via:

The box in the Village Shop

The PC post box at the Village Hall

or by email to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP &
BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 01798 865546
peter.drummond@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Finance Committee, Gatwick Airport, Local
Council Associations, Pavilion, Planning
Committee, Traffic Management Plan

Andrew Jackson (Vice-Chair) T: 700574
andrew.jackson@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Finance & Planning Committee (Chairman),
Affordable Housing, Pavilion

Nick Beresford T: 701908
nick.beresford@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Planning Committee, Playground Inspections

Andy Burbridge T: 701902
andy.burbridge@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Green Coordination Group, Planning
Committee, Youth Activities

Keith Charman T: 700545
keith.charman@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Finance Committee, Major Emergency Plan,
Pavilion, Traffic Management Plan

Michael Newell T: 701171
michael.newell@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Finance and Planning Committees

Sheena Overington T: 700732
sheena.overington@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Affordable Housing, Major Emergency Plan,
Traffic Management Plan, Village Hall,
Winter Management Plan

Howard True T: 700150
howard.true@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Finance Committee, Major Emergency Plan,
Planning Committee, Traffic Management
Plan, Winter Management Plan

Martin Watson T: 07836 700923
martin.watson@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Affordable Housing, Planning Committee

The Council currently has a full complement of members, but vacancies do occur from time to time. If you are interested in joining the Council please contact the Clerk.

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Community Land Trust - please see article on page 2

Would you support the creation of a CLT in WG? YES / NO

If NO, please explain why:

Would you be willing to be involved in the Management Team? YES / NO

If YES, please provide contact details:

Name:

Address:

Tel: Email:

Any comments:

Data Protection: Please note that if you provide your contact details, they will only be used by the Parish Council to contact you in relation to the CLT; your details will not be used for any other purpose.