

Your Parish Council

Keith Charman (Chairman) T: 700545
keith.charman@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Local Council Associations, Planning,
Community Led Plan

Andrew Jackson (Vice Chair) T: 700574
andrew.jackson@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Planning (Chairman), Affordable Housing,
Community Led Plan

Andy Burbridge T: 701902
andy.burbridge@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Peter Drummond T: 01798 865546
peter.drummond@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Gatwick Airport

Mike King T: 700713
mike.king@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Community Led Plan, Planning,
Youth Activities

Sheena Overington T: 700732
sheena.overington@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Community Led Plan, Village Emergency
Plan, Winter Management Plan, Village Hall/
Workhouse

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

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

Howard True T: 700150
howard.true@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Affordable Housing, Planning, Playground
Inspections, Road Safety/Transport Issues,
Village Emergency Plan, Winter Management
Plan



**Are you looking for
a new challenge ?**

**Do you want to make a positive
difference?**

**Would you like to influence decisions that
affect your community?**

The role of a Parish Councillor is to bring local issues to the attention of the Council and to help make decisions on behalf of the community.

You will need to be able to attend the Parish Council meeting held one evening each month and spend extra time on areas of specialism or interest. Enthusiasm and commitment are more important than experience. The position is unpaid. For more information do contact either the Chairman or Clerk.

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

Wisborough Green Parish Council Parish Council News

Issue: 20

April 2015

Chairman's Message

We have much to celebrate in the Village this spring! The confirmation that the oil exploration application at Boxal Bridge has been withdrawn was an enormous relief to many. It looks as if this dark cloud, which has hung over the community for so long, has been lifted for good we hope as far as Celtique Energy is concerned anyway. Perhaps now the Government will consider site selection aspects of oil exploration in the countryside in much more depth than previously. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to the application; a great example of democracy in action.

You may also have heard that the application for expansion at the Crouchands Farm Biogas plant in Plaistow was recently refused although it is able to continue to operate at the level of its original permission. As far as Wisborough Green is concerned, there has been relatively little impact on the village although the same cannot be said for the lanes around Plaistow and Kirdford. These communities have been deeply involved in the planning issues surrounding the plant, and it is obviously something that we will continue to watch.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is an update on the other major threat facing us, that of the increasing operations and revised flight paths at Gatwick and/or the prospect of a second runway. There is also an update on Boxal Bridge, as well as the latest information on the progress of our nearly complete Neighbourhood Plan; an enormous undertaking for all concerned!

And finally, May 2015 will see the Parish Council elections. The Parish Council currently has 2 vacancies and Mike King has advised that he will not be standing for re-election, having taken up an offer to be involved in another organisation. We are extremely grateful to Mike for his huge contribution to the Council since 2009 and in particular, for leading the Neighbourhood Plan process; we wish him well in his new role. A flyer to advertise the election was circulated with last month's Parish magazine, but if you would like to know more about what is involved, then please do contact me on 700545.

**Keith Charman
Chairman**

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Since the last newsletter (last October), we have consulted on the draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you to all those who took the time to read and comment on the Plan. 134 residents responded to the consultation with over 100 of you dropping into the consultation information sessions in the Village Hall in January. It was reassuring to hear that most of you felt the Plan reflected well the needs and views of the village. Clearly there are some concerns about particular proposals but overall, the feedback was positive. We also consulted a range of organisations that have a stake in what happens in Wisborough Green, organisations such as the South Downs National Park Authority, Southern Water, Natural England, English Heritage and of course Chichester District Council (CDC). Again these organisations felt that we had created a positive and comprehensive Plan and where they had comment, it was largely about ways we could clarify and strengthen our proposals.

Since the end of the consultation the Neighbourhood Plan team has been analysing all the feedback and deciding on what our response should be. In some instances we have changed the Plan and where we have decided that the feedback did not warrant a change, we have set out our reasoning in a document called the Consultation Report. This is one of three documents that needs to accompany the Submission Version of the Plan when it is submitted to CDC. The other two are the 'Basic Conditions Statement' setting out how our Plan complies with planning policy and the 'Proposed Modifications Table' setting out the changes we have made to the Plan after the consultation. All these documents will be made available when the next consultation starts.

We are hoping to submit the Submission Version Neighbourhood Plan in the first half of April. CDC will then run another round of consultation, the Plan will then go for examination by a Planning Inspector and then if all goes well, to Local Referendum towards the end of 2015.

Parish Council Election this May

Elections are held every 4 years and it's that time again! We do currently have vacancies and therefore need other members of the community to put themselves forward. If you:

Are concerned about your local area?

Want to represent the views of local people?

