

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

Issue: 32

March 2019

Chairman's Message

Well here we are in 2019 already and however you voted in the 2016 referendum you are probably, like me, looking forward to a time when there is something other than Brexit in the news and the country can plan for the future, instead of the incessant discussion of the 'backstop', a 'hard border', the 'Brady Amendment' and all the countless other things that have slipped into common parlance.

We recently lost two Parish Councillors: Keith Charman has decided that he wants to spend more time with his family which, after nearly 11 years on the PC and 7 years as Chairman, he most definitely deserves; the pressure of Nick Beresford's work was taking its toll and he felt he couldn't devote sufficient time to the PC. Our immense thanks are due to both of them but especially Keith who has done more than his share of the heavy lifting around Wisborough Green.

Two co-opted Councillors, Judith Dandy and Steve Rollinson, have replaced them; Judith owns Dandelion Farewells, the village funeral directors and Steve has been a village resident for 8 years. They are both tremendously welcome and I thank them for stepping-up. Wisborough Green still has a full Parish Council which can be quite unusual and it is testament to the good community spirit we hold that it is so. As we approach the upcoming PC election in early May it is excellent that we do so with nine Councillors all prepared to put their names forward to continue serving the village.

Before I joined the PC I had little idea of what it did and I am still amazed at how much is done that affects what goes on in the village. One such thing is applying pressure higher up the democratic greasy pole; it is sad that it required a tragic accident for WSCC to progress improvements on Hughes Hill (south of Newpound). They have now scheduled reshaping the road and improving the safety, as well as tarmacking the layby, for May/June time this year at a cost of *circa* £125,000. The road will be closed for a few days so I offer advance apologies to residents as traffic will be directed through the village.

I can finish on the positive news of the imminent availability of affordable housing, managed by Greenoak Housing Association, at Great Meadow on the Petworth Road; further details in this newsletter. Now is the time to register with Chichester District Council if you would like a brand new affordable home in Wisborough Green. It is the first small, but distinctive, step in delivering the Neighbourhood Plan's affordable homes objectives.

I am looking forward to when spring has sprung in the best village in the world.

Peter Drummond, Chairman

Gatwick - the latest update

A number of airports across the UK are coming up with expansion proposals. The most dramatic is at Gatwick where, as we mentioned in the last newsletter, the airport wants to bring its stand-by runway into regular use to add 10-15 extra aircraft movements per hour. It expects the total number of movements could exceed 300,000 in just a few years time. The proposals are contained in its Master Plan on which the consultation has just finished. The PC responded as we hope you did as well.

Consultations are like buses, you wait for one and then another comes almost at the same time. The Government sees its aviation strategy, to be published later this year, as setting the direction for aviation for many decades to come. Consequently it is important to respond to the current consultation on the Green Paper which will inform their strategy. There are good noise proposals in it as well as some that need strengthening.

The consultation ends on 11th April 2019. The link to the full consultation document is <https://aviationstrategy.campaign.gov.uk> and here is a link to a short paper to help you respond. Ignore what you don't like but do make your feelings known. <http://hacan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Green-Paper-pointers-for-a-response.pdf>

Precept

You will shortly be receiving your Council Tax statement from CDC with the charges for CDC, WSCC, Sussex Police and the Parish Council itemised. The Parish Council is mindful that general maintenance costs for the village are increasing and agreed to increase the Precept from £59,000 to £61,500 for the next financial year. This represents a 2.79% increase for a Band D property or an increase of 4p per week.

The Parish Council has identified a number of maintenance projects to be undertaken this year, including the installation of a hot water supply for the cleaners for the well-used public toilets and re-surfacing in the playground under the junior swings. Parents will be relieved to know that muddy shoes will be a thing of the past.

