

# Wisborough Green Parish Council

# Parish Council News

Issue: 27

September 2017

## Chairman's Message

In May, Keith Charman stood down as Chairman of Wisborough Green Parish Council. It is almost impossible to quantify the debt the village owes him having served as Chairman since May 2009; his tireless work, knowledge, tact and all-round understanding have helped to maintain the village as the beautiful place it is and the effectiveness of the Parish Council in contributing to that. Parish Councils are the first rung on the local government ladder and it is testament to Keith's work that WGPC is active, effective and with a full complement of members. Keith, all of Wisborough Green would like to say thank you.

I took over as Chairman and have now put my tiny feet into Keith's giant boots. I come from these parts, my 92 year old father still lives in Loxwood, I was married in St Peter ad Vincula almost 31 years ago, I used to drink in The Cricketers as a 17 year old (times were different then) and I have lived in the Parish for 13 years, making me a relative newcomer, but have loved the village for as many years as I can remember.

Despite Wisborough Green having challenges, whether it is pressure for more housing, pressure for more school places, traffic, parking, aircraft overflight and so on, it is important to remember that we live in a truly wonderful place in an enchanting part of the best country in the world. It is my intention that we can still make that proud boast for many, many years to come.

In this newsletter we have provided an update on Gatwick as well as the traffic management ideas that are now being pursued. It is important to flag up the traffic issues in School Road and to ask you all to help by following the voluntary one-way system. We've also got exciting plans for the telephone kiosk which has now been adopted by the Parish Council and of course, there is the usual village housekeeping, including details of the autumn litter picking.

As I write, we have a host of events on the Bank Holiday weekend to look forward to and I know the organisers are now racing around putting those final details in place. As always, we must express our grateful thanks to all involved in the organisation, as well as the many residents who offer their help to create a wonderful community spirit and raise funds for many deserving causes. And it doesn't stop there! Don't forget the Touch Rugby Tournament and the Charity Balloon Festival (dawn and dusk) on Sunday 3rd September and of course, Mr Trickett and the annual fair which will be back on Wednesday 20th September, just for the one day this year. Enjoy what remains of this summer.

**Peter Drummond, Chairman**

## Traffic Management - Update

As you know, a consultation event was held in February to hear your views on some solutions to village traffic concerns and we reported in the last newsletter on the ideas that would be progressed further.

Cricketers Crossroads: In discussion with WSCC, a Community Highway Scheme application has been submitted to make safety improvements to the junction. The application highlighted the visibility concerns, traffic speed and the benefits of a new crossing point and pavement to create a safer walking-to-school route. A raised 'table' and junction narrowing was discussed with WSCC, but we are mindful that this is a rural village and would not wish to introduce a scheme that urbanised the area by, for instance, requiring lighting or a plethora of signs. WSCC is now assessing the application with a view to providing an appropriate solution and hopefully there will be more to report by the next newsletter.

Layby Extension - to provide more parking space: The Parish Council has the funds for this but, unfortunately, WSCC has now advised us, having previously expressed a different opinion, that we can't just go ahead. We have therefore included the extension of the existing layby as part of the above Highway Scheme application.

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. We have written to the landowners to the left of the junction about acquiring a small section of land to improve visibility by realigning the hedge. Although one positive response has been received (subject to terms!), we are waiting to hear from the other landowner.

Speed Indicator Device (SID): Residents' comments about the device borrowed from WSCC were positive. We are now having possible sites assessed and obtaining quotations to purchase our own village device. It appears that drivers become complacent and ignore SIDs if they are left at one site for too long, so we are therefore very grateful that we already have a volunteer who has offered to our SID around.

Durbans Road: A questionnaire was sent to residents in the 40 mph section to ask if they supported an application to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph. We received 22 responses (49%) and only one response that did not support the application. We are grateful to residents for forwarding useful comments and pictures which have all been submitted to WSCC as evidence in support of the application. This will be a long process but it has now been started.

Petworth Road: As you may recall, the Parish Council objected to the Land South of Meadowbank development, partly due to traffic concerns and pedestrian access into the village, and asked for traffic calming should the development be permitted. Unfortunately, the Parish Council's and residents' wishes were not met. We have revisited these concerns with WSCC and been advised that, from a highways perspective, the developer's proposals were pretty straightforward which was why WSCC had no objection. We did raise the idea of having a permanent vehicle activated sign on the road, but unfortunately, after assessment by WSCC, no suitable location met traffic regulations and ongoing maintenance requirements; however, WSCC believes that the use of the temporary SID will be more effective. WSCC has also agreed to re-assess carriageway markings and additional speed limit signs once the new development has been completed and the use of the SID monitored.

## Traffic Management - continued

Butts Meadow/Carters Way: Many of you will have seen that a new parking area is being created at the bottom of the Butts Meadow by Hyde Housing; this is to serve the residents in the bungalows, many of whom are elderly, have health concerns or are disabled. We appreciate that parking in this area is difficult, but request that this area is only used by the residents concerned and the needs of these residents are respected. In terms of the rest of the area, we are asking Hyde Housing about garage use and whether there is any scope to provide some more parking areas to ease parking congestion.

## School Road Traffic - voluntary one-way

Hopefully you will have seen the article in the Parish magazine which has been written by School Road residents, and is supported by the Parish Council. It is unfortunate that a few parents have behaved very disrespectfully which has caused upset and irritation. The Parish Council has long taken the view that School Road would not benefit from a permanent one-way as it would likely increase traffic speed and involve much additional signage and road marking leading to a detrimental impact upon the appearance of the Conservation Area.

In order to ensure the safety of road users and pedestrians, as well as maximising the efficiency of school drop-off and collection, we urge everyone to adhere to the voluntary one-way in school term time and during the specified times.

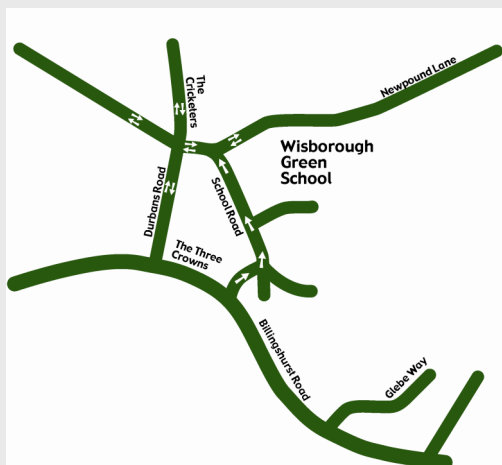
Sadly, the poor behaviour of a few has a huge impact, please all – school parents, WG residents, Village Hall users, delivery drivers, indeed everyone – work together to maintain road safety and in doing so preserve the appearance of our village and happy relations. Temporary signage will be put up at the start of the new term to remind everyone.

**The voluntary one-way system in School Road will be in operation during school term time for school drop-off and pick-up:**

**Enter from the pond off the A272 between  
8.30 - 9.15 am  
3.00 - 3.45 pm**

**Do not turn left when leaving the Village Hall car park**

Thank you for supporting this local initiative to help with our village rush hours!



## Gatwick Airport - update

At non-peak times it appears that arriving aircraft are being routed over a wider area which has led to a small respite for WG, has anyone noticed? However there is still much work to be done before the distribution of aircraft noise can be described as 'fair and equitable'.

The Department for Transport recently published its plans for night flights and it is fair to say that it is hugely disappointing; not only have they seemingly ignored the representations made by impacted communities (many of which cite the potential health hazards of disturbed sleep) but they have offered up everything the aviation industry might want. Despite aircraft getting quieter there is no reduction in the night noise or flights quotas and the review is meant to last for five years.

WGPC is a member of APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group) and, over the course of the autumn, they are planning to put much more information on their website so check back later [www.apcag.org](http://www.apcag.org)

## Future Village Housing - progress update

Land South of Meadowbank: The outline consent, which determined the number of houses and access, was permitted by CDC in July 2015. The site was acquired by Jones Homes and last summer, the Parish Council objected to their detailed plans. Since then, Jones Homes has been refining the details and, in early August, the Parish Council reviewed these plans. Unfortunately, it was necessary for the Parish Council to raise a number of objections relating to character and style, renewable energy devices, parking, landscaping and lack of information on foul and surface water management. To view further comments and to keep up to date, visit the [www.chichester.gov.uk](http://www.chichester.gov.uk) and use 16/02096/REM in the application search box.

Winterfold Fields: The outline planning application was permitted by CDC in March 2016. Following a meeting with the developer earlier this year, we had expected a Reserve Matters application to have been submitted to CDC by now, but both CDC and the Parish Council have had no further contact. Keep an eye on the village website and noticeboards as notification will be posted when available.

## New Village Website - check it out!

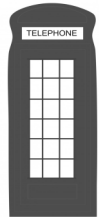
If you haven't seen it already, the new village website is now up and running. There are a few pages to complete, so please bear with us, but take a look and let us know what you think. If you find any errors, or links that do not work, please let Louise know. Also, for those of you who are organising village events, please do remember to send details across for inclusion and also photographs afterwards. We now have a new picture gallery and it would be fantastic to have photos of the many wonderful events that are held. Wisborough Green is a very special village and we would like to ensure that the website does the village justice. Comments and thoughts would be genuinely appreciated - please email Louise on [clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org) Once established (and Louise has got to grips with the new system!), it will be linked to a Facebook page and an option to receive email newsletters/updates will be provided.

## Asset of Community Value - Wisborough Green Stores

In the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, the Wisborough Green Stores was identified as an important village asset. With the limited bus service many people have difficulty leaving the village and the stores provide a vital service. Even those of us who regularly use supermarkets appreciate having our local store, so thank you Allan and Debbie Self. For this reason, with the kind approval of Allan and Debbie, Wisborough Green Stores will appear on the CDC's Register of Community Assets. This means that if the shop unit (excluding the residential element) is to be put on the market, CDC would be notified and the Parish Council would have a 6 week period to indicate their intentions. If the Parish Council provide a written request to be considered (or identified another community based or eligible organisation) as a potential bidder, the property could not be disposed of during a 6 month moratorium. This registration therefore gives the village an opportunity to ensure that the shop is retained, if this is the community's wish.

## BT Telephone Kiosk - a new village information point

The traditional red kiosk, or K6, plays a significant part in our national heritage. For some time, the telephone kiosk by the Three Crowns has been looking very unloved. The Parish Council first expressed an interest in adopting the kiosk over two years ago and it has taken all this time to get agreement from BT. Plans are now in the pipeline to convert the kiosk into an information point for residents as well as visitors to the village. We are very grateful to ex Parish Councillor, Chris Stride, who has agreed to coordinate the project and we look forward to receiving his ideas at the September Council Meeting.



## Boxal Bridge - the latest in this long running saga!

This bridge, on the Parish boundary with Kirdford, previously featured strongly in Parish Council activities but it all went quiet. It was therefore a surprise last September to be notified by WSCC that replacement was again being considered. Kirdford and WG Parish Councils, along with representatives from Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green, met WSCC Highway representatives and the Cabinet Member for Transport on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The arguments both for and against were aired again with the Parish Councils reiterating their objection to replacement. In a nutshell, the Parish Councils maintain that the existing bridge is structurally sound, has historical value, is in keeping with its rural environment and that replacement with a wider bridge would likely increase vehicle speed and be out of keeping. The Parish Councils acknowledge that some maintenance work is required, as are road surface repairs and signage improvements, but question whether replacement is the cost effective solution at a time of spending constraint and especially when money could be better used elsewhere, such as Newbridge! The Parish Councils are meeting WSCC again on 14<sup>th</sup> September, so watch this space!

**Affordable Housing:** We would urge anyone who is interested in a rented or shared ownership property in WG in the future to register with CDC; full details of qualification criteria are given on the CDC website - [www.chichester.gov.uk](http://www.chichester.gov.uk)

## Dog Poo again!

It seems that in every newsletter we need to mention the dreaded 'P' word, whether it is a problem on the Village Green or surrounding roads. This time it relates to someone who is leaving blue dog poo bags in the field next to the school. Not only is this littering but the cattle in the field could swallow them and it's unpleasant for all to see. Whoever you are it's great that you are picking up but please dispose of bags correctly. Thanks!



## It's time to cut back your hedges!

Now that the birds have finished nesting, it's time to crack on and get your hedges cut back. 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 get going again from 1<sup>st</sup> March!

## Autumn Tidy Up - Saturday 7th October



We will be organising another community litter picking on  
**Saturday 7th October**  
meeting at the Sundial at 2.00 pm.

Gloves, litter picking sticks, bags and bag holders will be provided. If you require any further information then please call the Clerk on 701102, otherwise just turn up on the day.  
**We look forward to seeing you!**

The WSCC Access Ranger will be inspecting public rights of way later this year. Please report any issues to the Clerk as soon as possible.

### 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:

**5 September**  
**3 October**  
**7 November**  
**5 December**  
**19 December**

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**In the Committee Room at the Village Hall, 7.45 pm on the following Tuesdays:**

19 September  
17 October  
21 November  
No meeting in December  
**Members of the public most welcome to attend.**

## Community Speed Watch

It's taken a while to get off the ground but we hope that you will soon see a band of volunteers noting vehicle speeds in the village. It is, in the main, an educational tool although offenders will be reported to Operation Crackdown and, we understand that, if a registration number keeps cropping up, the Police will contact the vehicle owner. We hope that this will help to reduce speed within the village. It's not too late to sign up; if you are concerned about speed and have a few hours a month to help out, then please contact Parish Councillor, Howard True, on 700150 who will explain what is involved. **As they say, many hands make light work!**

### Community Speed Watch

#### 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](http://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk)**

## Chichester Local Plan Review

Chichester Local Plan Key Policies (2014-2029) was adopted in July 2015. The Inspector, however, required CDC to complete a review within 5 years to make sure sufficient housing would be planned to meet the needs of the area. This work will form the Chichester Local Plan Review 2034. The government is giving high priority to increasing housing delivery and the Chichester district will be expected to take its share of new development. CDC need to have an up-to-date plan that meets the district's housing needs. If not, it will be subject to speculative applications for new development which could lead to additional unplanned housing being imposed.

The Parish Council recently submitted comments to the consultation which closed on 3rd August. The implications for WG are unknown at present, but we are watching carefully. Having a Neighbourhood Plan in place certainly puts us in a stronger position.

**Bonfires:** Autumn will shortly be arriving and there is a tendency for many to head into the garden and have a good bonfire. Do remember that smoke can affect peoples' enjoyment of their garden, prevent windows from being opened and washing hung out. Please be vigilant and do not burn any plastics or obnoxious materials on fires or wood burners/indoor fires as this can have severe health implications. Thank you for your co-operation.

## 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 T: 700574 (Vice-Chair)**  
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.

## 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.

**WHAT'S ON IN THE VILLAGE?**  
**CHECK OUT THE NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE**

**[www.wisboroughgreen.org](http://www.wisboroughgreen.org)**