

# Wisborough Green Parish Council

# Parish Council News

Issue: 38

March 2021

## Chairman's Message

It's – all – such – a – pain, isn't it; being confined to quarters, no definite end in view, home-schooling, rain and snow, concerns about jobs and the economy, little prospect of sunny holidays, running out of great shows on Netflix. We have been living through dystopian times; it is important for those of us who have fared relatively well to remember that there are others for whom life is decidedly rocky.

However, and it is a big however, the future really is looking brighter: spring is on its way and the amazing vaccine roll-out should engender a degree of optimism amongst us all. With luck we should get the village back up to full throttle this summer with, fingers crossed, the green hosting all its usual activities: the Fête, the Horticultural Show, cricket, stool-ball and maybe even enjoying pints in our pubs. How wonderful to be back to a normal life.

The departures of Sheena Overington and Michael Newell created two vacancies on the Parish Council. I am delighted to announce that, following the positions being advertised, we have welcomed Sophie Winship and Tim Worrall to the PC as co-opted members. Sophie is already active with WGCANS and Community Speed Watch and Tim is showing exemplary early promise.

Whilst visiting the Songhurst Meadow development (behind the Cricks) I had a chance to look around the shells of the new 1 and 2 shared-ownership properties being built there. I have to say I was decidedly impressed, they appear spacious, will be finished to the same standards as the other homes on the development and I highly recommend looking on the Rightmove website if you are interested.

In the last newsletter we asked if everyone would register for receiving occasional PC communications via email; I would encourage everyone to use the link on the [wisboroughgreen.org](http://wisboroughgreen.org) and sign-up. As we explained, this is not designed to replace the newsletter but as an extremely useful adjunct.

There is a more detailed explanation in the newsletter on the Precept, plans for the new sports Pavilion, Gatwick Airport, and Community Infrastructure Levy Funding. The last page is an important consultation on A272 traffic speed so please do read through to the end!

Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter we will have a clear idea of what we will be able/allowed to do and when and be able to start putting the trials of the last year behind us... hopefully. There are good times around the corner.

**Peter Drummond, Chairman**

# Gatwick Airport and Night Flights

It is a huge disappointment that the government has chosen to extend the current night flight regime to October 2024; especially as the last review was in 2006. Night flights are at last being recognised as having large health implications and almost every other commercial activity with a high noise profile is more tightly regulated. We take the view that this extension is both complacent and irresponsible and we have completed the night flight consultation in robust terms.

The government has to take a decision on airport expansion. Boris's zero-carbon by 2050 pledge has meant that airports are all rushing to expand their capacity before the associated 365m cap on passengers kicks in, up from 297m in 2019. The problem is that if all airports press on, capacity will reach 532m. Despite the air industry being on its knees, Gatwick is aiming for a 50% increase in passenger numbers by 2050, not least by bringing its emergency runway into regular use. Needless to say Gatwick is also desperate to maintain its night flights as they plan to build their freight business

Something's got to give and the best we can hope for is a government that takes aviation blight seriously and puts in place an effective plan that doesn't involve massive Gatwick expansion; it shouldn't need to be pointed out that Gatwick has pitifully poor ground connections and West Sussex is not able to cope with increased pressure on housing, social infrastructure and transport that airport expansion would bring.

## Precept for 2021/2022

You will shortly be receiving your Council Tax statement from CDC with itemised charges for CDC, WSCC, Sussex Police and the Parish Council. The Precept, which is the Parish Council element of the Council Tax, collected by CDC on our behalf, is the Parish Council's main source of funds and is used for maintenance and administration. The Parish Council acknowledges that this has been a challenging year in many respects and that many families are now facing financial difficulty and uncertainty. The Parish Council was determined to not increase the Precept this year.

However, a small increase will be shown on your Council Tax statement. This is as a result of a change in the tax base (the number of households to be charged and paying full Council Tax) that is used for the calculation. The tax base has reduced due to the number of, Wisborough Green and Chichester, households now claiming benefit, the expected number of households claiming benefit for the next year, the number of households claiming other council tax reductions and the delay in completion of anticipated new homes. The fewer homes in the parish that pay full council tax, the slightly higher the contribution from all households. As more properties are built and fewer residents claim benefit, the precept is spread wider and will reduce household contributions in future years.

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/>

# The Pavilion and Village Green

Despite there being, seemingly, endless trip hazards along the way, there now appears to be a design for the new pavilion on the green that both meets the grant-giving sports bodies requirements and would be an acceptable structure on the village's most prized asset; it is now proceeding to a planning application. Needless to say the whole village will be able to comment on the application and the Parish Council will be publicising it in the Ad Vincula, on the village website and on the village Facebook page.

Equally as exciting, is that hopefully, Wisborough Green Sports and the Parish Council are going to advance a project to install a new drainage system in the green and level the cricket outfield. The aim is that the green, the hardest working turf in West Sussex, will not only be safer for cricketers, playable for much more of the football season but, most importantly, less boggy for everyday users.

It is a complicated project and plans are now being prepared. It will mean that the cricket outfield will be unusable for part of the summer, the Fête will probably have to go ahead in a different form and consideration has to be given to the Fair's annual visit. As soon as details are known they will be published on the village website, on Facebook and in Ad Vincula. Whilst these works will cause disruption, both WGS and the Parish Council feel that this will be money well-spent and deliver a 'better user experience' on the green.

## **VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 2021 ON ZOOM AT 8.00 PM**

It is again very unlikely that we will be able to hold our Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall. However, over the past year, the Parish Council has continued to 'meet' on Zoom, which has not only worked well, but we have been delighted that residents have also joined us from the comfort of their own homes.

With the Coronavirus uncertainly, as we could not hold this meeting last year, we have decided to hold this year's virtually on Zoom – the link will be published on the Village website. Do join us to hear more about the Parish Council's activities over the past year and, in the absence of the PC providing Prosecco and crisps, please bring your own!

**Get digging those ditches!** We have again experienced heavy rain this winter that has overwhelmed our surface water drainage system. If you have a watercourse, ditch, stream, or culvert on or next to your land you are known as a 'riparian owner', responsible for the maintenance and upkeep. Maintained watercourses can significantly benefit the community by reducing flood risk and creating habitats for wildlife. More information available on the WSCC website.

# Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

One positive of new housing in the village is that the Parish Council will receive CIL funding, which is collected from the developer by CDC.

As the Parish has a Neighbourhood Plan in place, this is 25% rather than 15% of the total Levy, which is a significant sum. Some freedom is given to the Parish Council to spend the funding on things that address the demands that development places on our area, such as open space, cycle/pedestrian routes, transport infrastructure and community facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan process has already identified a number of potential projects, and having now received the first instalment, the Parish Council has agreed a spending plan, which includes allocations to:

- ◆ Village Hall project
- ◆ Pavilion project
- ◆ Village Green drainage and levelling
- ◆ Purchase of a speed indicator device to be located around the village
- ◆ Hedge re-alignment on the junction of Newpound Lane with the B2133 to improve visibility on the northside

As more houses are built in the village, there will be further CIL funding available which will be allocated to other projects. If there is a village project that you feel should be considered, please do get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk.

## Village Spring Clean – we can all do our bit

**Due to the current Coronavirus uncertainty, the Parish Council will not be organising a community litter pick in April. All being well, we will organise in May, so please look out for details in the Ad Vincula.**

It is hugely cheering that many people appear to be taking it upon themselves to collect litter when out and about. Even if you can't join the troupe of merry collectors in the bi-annual village litter pick, please consider doing your bit when out 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. Every little helps.

Over the winter, the village generally takes a battering; debris, litter and soil accumulates in the gutters. Please think about sparing an hour or so to do your bit outside your property and to give our village a spring clean. Thank you.



## Be quick and get your hedges cut back

Every year we include this reminder to get hedges cut back hard before the birds start nesting (and by 31<sup>st</sup> March). It is so important that pedestrian access is kept clear. Overgrown hedges make it extremely challenging for those with wheelchairs and pushchairs. Please think about your garden beyond your boundary line and don't be surprised to receive a gentle reminder from the Parish Council.

# VE and VJ Days Commemorative Tree

Disappointingly, Coronavirus prevented the planned community events to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of VE Day (8<sup>th</sup> May 1945) and VJ Day (15<sup>th</sup> August 1945). As an alternative, the Parish Council has planted a horse chestnut tree on the Little Green, marked with a commemorative plaque, to acknowledge the significance of these days in our history. The Parish Council is grateful to Chichester District Council for grant funding towards the cost.

## 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 nose-y 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.

## 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 being held virtually on Zoom and are scheduled for the following Tuesdays at 8 pm. Member of the public are most welcome to attend.