We will be organising another community litter picking in support of

**The Great British Spring Clean
Saturday 6th April
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. **See you there !**

Traffic Management Plan

Cricketer's Crossroads: WSCC has confirmed that it is progressing with plans to improve pedestrian connectivity in the centre of the village, extend the existing layby and create another layby and pavement on the edge of the Little Green. The Planning Inspectorate at Defra has confirmed that special permission is not required for WSCC to undertake the work, and as such, surveyors were recently seen in the village. All being well, the work will hopefully be undertaken later this year.

Newpound Lane Junction with B2133: In principle, both landowners have now approved the cutting back of the current hedge to improve visibility and we are just firming up the details. This project will be progressed when the Parish Council is in receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy later in the year.

Durbans Road: The application for a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the 40mph speed limit to 30mph did not meet WSCC criteria. To obtain exception from the WSCC criteria, it was necessary for the PC to gain the support of the WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure. This approach has been made but yet again, we have been unsuccessful. Janet Duncton, our County Councillor, supports the application so we will see if other steps can be taken; unfortunately we may have no further options available if this yields nothing.

Hughes Hill: Following pressure by both the Parish Council and local residents, we are pleased to say that WSCC has now drawn up plans to address the issues on Hughes Hill. It is a major project which will involve resurfacing and re-shaping of the road camber, hedge cutting and additional signage. The Parish Council has agreed with the WSCC proposal to shut the road for a few days for the duration of the work as it provides a safer working area and ultimately a better job can be done. We understand that the work will take place in May/June and so additional traffic for a short period will go through the centre of the village. Although this will cause some inconvenience it is obviously a very positive outcome to have this dangerous section of road improved at long last. As soon as we know dates, we will publish the details.

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The west road; access road to the Sports Pavilion

The road doesn't have an official name but is sometimes referred to as the west road by the Parish Council. This road remains part of the village green and access is restricted to those who live along the road (all requiring a special licence to do so), Butts Works and management and officials of the Sports Pavilion. Although parking for the shop occurs at the southern end, can we please ask that this road is not used. Not only has inconsiderate parking caused problems for residents but the PC is also concerned about traffic speed on what is, in essence, the main pedestrian route from the estates to the shop. Options to control parking and speed, and to make the situation safer for all, are currently being considered.

Can we take this opportunity to remind all those who use the Pavilion, for sports as well as socially, that access and parking in the west road is not permitted. Please park in Kirdford Road.



READY SOON

7 Houses for Affordable Rent
3 Houses for Shared Ownership

Great Meadow
Wisborough Green

Could this be your home?
Do you have a local connection to
the village?

Register now

Greenoak is a small, friendly Housing Association providing homes across Surrey and Sussex. From our base in Woking we own and manage around 500 homes, many of which are in rural villages. We are working in partnership with Wisborough Green Parish Council to address the need for high quality, truly affordable homes for local people in the village and are pleased to announce that our 10 houses at Great Meadow, Petworth Road, are almost ready for occupation.

2 x 1 bedroom houses (estimated rent £107 per week)

3 x 2 bedroom houses (estimated rent £134 per week)

2 x 3 bedroom houses (estimated rent £158 per week)

Plus 2 x 2 bedroom houses and 1 x 3 bedroom house available for shared ownership.

We expect to begin allocating residents to their new homes in the next 4-6 weeks.

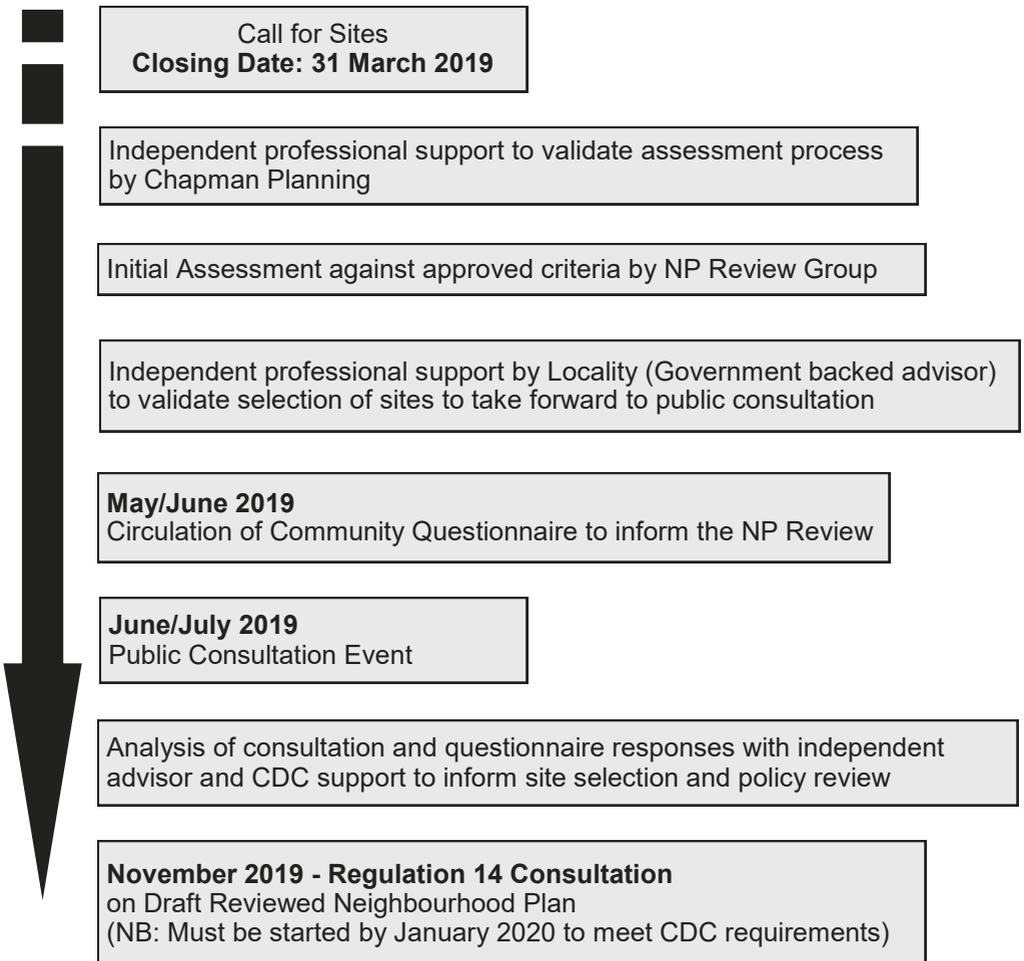
If you have a strong connection to the village and would like to be considered for a home, please register with Chichester District Council as soon as possible.

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24494/Applying-for-the-housing-register>

Neighbourhood Plan Review

Despite the ink barely being dry on the village Neighbourhood Plan, it is now being updated to carry forward until 2035 in line with the Local Plan Review. Wisborough Green has been asked to find space for a further 25 homes (Loxwood 125). Neither figure is yet cast in stone but they provide an indication of the pressure to provide new homes in the south-east. The Neighbourhood Plan Review team, who are not all PC members, are again putting in a big effort, for which all our thanks are due, as the plan is one of the things that preserves the village, more or less, as we want it.

An update has been included in the Ad Vincula, so we won't mention more here. Monthly updates will continue in the magazine and you will be kept fully informed about the consultation events later this year, but the chart below gives an indication of the tight timetable that needs to be followed in order to meet CDC deadlines.



Riparian Owners - Your Responsibilities

At the time of writing, we have just experienced Storm Erik that totally overwhelmed our surface water drainage system and left debris strewn around the village the next morning; we were well and truly battered.

The impact of flooding is quite demoralizing for those affected and is something that many of us potentially have some responsibility for, although we may not necessarily know it. Torrential rain highlights the importance of keeping watercourses well maintained to take as much water as possible and to allow it to flow freely away, so perhaps worth again mentioning the responsibilities of Riparian Owners. As the warmer weather approaches, it's an ideal time to get out there and clear ditches, so please do your bit.

If you have a watercourse, ditch, stream, river or culvert on or next to your land you are known as a 'riparian owner'. Riparian owners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of watercourses on their land to ensure that they are not a flood risk to other people or property.

Well maintained watercourses can significantly benefit the local community by reducing flood risk and creating habitats for wildlife.

The riparian responsibilities for landowners under law are to:

- Ensure the flow of water is not obstructed or polluted
- Maintain the bottom and sides of the watercourse (including managing any trees and vegetation growing on the banks)
- Remove any obstructions, such as rubbish, fallen branches or garden waste
- Maintain any structures (such as trash screens, culverts, weirs and mill gates) on it.

Further information and guidance available: www.westsussex.gov.uk/ditchtheproblem

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 scheduled for:

5 March
2 April
7 May
4 June
2 July
6 August

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

19 March
16 April
21 May
18 June
16 July
No meeting in August

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

ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE RESPONSIBLY WITH YOUR DOG

(Advice provided by the NFU in association with The Kennel Club)

As the warm weather arrives, a reminder about walking in the countryside and that farmland is also someone's livelihood.

- ⇒ Keep your dog close, under control, in sight and on a short lead around cows and sheep.
- ⇒ Cows are nosy and may come to investigate, especially if you have a dog with you.
- ⇒ Don't panic or run if cattle follow you – stay calm and walk quickly and quietly around the herd.
- ⇒ Remember cows can be protective of their young. Never get between cows and their calves – go around the herd and re-join the path as soon as possible.
- ⇒ If you are threatened by cattle release your dog so you can both get to safety separately.
- ⇒ Dog poo can spread disease to farm animals. Bag it and bin it wherever you are, in any public waste bin or take home; do not leave bags in the countryside.
- ⇒ For the health of your pet and farm animals, prevent your dog from getting into water troughs and follow your vet's advice on worming.

Public Rights of Way

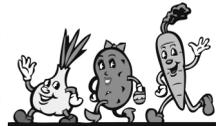
Our local Access Ranger, Darryl Hobden, will be undertaking inspections in March. Following the inspection, routine maintenance work will be prioritised for delivery by a WSCC contractor.

If you are aware of any problems then please contact the Rights of Way office on prow@westsussex.gov.uk or 01243 777620.

Allotments Available

There is nothing better than the satisfaction and taste of your own grown veg ! In order that the plots are worked, the Parish Council made the decision that, if there was no Wisborough Green demand, it would allow residents of neighbouring parishes to take on plots for 3 years.

There are currently some plots available in Harsfold Lane so if you are an interested Wisborough Green resident then please call Louise, the Parish Council Clerk, on 701102 for more information. If there is no demand, plots will be allocated to non-WG residents on the list.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THURSDAY 25th APRIL IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 PM

Your chance to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year. Explanation will be given to the Council's activities and expenditure, as well as an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Refreshments will be served. The Annual Report will be published on the website in April.

Your Parish Council

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

Andrew Jackson (Vice-Chair) T: 700574
Finance Committee, Neighbourhood Plan Review, Planning Committee (Chairman), Affordable Housing, Pavilion

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

Judith Dandy T: 822143
Areas of interest to be confirmed

Michael Newell T: 701171
Finance Committee (Chairman) and Planning Committees

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

Steve Rollinson T: 700167
Neighbourhood Plan Review

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

Martin Watson T: 07836 700923
Affordable Housing, Planning Committee

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

Parish Council Elections May 2019

Elections are held every 4 years and the current Council's term of office will come to an end in May. Election preparations will start shortly, so if you:

- ◆ Are concerned about the local area.
- ◆ Want to represent local people's views.
- ◆ Are interested in services provided to the community.
- ◆ Want to preserve Wisborough Green as a wonderful place to live.

Then please do review the Parish Council minutes published on the village website to see what the role involves and contact the Clerk for further information.