

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

Issue: 35

March 2020

Chairman's Message

It is extraordinary, is it not, how quickly things can change; since the last newsletter we have: a new Prime Minister; a new MP and left the EU. I am sure that some things will be better, some might be worse, but many of the challenges the village faces will remain. We 'Wisborough Greenies' will continue to approach them with optimism, energy and a determination to get them done.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Heidi Lang was considering ways that WG can improve its sustainable life; many of you will already be aware of recycling initiatives through the school and the village market. She gave a presentation to the Parish Council in November, and is leading the way with practical action. Heidi has been joined by Hugh Pye, recently moved to the village, who has really interesting takes on sustainability. We are to meet shortly to discuss creating a pathway for WG to lead the way in sustainable innovation. I have invited Heidi and Hugh to make a presentation of their initial thoughts to the Annual Parish meeting on 23rd April. It is worth attending for that alone, although the free wine and crisps could prove a further inducement!

I mention Gatwick Airport in this newsletter but I would reiterate that it is, still, a real concern. The new, double-layered, structure of the Noise Management Board will have reduced effectiveness as the role of community representatives has been downgraded. Over the course of this year it should become apparent whether the new structure will be able to hold Gatwick's feet to the fire. I recommend everyone attend the PAGNE public event on 6th March (again, details later in the newsletter) when you can learn what is happening and how you can help.

I am delighted to say that WG will be commemorating VE Day 75 on Friday 8th May with its usual enthusiasm to involve the whole community. The School will be holding a traditional May Festival on the Green from 12 noon until 4 pm, which will be followed in the evening by a WG Sports outdoor event. On the Saturday a themed 'Sing-a-long' and supper is being organised in St Peter's Church to take us back to 1945, followed with a commemorative church service on the Sunday. Look out nearer the time for an illuminating reminder of this important commemoration, for which we are grateful for CDC grant funding.

Not long to go until the clocks spring forward and we can hopefully look forward to a glorious Wisborough Green summer. See you at the Annual Parish meeting on Thursday 23rd April, your St George's Day flags at the ready, to not only mark this important day for England but Wisborough Green too!

Peter Drummond, Chairman

Noise and Pollution from Gatwick Airport

Not only is Gatwick still there, its new Master Plan is the Sword of Damocles hanging over all the communities around the airfield. The last edition of Ad Vincula carried an advertisement for a PAGNE public meeting. I would strongly urge everyone to attend.

Atholl Forbes, an extremely competent operator who has been at the coalface of dealing with Gatwick for some time, leads PAGNE. A guest speaker at the meeting is Charles Lloyd who is not only personally gravely affected by Gatwick noise but holds leading positions in organisations holding the government to account. Charles Lloyd is also a leader of the cross-community campaign to get Gatwick's plans properly scrutinised by the government: Gatwick's Big Enough.

As Parish Council Chairman, I will be attending this meeting and would urge as many in the village to attend as possible. If not, at a very minimum, keep abreast of the Gatwick proposals and the Gatwick's Big Enough Campaign. We will continue to provide updates.

Friday 6th March, 7.30pm, Loxwood North/Village Hall
Speak now or forever have no peace!

Precept for 2020/2021

You will shortly be receiving your Council Tax statement from CDC with the charges for CDC, WSCC, Sussex Police and the Parish Council itemised.

General maintenance costs for the village, and what the Parish Council is expected to take on, are increasing. The Parish Council, although mindful of an ever-increasing tax burden, has had to increase the Precept from £61,500 to £67,000 for the next financial year. This represents an increase of 9p per week for a Band D property. The Parish Council has identified a number of maintenance items to be undertaken in the next financial year from 1st April. Plans were already in place to repair the playground surfacing, but it was decided to increase the scope to cover more areas and move the larger project into the new financial year.

Traffic Management Plan

By the time you read this, weather permitting, work will have begun on the highways works adjacent to the Green. Calls for improvement go back many years and a plethora of schemes have been considered and rejected: from a raised 'table' at the Cricketers crossroads to a layby along the Kirdford Road side of the village green.

The Parish Council has always been mindful that bad decisions are never undone. The work that is going ahead is close to the minimum that can achieve our aims: safer pedestrian road crossings; improved and safer walking to school; and additional off-carriageway parking whilst making as few changes as possible to the village and its essence. Cars, even after we're all whisking around in electric ones, are going to be a feature in the village and one that we must accommodate as sensitively as possible.

Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Parish Council is pleased that the Steering Group is making good progress. However, it is frustrating that, after an effective start, momentum has been slowed by a delay in CDC's Local Plan Review. As a result, the Wisborough Green housing allocation has yet to be finalised. An update has been included in this month's Ad Vincula so we won't repeat ourselves here. Monthly updates will continue in the magazine; you will be kept fully informed as the process is progressed.

Songhurst Meadow Shared Ownership Housing

The development in Durbans Road will provide 6 further properties available for shared-ownership at 70% of open market price, with priority given to Wisborough Green residents and those with a village or local connection.

If you would like to know more or to register an interest, please contact Merlion Homes
Tel: 01962 842324

<https://www.merlionhomes.co.uk/future-projects/wisborough-green/>

Songhurst Meadow Open Space

We are pleased that plans for the new open space are progressing. Although this area will provide a potential space for junior cricket practice, it is not the intention that it will be a predominantly formal sport area. It will include a 750m circular walking/running track (2 circuits is an Olympic mile), suitable for all seasons and will link Durbans Road with Newpound Lane. A small car park will be provided at the entrance on Durbans Road and we hope that parents will use this and have a pleasant walk to school. It is the intention that this should be a more rural open space and not another formal village green. The Parish Council is exploring different ideas including a wild flower meadow, a tree plantation and enhancements that improve and promote wildlife and nature. More details will follow as they are available.

