

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

Issue: 36

July 2020

Chairman's Message

Oh my goodness; I began the last newsletter remarking on how things can change during the 3 months between one newsletter and the next. If I had predicted then the changes we, as a country and as a world, would experience over the course of the following 3 months, no one would have accepted the script! However, the one thing that would have rung absolutely true is how Wisborough Green would respond to the ensuing crisis, that villagers and local businesses would step up to meet it.

In a caring village such as ours, friends, neighbours and family volunteered to help those needing assistance and/or being forced to self-isolate by Government diktat. In addition, about 60 people also volunteered to help anyone in need. Support was only required by a small number of households, so others took to distributing the Ad Vincula, the parish magazine, which keeps us informed, as the usual distributors were self-isolating. Although many of you have not been called upon, it was reassuring to everyone to know that support was, and is, available and the Parish Council wishes to extend its thanks to all.

We would also like to thank the Wisborough Green Stores, the Old Mill Café, The Cricketers Arms and The Bat & Ball for swiftly adapting: home deliveries, takeaways and a new open-air green grocers are contributing to the village coping with this strange time. We must also thank Pyzer Cleaning Services who have continued to clean the public loos throughout thereby keeping this facility open.

It is a sadness that so many village events have been cancelled, the pubs closed and sport absent from the Green. This is especially so given that whilst the pubs will reopen, sports restart (cricket is taking its first tentative steps already), village events happen again next year, we won't ever be able to come together as a village to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Wisborough Green has been fortunate with, we understand, only a few confirmed Covid-19 cases. With the restrictions starting to lift, we must all be mindful and exercise the greatest common sense and ensure that, if a second spike occurs, we haven't contributed towards it. Whether it be continuing with a heightened personal hygiene regime, wearing facemasks in shops and public spaces or just making sure we don't visit anyone vulnerable if we think we could have come into contact with the infection, there is much that we can do individually to ensure that the virus isn't passed on.

Continued overleaf ...

Chairman's Message Continued

We are blessed to live in Wisborough Green, surrounded by fresh air and beautiful countryside, so by any measure we have avoided what has been, and still is, hardship and fear across the country. Please be mindful that many of our village businesses have lost work and income, and are suffering as a result; many employ Wisborough Green residents, who may be anxious about the future. These businesses have generously supported our community events in the past so now is the time for us all to acknowledge this past contribution and to support them and their staff when they need it.

One bonus has been the lack of aircraft overhead, for a brief idyllic time we have been able to enjoy birdsong and silence without aircraft noise drowning it out; motorcycle noise however... but more of that later.

We ain't out of the woods yet but perhaps we should reflect on the good fortune that comes with living in Wisborough Green.

Peter Drummond, Chairman

Gatwick Airport

Haven't the quiet skies been a joy; they are proof (if it were needed) that containing Gatwick's expansion and restricting the amount that WG is overflowed is still a major priority. Whilst flights have been hugely curtailed and will take some time to get back to where they are don't imagine that Gatwick's ambitious wings have been clipped.

We will be back into the fray soon and the re-constituted Noise Management Board will meet for the first time. We're on it.

VE Day Commemorations

It was a great disappointment to us all that the weekend of commemorations was not as planned, but from the photographs in last month's parish magazine, the village did celebrate and mark this important occasion in style. You did our war heroes proud.

The Parish Council had secured grant funding to project the VE Day logo onto the church tower to promote all the village events. As plans changed, we requested a grant variation and we're pleased to say that a commemorative Horse Chestnut tree, with plaque, will be planted to replace the diseased tree removed by the new layby. This will be a lasting reminder in the village, perhaps of both VE Day 75 and Coronavirus lockdown.

Donated Benches

There are a couple of benches on the Village Green that are getting to the stage that repair is no longer possible. When there is a space on the Green, the Parish Council is always delighted to receive a donated bench in memory of a Wisborough Green resident. If you would like further information, please contact the Clerk.

WG Campaign Against Noise and Speed

Much has already been said, in the parish magazine, about the new action group which has been established by village residents to address speed and noise concerns, particularly from motorbikes, primarily on the A272. The Parish Council fully supports this group and is grateful to those who are now tackling this issue on the village's behalf.

The recent lockdown and consequent reduction in traffic have, perhaps, highlighted the noise issue more; a lack of general traffic noise serving to exacerbate the nuisance from those letting off steam and getting away from home on motorbikes at the weekend. Whatever the causes, the noise and speed has become intolerable for those living near the A272 and action does need to occur, perhaps both at a local and national level.

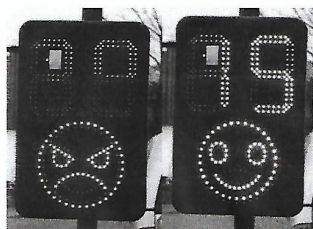
Please do read the full article in the parish magazine as help is needed. It will take time and a concerted effort to change road users' habits; standing together as a village and linking with other communities similarly affected should, eventually, be able to bring about change. Thank you to the many who have already supported this call for action; keep going, it's going to be a long haul.

SID is coming to a road near you soon !

A SID, aka a Speed Indicator Device, shows the speed of approaching road users, like the one on the A272 at the east of the village. You may recall that a few years ago one was borrowed from WSCC that was moved around the village, the idea being that a temporary device can be more effective in reminding drivers of speed limits, avoiding familiarity.

Those of you who attended the February 2017 Traffic Management Consultation event (was it that long ago?) gave the Parish Council the thumbs up to purchase a SID. These devices are not cheap and the Parish Council has been waiting for the funding with which to make the purchase. We are delighted that we are now able to fund this and are currently considering the model; the Parish Council's preference is to show the vehicle speed with a smiley or grumpy face, the idea being that there is a reward for good behaviour alongside an admonishment for bad. WSCC has now assessed 10 sites around the village, including 2 sites on the B2133 at Newpound, and will process the necessary consents.

Watch out for SID later in the year... and make sure he smiles at you!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Would you be prepared to take SID under your wing and help him around the village? Please contact Louise, the Parish Clerk, to find out what is involved on clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org or call 01403 701102.

Neighbourhood and Local Plan Update

The NP Review Steering Group continues to provide updates in the parish magazine. It is obviously frustrating that having originally been given a very tight timetable by CDC to complete the NP review, the Local Plan delay has impacted upon this work.

In terms of the Chichester District, CDC is currently undertaking a public consultation on the draft Interim Policy Statement (IPS) for Housing. The IPS sets out how the Council is taking a proactive approach in seeking to boost its supply of housing in the interim period until the Local Plan Review is adopted. It reflects adopted and emerging Local Plan work, in order to provide a mechanism for how the Council intends to give clarity and confidence in determining planning applications for new residential development.

CDC is seeking your views on the IPS and the criteria contained within regarding its use as a decision-making tool. The IPS is available to view and to download on CDC's online consultation portal which is accessible from the Council's website:

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/interimpolicystatement>.

The consultation period ends at 11.59pm on Friday 10 July 2020.

Support Local Businesses

Chichester District Council, in association with the Chichester and Midhurst & Petworth Observer, has launched a campaign **SupportLocal** to encourage residents to support their local businesses and High Streets. This is part of a support package offered by CDC officers who are working closely with local businesses and partners to ensure that everyone's visit to the shops is as safe as possible. You are encouraged to download and display this poster to show your support (poster available from www.chicheser.gov.uk/supportlocal).

Please do support our Wisborough Green businesses.



Muddy shoes are a thing of the past !

For many years now, parents of Wisborough Green children have been cleaning the mud off school shoes following an after-school jaunt in the playground. This will soon be a thing of the past; thank goodness we hear you say! The Parish Council has been saving to extend the soft surfacing to incorporate the main muddy areas around the trim trail, seesaw and junior swings. The Council decided on a bonded plastic woodchip which will complement the existing surfacing and be in keeping with a rural village. Special thanks are due to Parish Councillor Martin Watson who has undertaken extensive research and, as a consequence of his going the extra mile, the area to be improved will be greater than originally envisaged.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the work should have been completed. Currently, the playground must remain closed due to Coronavirus but as soon as soon as we receive Government guidance that it is safe to do so, the gates will be opened again for all to enjoy.

Land Access Restrictions – Newpound Lane to Durbans

Earlier in the year the Parish Council was contacted by a resident, speaking on behalf of others, to express concern that access 'paths' across part of Sweephurst Farm had been closed due to livestock being in the field. These paths have been used by residents for some time, and naturally, having access restricted was troubling for some. Although these paths have been much used over the years, it is the landowner's continuing generosity that has permitted these additional routes to benefit the parish. Disappointingly, some walkers and dog owners show little respect for paths and livestock so when the decision was made to graze sheep there, the landowner had no alternative other than to close access.

The Parish Council is aware that if a path has been used for a period of time without challenge, there is a formal process that could be followed to establish a public right of way. However, in this case, the Council is also mindful that this landowner generously allows use of his land for car parking on village event days.

The Parish Council has been in contact with the landowner to discuss a way forward that would be acceptable to him and still provide access for walkers. We are pleased to say that he has volunteered to create a 'Permissive Path' which would be designated and marked accordingly yet would permit the temporary closure of the path if considered necessary for grazing livestock etc. The landowner will, in due course, put the Permissive Path in place and has indicated that the access will be open again once the sheep have moved on.

Website Accessibility

To meet regulations that come into effect in September, the Parish Council has recently organised for an accessibility check on the village website; the purpose is to ensure that those with impairment are able to access this important resource. The Parish Council is now working to meet the requirements to ensure that information available is accessible to all.

We need your eyes and ears !

