

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

Issue: 41

March 2022

Chairman's Message

As Harriet Jacobs, the inspiring African American slave, turned writer, said: 'The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also'; Spring 2022 is unlike 2021 or indeed the dark days of Spring 2020. We can look forward to a Spring and Summer unfettered and doing what we used to take for granted. This Spring, more than the last two, should serve to revive our souls.

Only one monarch has celebrated a Platinum Jubilee this century and no British Monarch ever has; as Her Majesty The Queen approaches this extraordinary anniversary, we should not only celebrate it for its longevity but also her 70 years of outstanding service to the country. It is hard to imagine the time when we won't have our Queen on the throne and, although I have little doubt that Charles will make a fine King, Her Majesty has been the backdrop to most/all of our lives, providing the constant bulwark against the ebb and flow of political fortune; we should treasure her and all she has achieved.

The village will be celebrating the Jubilee in true Wisborough Green style, with events in the Church and on the Green throughout the four-day Bank Holiday weekend; there are details on the back page of this newsletter and publicised in Ad Vincula.

As part of more lasting memorials to this great event, the Parish Council (PC) has made a successful application to the Woodland Trust for saplings that will be planted on the Songhurst Meadow green as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. Our application to CDC for a grant was also successful and will allow for a more mature tree to also be planted on Songhurst Meadow with an accompanying plaque.

It's hoped that by the end of the Summer the 750m path will have been completed around Songhurst Meadow; perhaps we should consider a grand opening when as many people as possible turn out to do two laps. Songhurst Meadow promises to be a fantastic adjunct to the main green for dog-walkers, exercisers and strollers alike.

The update and renovation of the Village Hall is near completion of its first phase; this has been a gargantuan achievement and Keith Carter's leadership exemplary. At the Hall AGM, Keith was presented with gardening vouchers as a small thank you for all his work. The Village Hall Committee will be hosting an Open Day in April when everyone can view the transformation.

The Chairman has got carried away this time! Continues overleaf

INSIDE: Traffic, Gatwick, New Pavilion, Youth Survey, Community Land Trust and much more!

Chairman's Message Continued

The PC is busy and currently operates as a well-balanced team. There has been a vacancy for sometime and the PC would welcome interest from anyone considering joining. Perhaps someone who has moved into the village in the last couple of years and would like to be more involved in helping to keep Wisborough Green on the straight and narrow! I would be happy to meet anyone to talk through what is involved.

I wish to make a 'soft' announcement of an incredibly exciting development in the village: the Wisborough Green History Society and a distinguished local writer are coming together to produce, a richly illustrated, 800 year history of Wisborough Green. This is a mammoth task for them to bring together detailed research (whilst avoiding producing a reference book) with copious photographs, illustrations and maps (whilst avoiding producing just a coffee table book). The planning has commenced and has already posed questions, such as 'should Loxwood be included as it used to be part of Wisborough Green?'

As daylight hours extend and we venture outside more, as you trim your hedgerows take a moment to reflect on how lucky we are to live where we live.

Peter Drummond, Chairman

Village Green Levelling & Drainage

Although this Spring there will be some re-seeding and topping up of the drainage channels as they settle, we are all delighted that the project is complete. Thank you for your support and patience in keeping off the roped area whilst the ground settles and the grass grows.

Those who have walked across the football pitch will have noticed a considerable change and we look forward to seeing football played again next season. Wisborough Green's reputation for a waterlogged pitch should become a distant memory. Thanks are due to all those involved in this project, including the contractors, but particularly Cllr Martin Watson, who's on-the-ground-management and attention to detail ensured it ran as well as it possibly could.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS **In the Village Hall, 7.45 pm on** **the following Tuesdays:**

15 March
19 April
17 May
21 June
19 July

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE **MEETINGS**

Please refer to the agendas displayed on the village noticeboards and website for information - a meeting will only be called to meet CDC deadlines. Meetings are held at 8.00 pm on a Tuesday in the Village Hall .

1 March
29 March
3 May
31 May
5 July

Traffic Management Plan & Community Speed Watch

Petworth Road Traffic Regulation Order (TRO): The PC has been pursuing a speed reduction to create a 40mph buffer zone on the A272 west side of the village, to match the zone to the east; you may have noticed the traffic counter strips that were in place before Christmas, part of the assessment process.

Community Speed Watch data demonstrates that 50% more vehicles approaching from Petworth are travelling over 36mph as opposed to approaching through the buffer zone from Billingshurst. The current application not only garnered considerable support within the village, but also from Sussex Police that has been working closely with the village.

We understand that WSCC is currently reviewing the speed data; an update will be provided when more is known.

Durbans Road Speed Reduction: Following another serious accident in August, the residents along this road are understandably concerned about the speed and volume of traffic using this as a shortcut to the A272. In 2017, the PC submitted a TRO application to reduce the 40mph section, through the housing, to 30mph.

Despite the road passing the character assessment, it failed WSCC policy for the speed intervention level; cars were, apparently, going too fast. The PC has investigated the decision-making process further, making comparisons with other successful applications (including the use of a Freedom of Information request), and is following this up with our County Councillor.

Community Speed Watch (CSW): The residents of Durbans Road now have their own police approved CSW site and several have joined the village CSW team. They have proved to be a hardy bunch - out in all weathers - aiming to remind drivers of the importance of driving safely. Their efforts are much appreciated. Despite recent cold weather, the village CSW team has been active in their efforts to slow the traffic through the village.

School Traffic: Over the last couple of years, the school has had the additional responsibility of managing school drop-off and collections whilst complying with Covid requirements. PC members recently held a Zoom meeting with the Headteacher to talk about current parking and safety issues. They also discussed the parking plans for when the path from the Songhurst Meadow car park to the school becomes available, later in the summer. The PC will be preparing a flyer to be distributed to all current and future parents/carers to drive home the message (again), about driver behaviour and parking, to all those making school runs. The flyer will also be published in the Parish magazine.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THURSDAY 21st APRIL - VILLAGE HALL 8.00 PM

This is 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.

Community Land Trust (CLT)

In 2018, we promoted the possible formation of a CLT, the intention was for the CLT to acquire the affordable housing on the Great Meadow and Songhurst Meadow sites as village assets to provide these homes for affordable rent to Wisborough Green residents. Although we went some way towards forming the CLT, extensive research demonstrated that it would not be possible to fund the purchases.

A CLT, apart from owning housing as village assets, can take a wide variety of roles and could if necessary, acquire and/or build village assets, such as a village shop or public house; its form is fluid. The Parish Council is keen to complete the formation process, so that the entity is in place if/when the need arises, whether taking on community assets or other things. Kirdford Parish Council established their CLT some years ago and it remains dormant, ready when needed.

At this stage we are seeking names for people who would be prepared to serve as Trustees/Directors for the time being with the only requirement to meet annually and submit an annual return.

If you would like to know more, please contact the PC Chairman, Peter Drummond, on 01798 865546 for an informal chat.

New Pavilion

The planning application for the new Pavilion is with CDC and is progressing through formal consultations; the opportunity to comment on the planning application was circulated widely in the village. In December an open event was held in the old Pavilion to view the plans and ask further questions.

The Parish Council reviewed the public comments on the CDC website, prior to further discussion at the January meeting; it was agreed to support the application and the following comment was submitted to CDC:

Wisborough Green Parish Council (WGPC) supports this application to replace the existing pavilion with a new building.

This project has been identified as a need for the village in the Neighbourhood Plan process. The old building has limited resources, is not compliant with modern standards, and there is demonstrable need for better facilities to support sport and recreation in the centre of our growing village. WGPC is very aware of the sensitivity of the location and also of the impact of the new building profile driven by provision of improved facilities. WGPC has sought to obtain an acceptable balance and considerable effort has been invested by the community in refining the design for the best-balanced solution. The project has had several consultations with residents as well as CDC planning; with feedback being taken into consideration in the project progression.

This design has received substantial and majority support from the community who are well aware of the benefits the building will bring as well as the visual impact on its sensitive surroundings.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting to hear if CDC will permit the application, so fingers crossed!

Parish Precept 2022/2023 - Increased from £67,000 to £70,000

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 PC's main source of funds and is used for maintenance and administration for the village. The Parish Council acknowledges that the past couple of years may have been difficult and that some families may now face financial difficulties.

When considering the budget, the PC took the decision not to increase the Precept beyond provision for cost increases. Some maintenance projects have been postponed until the next year to keep current year costs down. Although the tax base (the number of households to be charged and paying full Council Tax), used for the calculation, has increased, it was necessary to make a below inflation increase to the Precept; this increase adds 2.25% to a Band D property, equivalent to 4p per week.

Parish Council Logo/Symbol

Whether or not a Parish or a PC needs a logo could be a moot point, however it is a simple fact that the village lacks a single symbol that represents WG. There is a need for such a symbol/logo (call it what you will) to be available for use on both printed and digital communications; very few organisations do without.

The PC has been thinking about addressing this for some time; the first step was to consider whether the village sign could serve. The sign, which stands next to the telephone box information point, displays three shields, to represent



Wisborough Green: the West Sussex flag, the Church and Horse Chestnut trees; the ornate ironmongery provides a link to the village forge. Local artist, Mr Pat Gierth, who lived in School Road, designed the sign which was erected about 30 years ago.

As a first step the PC arranged for the sign to be digitised (and a 'south' point of the ironwork added), however, it is felt that for publication and the website a simplified version or a completely new design could be more appropriate and effective.

The PC is keen that anyone who wishes to take an interest gets involved:

- ⇒ Do you think a new village symbol should be an adaptation of the village sign or should a new one be the aim?
- ⇒ If a new sign is to be created what elements should be included?
- ⇒ **Are there local artists or graphic designers who would like to have a go at a redesign or a new design?**

If you are interested then contact the Clerk (clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org) who can email you an Adobe AI file, a png or a jpeg.

ACT QUICKLY – CUT YOUR HEDGES BACK

This is your annual reminder to cut your hedges back hard before the birds start nesting (and no later than 31st March). It is also important that pedestrian access is kept clear; overgrown hedges make life extremely difficult/impossible for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Please think about your garden beyond your boundary line and don't be surprised to receive a gentle reminder from the PC.

Young Lives Matter

Often, village surveys are aimed at all village residents, but with our Young Lives Matter survey, the Parish Council only wanted to hear from younger residents, aged 10 to 17.

In December, the Parish Council (assisted by two residents – thank you to you both) circulated a flyer that contained a QR Code to access the survey. It was completed anonymously, so that the young respondents could freely express their thoughts and ideas. 36 were completed, across the full age range and yielded valuable information on priorities that has helped in identifying some improvements to be made and projects to be pursued in the future. Although it is impossible to satisfy all aspirations (due to funding or not being possible in a rural village) financial provisions have been included in the budget and plans are being considered.



Village Broadband

The Government has announced a fresh approach to broadband provision in rural areas under the new Project Gigabit roll-out which replaces previous schemes. As a Parish Council, we have been pressing as hard as we can for more information and expressed our desire to be included as soon as possible.

We have been advised that they are at a 'commercially sensitive' stage in the process, whereby network providers are disclosing areas that they will serve in the first instance. Unfortunately, information at the moment is sparse and we do not expect an update until the summer. Meanwhile, we will be doing everything we can to ensure gigabit roll-out in Wisborough Green is prioritised and will update as soon as we have more positive news.

CLlr Tim Worrall

Get the allotment bug!



Was it your New Year's resolution to eat more healthily but you haven't enough space in the garden to grow your own veg?

Well, this is your opportunity as there is an allotment available.

For more information, please call Louise the Parish Council Clerk, on 701102 or send an email to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

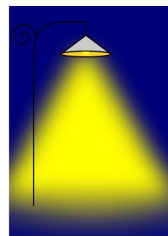


**THE PARISH COUNCIL STILL HAS A VACANCY.
WHY NOT JOIN & HELP LOOK AFTER THIS VILLAGE?**
For more information, please contact the Parish Council Clerk
on 701102 or email clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Street Lights

In November we were contacted by a Carters Way resident who, being a bit of a night owl, was concerned that the street lights were not switching off until past 1.15 am. They wondered why lights at this time were required, particularly in a rural parish that was promoting dark night skies. They remembered that when they moved to the village over 25 years ago, torches were the order of the day... night.

The PC made enquiries with SSE who explained that the lights are controlled by individual photocells with a built-in timer, operating on Greenwich Mean Time, throughout the year. Prior to the clocks changing at the end of October, they turn off around 12.45 - 1.00 am; when the clocks return to GMT, they go off around 11.45 to 12 midnight, coming on at around 5.30 am. These timings are in line with WSCC's part-night lighting policy. They allow a 15-20 minute variation on all timings due to weather conditions and lighting column locations.



Do you support this lighting policy, or would you like to see the streetlights turned off earlier? Please send your thoughts by email to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org or telephone 701102. Any move towards a permanent change would require further consultation.

With part of the parish in the South Downs National Park, the PC is keen to promote dark night skies, not only beneficial to stargazers but also to reduce the impact upon wildlife. To that aim, Neighbourhood Plan policy has been strengthened to minimise light pollution. Please be mindful of this aspiration when replacing and installing outside lighting or when considering extensions with lanterns or rooflights.

Annual Report - what has the Parish Council been up to?

Through articles in the Ad Vincula and this newsletter, the PC tries to provide an update on the projects being undertaken, however these only provide a summary of the work that the PC does. More details are obviously available in the monthly minutes, and a full annual report is published following the 31st March year-end. The report will be published on the village website in April.

We will be organising another community litter picking in support of

**The Great British Spring Clean
Saturday 2nd 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!**

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 01798 865546

Communications
Finance Committee (Chairman)
Gatwick Airport
Local Council Associations
Planning Committee

Andrew Jackson (Vice-Chair) T: 700574

Finance Committee
Neighbourhood Plan Review
New Pavilion Project/Pavilion Trustee Liaison
Planning Committee (Chairman)
Village Hall Trustee

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

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
New Pavilion Project/Pavilion Trustee Liaison
Planning Committee

Sophie Winship T: 700783

Community Speed Watch Coordinator
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan

Tim Worrall T: 700100

Communications
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Winter Management Plan

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.



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND JUNE 2022
Save the Dates - full details will be included in Ad Vincula

Thurs 2nd

Fri 3rd

Sat 4th

Sun 5th

On the Screen in St Peter's

Trooping the Colour

National Service of Thanksgiving

Live Concert

Local Service of Thanksgiving (11am)

On the Green

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Music Festival

Race Night

Big Jubilee Picnic