

Your Parish Council

Vacancies

There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council

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

Roland Hamilton T: 700630
Planning, Green Co-ordination Group,
Tree Warden, Playground Inspections

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

Mark Robinson T: 07585 504038
mark.robinson@wisboroughgreenpc.org
Village Emergency Plan, Winter Management
Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wisborough Green Parish Council Parish Council News

Issue: 18

June 2014

Chairman's Message

What a beautiful spring to be living in Wisborough Green! The wild flowers in the woods and verges have never been better, culminating latterly in a tremendous display of Hawthorn and of course, our beautiful Chestnut trees around the Green.

Our last newsletter was distributed in April, which was a month later than normal due to the changed format. This edition is therefore shorter to get us back on schedule, but includes some extremely important updates on major issues for the village.

Our Neighbourhood Plan continues to take shape. Chichester District Council's Local Plan has now been submitted to the Inspector, and is therefore carrying more weight in planning terms, but without this being adopted and without a Neighbourhood Plan in place, it has left villages like ours in a vulnerable position, in common with others in the District. One planning application has already been submitted for a site south of Meadowbank on the A272 to the west of the village. The Parish Council has objected to the application on the grounds of prematurity in relation to our Plan and that no traffic calming measures have been included to give safe pedestrian access into the village. We now await Chichester District Council's decision.

An update on the oil and gas planning application is included, which gives details of the latest consultation response deadline and likely determination date.

As if we haven't enough going on in the village, the latest significant concern for our community is that of the possible Gatwick Airport expansion and separately, what seems to be a substantial increase in aircraft noise levels and frequency over the village. It is a concern that we are watching closely; more information overleaf.

Finally, at our meeting last week, I was re-elected Chairman for another year and I and all your Parish Councillors, look forward to this next year of service to the community. Following the recent resignation of Craig Vit, we now have two gaps in our ranks. If you would like to consider joining us, do ring me or any member of the Council to find out what it entails and the projects that we are currently involved in.

Despite the significant issues facing us, Wisborough Green remains a wonderful place in which to live, so let's hope for a good summer ahead, to enjoy the village and summer events to the full.

Keith Charman - Chairman

Air Traffic Noise - are you being affected ?

To have a major international airport 40 minutes away is clearly a benefit to many of us who are regular users, and in addition, of course, it has a big economic benefit for the whole area. However, the current bid by Gatwick to have the additional runway in the South East would clearly have serious implications for the whole area and if any of the proposed 3 options were to be selected, a substantial increase in aircraft numbers is inevitable. Although not formally consulted, your Council has submitted an objection based on the likely increase in aircraft noise and frequency which we may expect to live with should the Gatwick bid gain Government support.

Turning to the level of aircraft noise, which seems to have increased recently, our District Councillor, Josef Ransley, has contacted Gatwick for an explanation and the reply received will be put on the village website in due course. As a summary, a trial routing of departing aircraft is being undertaken, which takes them over the village, in addition to the arriving aircraft which seem to be more apparent and causing most of the noise. Interesting, in the Parish Council records, we have a map of flight paths in July 2005 which shows that at that time, we only had arriving aircraft over the village.

If you feel strongly about the impact upon your life and our community, please email complaints to the noise complaint line – noise.line@gatwickairport.com. It is imperative that your communication is marked as a complaint in the subject line, otherwise it isn't recorded as such. Also, email our local MP, Nick Herbert (nick@nickherbert.com), to raise this concern at a different level. To be kept up to date, useful information can be found on the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign website (www.gacc.org.uk).

In summary, despite the benefit of Gatwick, if you feel it's activities are affecting your quality of life, now is the time to say so. If we don't shout, it could possibly be assumed that we're not affected. We will obviously keep you posted.

Neighbourhood Plan - consultation in July

A consultation document will be delivered to every household in the Parish in July. You will be asked to consider and comment on the revised shortlist of development sites, planning policies for the village and future design considerations.

To ensure that everyone has access to the information they need and a chance to ask questions, we will also be holding a number of Neighbourhood Plan surgeries in the Village Hall. We will let you know dates in the consultation booklet.

The information that we collect will be validated by independent consultants and will inform our draft Neighbourhood Plan, which will be prepared over the summer for further consultation with the community in the autumn.

This is an important community consultation so please do respond.

Important Oil & Gas Application Update

The further information requested by WSCC has been submitted by Celtique Energie and is now on consultation. An easy link to the relevant page on the WSCC website can be found via the village website www.wisboroughgreen.org. **Please note that all responses must be submitted to WSCC by Friday 20th June 2014 (the original deadline of 5th June has been extended). The application is currently scheduled to be determined by committee on Tuesday 22nd July 2014.**

Can we please again stress that any comments must be limited to the current application and additional information provided, and should not mention 'fracking'.

In the last newsletter, we updated you on the actions of the Parish Council over the last few months. Although we have all been waiting for this information, research has continued, particularly in relation to environmental monitoring and establishing a baseline for environmental factors, against which future readings could be compared. Such monitoring is expensive, so it has also been important for us to establish what is already monitored to avoid duplication and unnecessary expense should we have to go down this avenue.

Representatives from Wisborough Green and Kirdford Parish Councils, as well as Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green, recently met with an environmental monitoring company to help identify the key concerns to monitor. These now appear to relate to: surface water, noise (in relation to traffic movement through the village) and air quality (at exploitation stage). The consultants will be providing a costed proposal for further consideration. These consultants believe that ground water pollution is less likely to be a concern as the drilling is deep and the geology suggests no linking layers to domestic wells. However, to give reassurance, we have also asked for the cost to undertake some well testing. We hope that instructing such testing will not be necessary (application refused), but by having the arrangements in place, action can be taken at short notice.

As we've previously highlighted, notifying residents of impending deadlines is often difficult, so please refer to the village website (www.wisboroughgreen.org) or the Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green website (www.no-drilling.co.uk) to be kept fully informed.

Parish Council Meetings 7.45 pm on the following Tuesdays:

17 June	21 October
15 July	18 November
16 September	

Agendas are published on the notice boards and village website.

The Parish Council's Annual Report for year ending 31st March 2014

**is now available on the
village website.**