If you're walking or driving around the village/parish and you notice or hear that something needs repairing or is a concern, then please do report it. It's only by reporting that we can get these repairs/issues addressed:

Village Maintenance Items/General Appearance: generally in the Conservation Area around the village green, please report by telephone or email to the Parish Clerk : 01403 701102 or clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

A problem with a road or pavement; potholes/loose granite setts/manhole covers/pavement concerns/highway issues, please report to WSCC
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

Fly tipping: please report to Chichester District Council :
<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/flytipping>

Public Rights of Way (PROW): issues with way markers, broken stiles, obstruction, missing planks on bridges, please report to WSCC:
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/>

A message from the WSCC Rights of Way Rangers

Please note that WSCC has suspended the 15-month Inspection and Maintenance Cycle, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and is currently only taking action on Public Rights of Way (PROW) where reported issues require work to ensure public safety on the network.

Should any enquiries received not be of this nature it will be logged so it can be prioritised and addressed in the future when normal working practices are resumed. We are currently reviewing when we can re-start inspections in line with government guidance and ask you for your patience in dealing with issues that arise. It is also important to note that our summer clearance programme for surface vegetation has now begun on selected paths and is running between the 1st June and mid-August.

At this time it is important to remind people that public footpaths are for use by the public on foot only and cycling on these routes is a trespass against the landowner. This unlawful use risks conflict on the paths themselves and considerable challenges for people trying to keep the necessary 2m apart whilst enjoying the countryside.

It is also important to note that landowners are responsible for any side vegetation encroaching onto the path and any structures on the PROW network, such as stiles and gates. If appropriate to do so please contact the landowner, if known, directly to make them aware of the issue but if not you can continue to report such issues by following the link above.

Litter picking and bins on the Village Green

The Parish Council is aware that many more people are now picking up litter as they walk around the Green, for which we are very grateful. The decision was therefore made at the start of the year to suspend the litter picking contract to monitor where and when litter picking should be targeted. Little did we know how life as we knew it would then change. We will continue to monitor the situation over the summer.

It is lovely to see so many people making the most of the Green in this beautiful weather, residents and visitors alike. Although the litter bins are emptied on a weekly basis, we have seen overflowing bins as a result of picnic waste. When you can, please take your picnic waste home to recycle; the litter bin contents are not sorted and go straight to landfill.

Pavilion Rubbish Bins

Due to Coronavirus restrictions, the Pavilion is currently closed. In order for WG Sports to save funds during this difficult time, the weekly emptying of the Pavilion bins has been cancelled. Can we please ask those who have been taking household rubbish to these bins to STOP. Your action has created a problem for someone else to clear. The CDC waste collection service is operating normally and the recycling centre at Billingham is now open.
No excuses!

With Coronavirus restrictions, public meetings are not possible. At the beginning of April, the Government rushed through new regulation to allow Local Authorities to meet virtually until 7th May 2021. Meeting via Zoom has certainly been a new experience for the Parish Council and particularly the Clerk. We are delighted that members of the public are now joining these meetings from the comfort of their own homes and this interest in the Parish Council's work is welcomed. If you would like to 'join' the meeting, please email the Clerk to request the Zoom link. Who knows where this could lead in the future!

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 currently scheduled for 8 pm on:

**7 July, 4 August, 18 August,
1 September, 6 October**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS Will be held on the following Tuesdays at 7.45 pm:

21 July
No meeting in August
15 September
20 October

**Members of the public most
welcome to 'attend.'**

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 01798 865546
Communications, Finance Committee, Gatwick Airport, Local Council Associations, Planning Committee, Traffic Management Plan

Andrew Jackson (Vice-Chair) T: 700574
Finance Committee, Neighbourhood Plan Review, Planning Committee (Chairman), New Pavilion Project, Pavilion Trustee Liaison

Lucy Bartley T: 700457
Roles and responsibilities to be confirmed

Andy Burbridge T: 701902
Green Coordination Group, Planning Committee, Youth Activities

Michael Newell T: 701171
Communications, Finance Committee (Chairman), New Pavilion Project, Pavilion Trustee Liaison, Planning Committee

Sheena Overington T: 700732
Major Emergency Plan, Neighbourhood Plan Review, Traffic Management Plan, Village Hall, Winter Management Plan

Steve Rollinson T: 700167
Communications, Community Speed Watch, Major Emergency Plan, Neighbourhood Plan Review, Planning Committee, Traffic Management Plan

Howard True T: 700150
Finance Committee, Major Emergency Plan, Planning Committee, Traffic Management Plan, Winter Management Plan

Martin Watson T: 07836 700923
Finance Committee, Planning Committee, New Pavilion Project

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. Members can be contacted directly by telephone or by email through the Clerk.

***What's happening in Wisborough Green? Visit the village website:
www.wisboroughgreen.org***

The Parish Council was disappointed that Judith Dandy resigned as a Councillor in May. Judith runs Dandelion Farewells in the village and has, not surprisingly, been extremely busy of late and, as such, she felt she was unable to devote sufficient time to the PC. We wish to extend our thanks to Judith and hope that, through her business, she will remain an intrinsic part of village life, not least through her charitable work.

The vacancy was advertised and three excellent candidates volunteered. Each candidate was asked to make a short presentation at the last, online, PC meeting. Councillors then voted and we are pleased to announce that Lucy Bartley was selected and has been co-opted onto the PC. We welcome Lucy as the latest member of WG's fully-stocked Parish Council.