**2 March**  
**6 April**  
**4 May**  
**1 June**  
**6 July**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Currently being held virtually on Zoom at 7.45pm on the following Tuesdays:

**16 March**  
**20 April**  
**18 May**  
**15 June**  
**20 July**

**No meeting in August**

**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**  
Neighbourhood Plan Review, Planning  
Committee, Traffic Management Plan,  
Winter Management Plan

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

**Steve Rollinson T: 700167**  
Major Emergency Plan, Neighbourhood Plan  
Review, 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**  
Communications, Finance Committee, Green  
Coordination Group, Planning Committee

**Sophie Winship T: 700783**  
Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator,  
Traffic Management Plan

**Tim Worrall T: 700100**  
Areas of interest to be confirmed

***What's the Parish Council  
been discussing ?  
Check out the meeting  
minutes on the village website  
[www.wisboroughgreen.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## Electoral Register

Each year CDC sends out a letter to every household to update the electoral register. This register is then used for all election notification cards. In May 2021, Covid regulations permitting, there will be elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Sussex County Councillor. Local elections for the District and Parish Council will not be held until 2023.

It is important to note that this same electoral register is used for the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. If you would like to have your say in the final referendum, it is important to ensure that you are registered. More information about registering can be found on the CDC website.

## A272 Traffic Speed

With the current lock-down restrictions we all face, the Community Speedwatch Team has had a quiet few weeks. However, as soon as they can they will be back out in the village aiming to educate drivers who feel it is acceptable to speed through our community. A new Chief Inspector of Sussex Safer Roads Partnership has been appointed and he is keen to lend us greater support to ensuring the safety of our villagers; from dog walkers to families with young children - we are all negatively affected by speeding and anti-social driving.

**Unfortunately we have received a disappointing response from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to our application for a 40mph buffer zone on the A272 Petworth side - WE ARE NOT GIVING UP!**

Over 50% of vehicles entering the village from Petworth significantly exceed the speed limit compared to those entering from Billingshurst (which has a buffer zone). This speed often continues through the village centre.

We have police backing and several residents have already written to the Parish Clerk voicing their support for this much needed buffer, but we need to provide more evidence to WSCC that speed, traffic and the noise it creates is impacting upon many living in Wisborough Green.

Apologies that we are asking you to respond to a consultation yet again, but if this is an issue for you, please complete the survey on the next page and return to the Parish Council.

### **Please respond by Friday 12th March:**

Email: Scan or photograph the following page and email to [clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org)

Drop off: Take to the Parish Council letter box at the Village Hall.

Drop off: Take to the collection box at the Village Shop.

Post to: Wisborough Green Parish Council  
PO Box 255, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 0WT

### **Please Note:**

This questionnaire is for Wisborough Green Parish addresses only. Please complete on behalf of your whole household.

General Data Protection Regulations: Any personal information given via this form will be kept strictly confidential and only used to inform this consultation. It will be kept only as long as is necessary in support of the Community Highways Scheme application. Personal information will not be disclosed to any other third party without your prior permission or unless we are required by law to do so. Personal data will be deleted as soon as possible after the analysis can be completed.

This survey is primarily aimed at those who live along the A272 or regularly use these pavements into the village, but we welcome thoughts from all village residents.

<b>Name</b>									
<b>Address</b>									
<b>Time at Property</b>									
<b>Number in your Household</b>									
Adults		Children 0-5 years		Children 6-10 years		Children 11-16 years		17 & 18 years	

	YES / NO
<b>Are you concerned about traffic speed through the village?</b>	
<b>Are you concerned about:</b>	
Noise pollution	
General traffic pollution	
Vibration / damage to your property / buildings	
Using the pavement	
Safely exiting your driveway	
Safety of cyclists	
Safety of pedestrians / children / domestic animals	
Rural environmental preservation	
Wildlife	
Preservation of village identity	
<b>Does traffic speed negatively affect your:</b>	
Sleep	
Work / job	
Enjoyment of your garden / outside activities	
Disturbing your weekends / leisure time	
Mental wellbeing / health	
<b>Do you support the idea of a 40 mph Buffer Zone?</b>	

If you would like to include details of any of your own experiences relating to vehicle speed and/or the speed limit, please attach a separate sheet. Please include photographs or anything else that might help in clarifying the issues for WSCC.