Are passionate about services provided to your community?

And want to keep Wisborough Green as a wonderful place in which to live?

Then please do contact the Chairman for more information about the role (700545) or the Clerk for information about the election (701102).

Image and Website Update

The role of the Parish Council has changed in recent years and with the Localism Act, more responsibility has headed our way; it's certainly not the role portrayed by the Vicar of Dibley! With this in mind, we would like to modernise the Parish Council image. Is there anyone in the village who could help with a logo design and corporate image or perhaps help with updating the village website, and take the Parish Council into the 21st Century with social media? If so, please contact the Clerk on 701102; we would be pleased to hear from you.

Precept for 2015/16

Every October, the Parish Council starts preparing a budget for the following year, taking into consideration the Parish's likely income and expenditure. The Precept is the money collected by CDC on behalf of the Parish Council through the Council Tax – you will see this listed separately on your Council Tax Statement.

Having increased the Precept last year to take account of the ongoing funding of the public toilets, it was agreed that the Precept would be retained at £40,000 for this year. However, part of this funding includes a CDC grant fund which was reduced, hence a small increase will be shown on your Council Tax Statement.

Details of 2014/15 income and expenditure will be made available for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

21 April	15 September
19 May	20 October
16 June	17 November
21 July	

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 Vine Room at the Village Hall at 8.00 pm and are currently schedule for:

07 April
05 May
02 June
07 July
04 & 25 August
29 September
03 November
01 & 15 December

Taking your dog for a walk in the countryside

Many residents of Wisborough Green own a dog and we are blessed with some lovely areas with many footpaths on which to walk them. This same countryside where dog walking is enjoyed is also a place of work for many people who farm or manage the land in other ways. Unfortunately sometimes these two uses of the countryside come into conflict, the potential for which the Parish Council is keen to try and reduce as much as possible.

As far as the law is concerned, the entitlement to take a dog on a right of way is confined to the line of the path so if it's allowed to run around a field and off the path, trespass is committed against the holder of the land. There is no requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead but they **are** required to be kept under **close control** at all times. Dogs should not be allowed to chase or attack livestock and a farmer may shoot a dog that is doing so. There was recently a local incident where a free ranging dog may have been killed by a ram so keeping your pet under control at all times is important for their own safety as well.

Dog fouling can also be a problem and farmers can have animals turned away at slaughter due to worms allegedly being picked up from dog faeces. Some landowners are so worried about this that they feel unable to keep stock in fields with footpaths across them. This clearly has an impact on their business. Please do not leave dog mess behind – it's horrible to tread in and can be dangerous to livestock and humans. Remember to worm your dog regularly and try and encourage it to 'go' at home. Otherwise please pick it up and put it in the dog bins, flush it down the loo or pop it in your refuse bin (securely tied in a plastic bag). Please do not leave dog poo bags littering in the countryside.

Chichester District Council has a Dog Control Order that requires anyone in charge of a dog to clean up immediately after the dog fouls on any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access – this includes footpaths and bridleways.

With summer on its way, let's make the most of the fabulous environment we have on our doorstep. Responsible dog ownership is one way to help keep it 'fabulous'.

Your co-operation in this matter is much appreciated.



Do remember that you can report potholes directly to WSCC:

- Telephone 01243 642105 with the location details.
- Report via the WSCC website – link on village website home page.
- Use your Smartphone. You can download a free smartphone app from the App Stores – simply search for Love West Sussex and install.
- Send a Text or MMS message to 07725 20 20 20 with LCS-LWS in the subject field.

Boxal Bridge Update

Boxal Bridge has also featured strongly in Parish Council activities of late. The bridge requires remedial work and WSCC has commissioned feasibility studies to examine the options, essentially of repair or replacement. Both Kirdford Parish Council and your Parish Council have stated that they don't want the bridge replaced, but we await full results of the structural survey at present. Both Councils and local residents recently met the WSCC bridges team and we are assured that no action will be proposed without our involvement. In the short term however, limited cutting back of vegetation was proposed in order to improve sight lines for traffic approaching the bridge, road signage is to be replaced and Kirdford Parish Council is to clear the stream in order to assist water flow and hopefully reduce flood risk. Let's hope the structural condition doesn't turn out to be a nasty surprise!

Please park with consideration to others

We know through our Neighbourhood Plan consultation and from correspondence to the Parish Council that parking is a concern to many residents. There is no easy solution. Many of the village properties were built in the days when cars were not a major feature of our lives and car parking was not even a consideration. In the longer term there may be some options to explore, but in the meantime, can we please ask all residents when parking vehicles in the village, particularly in Butts Meadow and Carters Way, to avoid parking in a location that:

- ⇒ *Causes an obstruction and blocks visibility for other drivers, particularly on road junctions.*
- ⇒ *Prevents pedestrians from having one clear pavement to walk on.*
- ⇒ *Blocks a drop kerb that stops those with wheelchairs and pushchairs from crossing.*
- ⇒ *Blocks or makes it difficult for residents to access their own properties.*

The Parish Council is asking Sussex Police to return to monitor the estate for dangerous parking.

**Public Access
Defibrillator
available at all times**

Do remember that this is located in the cabinet on the wall outside the second door of the Village Hall

**Parish Spring Clean
Saturday 11th April
2 pm at the Sundial**

Disposable gloves, litter picking sticks, bags and bag holders will be provided.
Do pop down and lend a hand !

Gatwick Airport Update

As with any campaign of protest and persuasion, events grind very slowly, it appears that little is changing and it seems to require superhuman efforts on a repeated basis just to maintain any momentum. Occasionally there is a huge step forward or the campaign comes to an end as is the case with Celtique withdrawing its Appeal. In this case, Howard Davis's Airport Commission recommending a third runway at Heathrow rather than a second runway at Gatwick would be just such a pivotal moment for those affected by Gatwick. However, that would be just the second runway, the effect of which hasn't and wouldn't be felt, the issue of flight paths is already with us and the prospect of what is proposed for the future will affect us greatly.

The efforts of the eight 'umbrella' protest/action groups from West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent and Surrey are being much more closely coordinated than before and there is a unified voice. This has, for instance, led to the Chairmen of all eight groups, and most of the MPs with Constituencies surrounding the airport, attending Number 10 (on Monday 23rd March) to present a letter of unified demands from all Gatwick action groups to the Prime Minister, (look out for press coverage). A representative from Wisborough Green Parish Council is closely associated with CAGNE, one of the groups based in Warnham, and contributed towards the demands and the wording of the communiqué.

The unified approach means that Gatwick is unable to set one group against another as the 'eight' accept that a solution has to be found for everyone's benefit. However bad the prospects for Wisborough Green, the prospects are significantly worse for those living in other villages, and helping to prevent their lives being severely affected by aircraft will protect ours.

The Downing Street meeting is important for two main reasons; the Prime Minister understands the issues when presented and has intervened on a small but significant point in the past. Secondly, change in Government policy is required for a lasting and acceptable solution to Wisborough Green's and everyone else's Gatwick flight path problems.

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 23rd April - Village Hall at 8.00 pm

- ◆ Summary of the Council's activities
- ◆ Income and expenditure for the year
- ◆ A presentation on a new project to protect our precious night skies by Dan Oakley, Dark Skies Lead and Ranger for the South Downs National Park Authority.

We look forward to welcoming you – refreshments will be served.

'Gatwick Obviously Not', the group based in Penshurst in Kent which has been very badly affected, has launched Judicial Review proceedings against the CAA with Gatwick as an interested party. Whilst the point being set out is small and technical, success would lead to much more detailed consultation on all, even minor, route changes.

Since the beginning of the year the WG Parish Council representative has attended many meetings including:

- ◆ CAGNE meetings.
- ◆ An all day conference, chaired by GACC, with the eight action groups discussing aircraft routing and the unified statement of aims being handed to Downing Street.
- ◆ The annual Gatwick Noise Seminar.
- ◆ With West Sussex County Council to establish the support they should be providing.
- ◆ The Chief Executive of Gatwick Airport, the head of the runway two and two other senior managers.
- ◆ and have a meeting at the Department for Transport after Easter.

The Parish Council will continue to keep you updated.

Hooray for pots, tubs and trays

As of Wednesday 1 April, you'll be able to put your household pots, tubs and trays in your regular household recycling collections.

It's not an April fool! You'll be able to recycle things like yoghurt pots, ice cream tubs, fruit and vegetable punnets and ready meal trays, as well as your plastic bottles – they just need to be clean, dry and loose!

From the start of April, plastics that can be accepted in your recycling are:

Milk and drinks bottles; Bathroom bottles; Laundry/detergent bottles & tubs; Yoghurt, cream & soup pots; Ice cream & margarine tubs; Cosmetic pots & tubs; Food & ready meal trays; Fruit & vegetable punnets; and Plastic container lids (such as those used on coffee jars).

But there are still a few plastic items that can't be put into your household recycling. These are: Plastic carrier bags & plastic film; Expanded polystyrene; Plant pots & seed trays; Plastic toys; and Plastic furniture.

To find out more about recycling plastics in West Sussex please visit

www.recycleforwestsussex.org/plastics