New Pavilion - some progress at last!

This will be a larger building in a highly sensitive area on the Green and it is essential that it is right for the village. Following the consultation in September, the plans have been discussed further and amended slightly to take on-board the comments received. The Parish Council has now submitted a pre-application request to Chichester District Council so that WG Sports and the Parish Council can discuss the plans with the planning officers prior to a formal planning application being submitted. Details of the planning application submission will be publicised and all in the village will have an opportunity to comment on the plans through the normal planning process. Watch out for details in Ad Vincula.

Bonfires: A reminder that smoke can ruin peoples' enjoyment of their garden, prevent windows from being opened and washing hung out. Please do not burn any plastics or obnoxious materials on fires or wood burners/indoor fires as this can have severe health implications. Please be mindful of your neighbours but ideally, take rubbish to be recycled at the waste recycling centre in Billingshurst.

The Wombles have come out of hibernation for the Great British Spring Clean and they want you to join them!

**The Great British Spring Clean 2020
is about demonstrating that you**

Love where you live – whether that's by **pledging to pick** while you're walking the dog or taking the kids to school, **hosting a clean-up** or **joining someone else's clean-up**.

Last year, more than 560,000 people took part and this year the campaign is aiming to get 600,000 #LitterHeroes out there.

The Parish Council is organising another community litter picking in support of

The Great British Spring Clean

**Saturday 4th 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 !**

Even if you can't join in this time, please consider doing your bit when out and about in the village or walking in the countryside. Perhaps take a bag to collect the rubbish that other disrespectful walkers and drivers have left behind. As they say, every little helps.

Our roads and pavements have taken a battering this winter. Report and track issues such as a pot hole, flooding, overgrown vegetation, street lighting and damaged pavements. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

You can also download an app which allows you to report and send a photo when out and about - it automatically picks up the location. If reported, issues get repaired.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 23rd APRIL 2020
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 PM

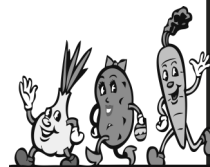


Your chance to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year. Explanation will be given to the Council's activities and expenditure, an update on the Neighbourhood Plan as well as a special feature on Village Sustainability—what we can all do to reduce the village's environmental impact. Refreshments will be served.

Allotment Plots 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 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.



5 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.

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.

If you're quick, there's still time to cut back hedges before the bird's start nesting, officially from 1st March. Please be mindful that if your hedge intrudes over the pavement, it makes it more difficult and can stop those with wheelchairs and pushchairs from using a path.

Riparian Owners - Your Responsibilities

At the time of writing, we have just experienced Storms Ciara and Dennis and that may not be the end of it. The ground is saturated and these storms have totally overwhelmed our surface water drainage system, with flooding being evident on village roads and at Newbridge.

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. The Parish Council is arranging for the ditches in the village centre to be cleared.

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.

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:

3 March
7 April
5 May
2 June
7 July

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

17 March - 7.30 pm
21 April - 7.30 pm
19 May - 7.30 pm
16 June
21 July

No meeting in August

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

Rights of Way Charter

When the drier and warmer weather does finally arrive, many of us will head out into the glorious countryside. Wisborough Green is fortunate to have many public rights of way that allow access, most of which cross land privately owned by farmers and householders. Do remember that farmland is also someone's livelihood.

Landowners have an obligation to make public rights of way accessible to individuals, and individuals using these routes also have obligations to the landowner. It is not uncommon to hear in the news about sheep worrying and the dreadful impact that this can have.

New born lambs will soon be in the fields again, so a reminder to everyone about the Countryside Code. In addition, the Parish Council, following in the footsteps of Pulborough Parish Council, has adopted a Rights of Way Charter which provides further information about the responsibilities of both landowner and user and is available on the village website under policies. If you have any concerns about the accessibility of rights of way, please report directly to WSCC via the website <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/>

The Countryside Code - Respect Protect Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
 - Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE RESPONSIBLY WITH YOUR DOG

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

- ⇒ Keep your dog close, under control, in sight and on a short lead around cows and sheep.
- ⇒ Cows are nosey 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.

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 01798 865546
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

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

Judith Dandy T: 701001
Green Coordination Group, Traffic Management Plan, WG School Liaison

Michael Newell T: 701171
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
Major Emergency Plan, Neighbourhood Plan Review

Howard True T: 700150
Community Speed Watch, 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

www.wisboroughgreen.org

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.

Power Loss - Be Prepared: Our shores have recently be battered by Storms Ciara and Dennis. Although the electricity network is built to be resilient, extreme weather can cause power cuts, which is more challenging in colder weather. Power loss for a few days in WG has been known, so do prepare your household just in case; torches, gas camping stove and heaters. Anyone experiencing a power cut should:

Call 105 free of charge or 0800 3163 105 to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network, (from a corded landline phone or mobile phone)
Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk for the latest updates (on a mobile phone)
Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut and type in postcode to view live map
Tweet **@ukpowernetworks** to report a power cut or to receive updates

Extra help is provided to those on the Priority Service Register (older, disabled, young children under 5, medical requirements). More information at: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority