

# Wisborough Green Parish Council

# Parish Council News

Issue: 40

November 2021

## Chairman's Message

When I drove into the car park for the Fête I couldn't believe my eyes, cars stretching literally as far as the eye could see. It was joyous to see so many people turning out for the Bank Holiday weekend get-together on the Green; it helped that the weather was benign however there was something bigger at play, the sense that life was getting back to normal. It didn't matter that the Green was undergoing major maintenance, we came in our thousands and continued a great Wisborough Green tradition.

We all owe a huge debt of thanks to the Fête Committee, which makes this great village event happen.

**volunteer** (noun)

vol·un·teer | \ ˌvɒ-lən-ˈtɪr \

Definition of volunteer: a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service while having no legal concern or interest.

So much village activity relies on volunteers: the Parish Council, WG Sports, the Fête, the Horticultural Society, the Village Hall, the Minibus, Ad Vinc, Speedwatch, the bi-annual litter pick, Renegades, the Scouts, I could go on; however, the pond of volunteers is in danger of being overfished; the same names keep cropping up again and again. In an ideal world (village) there would be a huge shoal (to continue the fish metaphor) of volunteers to spread the work widely.

**Is it time for you to consider whether you could spare a bit of time to assist on just one team?** There's no formal application process you just need a willingness to get stuck in; did you take a conscious decision not to help on the last litter pick or did you think someone else would do it? Will you complain when there's a build-up of litter in the village, or the Fête ceases?

There is a considerable upside: Tony Robbins, the celebrated self-help coach and empowerment guru, says *'The secret to living is giving. We grow so we can eventually give. Whether you're giving back to your loved ones, the community or society, you'll only find true fulfilment when you start to look outside of your own needs.'*

If you are already one of the many volunteers that serve Wisborough Green so manfully (can I say that?) know that you carry our thanks. Please will you consider which team of volunteers you'd like to join to keep WG, and all its many activities, going? As Tony tells us *'Only those who have learned the power of sincere and selfless contribution experience life's deepest joy: true fulfilment.'*

The Parish Council and I wish you all the very best in the run-up to Christmas, when we hope you will start to experience true fulfilment.

**Pete Drummond, Chairman**

**INSIDE: Traffic, Gatwick, New Pavilion, The Queen's Jubilee & a Youth Survey**

## Gatwick Airport

Bringing the emergency runway at Gatwick into use as a second runway does not require planning consent, instead, as it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), it is moving ahead with a Development Consent Order (DCO). The application for the DCO has now entered its consultation phase, this is your opportunity to have your voice heard; we urge you to do so.

It is almost inevitable that the project will go ahead however it is possible to affect the conditions that attach to the DCO; for instance, a total ban on night flights. The expansion of Gatwick, and the commensurate increase in passenger numbers, will have a major impact on many facets of your/our lives: noise, night flights, traffic, air quality, rail journeys, schools, GP surgeries, hospitals and on and on. Gatwick makes much of the upgrade to their train station but says nothing on how to upgrade what is, in effect, a single railway line running south from London, that is already overused.

Please take the time to make your views known before 23:59 on 1st December. There are links to the airfield's plans, the consultation and more on the village website or they can be accessed via: [gatwickairport.com/futureplans](http://gatwickairport.com/futureplans), alternatively email: [info@gatwickfutureplans.com](mailto:info@gatwickfutureplans.com)  
GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) provides much background information and guidance on responding at: [gacc.org.uk/gatwick-expansion.php](http://gacc.org.uk/gatwick-expansion.php)

## New Pavilion

In the last Parish magazine, Wisborough Green Sports advised that the planning application for a new Pavilion was being submitted to CDC, having gone through 7 years of planning and consultation, both with the Parish Council and village. Having an improved building is an exciting prospect for the village and thanks must be offered to all those involved in the process, so far. The CDC planning consultation process provides all Wisborough Green residents with an opportunity to comment on the plans, which will be available on the CDC website. The plans will also be displayed in the Pavilion for those without internet access and would prefer to view them 'in the flesh'. At the time of writing, the planning application number has yet to be allocated; when available it will be publicised via Facebook, the noticeboards and Ad Vincula.

## Our younger generation are important

The Sussex Clubs for Young People, who operate the 'Purple Bus', recently contacted the Parish Council to see if we would like it to return next summer. In the past, this has been for a relatively small donation, but like so many things, grant funding has been cut and this would now be at quite a significant cost to the Parish. Before final decisions are made, the Parish Council has decided to consult with young people in the village. A questionnaire is being prepared that will be accessed by a QR code through social media. We will 'meet' the buses to publicise, put up posters and put a reminder (to parents) in the Parish magazine. If the questionnaire is mentioned in the coming month or so, please encourage its completion.



# Traffic Management Plan

## Durbans Road

Concern about traffic speed in Durbans Road has again been expressed following an accident on the Brookbridge corner in August. The Parish Council previously made an application to WSCC Highways to have the 40mph speed limit reduced to 30mph. Although it passed the characteristic criteria, it failed on speed – can you understand this logic, the cars were going too fast! The Parish Council pursued another line of enquiry but was again declined. On the back of this latest accident, further enquiries have been made of WSCC and will be followed up. We will also raise with them issues with the signage along Durbans Road which is ambiguous, for example, a 40 limit sign attached to the chevron at Brookbridge, potentially giving the impression to drivers not familiar with the road, that this corner can be driven at 40. We will keep you posted.

## Community Speed Watch

The recent “fuel crisis” afforded Wisborough Green a brief respite from noisy motorbikes and supercars speeding through our village in the early hours heading for the Downs. Our Community Speedwatch Team continue to operate on the outskirts of the village. In response to a plea from residents, we will soon have a site in Durbans Road and they have been more than happy to step up and become operators themselves; joining the collective to maintain a peaceful and safe village for all.

If you would like a CSW site where you are please get in touch through the Parish Clerk. We have to operate under quite a few rules and regulations in partnership with the Police but in most cases a safe site is easily identified.

**Parish Cllr Sophie Winship, WG CSW Coordinator**

## Budget

The Parish Council Finance Committee will shortly be reviewing the Council's 5-year objectives and consider potential projects to inform next year's budget and the Precept request (money paid by you, via CDC, to the PC).

As a result of the development in the village, the Parish Council has now received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income. The PC has identified some projects in the village which would benefit from this funding, but if you have any ideas, then please do drop a line to [clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org)

Please do remember to cut back hedges over the winter (and before the birds start nesting again, officially from 1<sup>st</sup> March!).

Landowners have a responsibility to cut roadside hedges; it's important to keep road signs visible and allow cyclists and pedestrians space to move off the road. Likewise, clear pedestrian access, especially for those with wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters, is important, so please cut back vegetation bordering pavements. Thank you.

## Platinum Jubilee - Save The Dates!

Next year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952. The end-of-May Bank Holiday has been changed to give an extended Bank Holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The four days of celebrations will include national events and moments of reflection, but it also provides Wisborough Green with an opportunity to get together; tentative plans have been discussed, but if you have any good ideas and would like to be involved, please contact [clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org). With more help, we can get creative and have a weekend of celebration for all in the village.

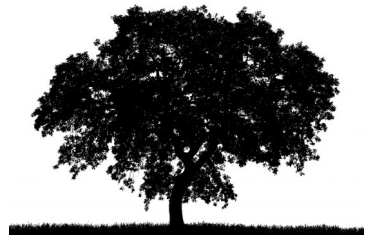
## Remembrance Day Road Closure

The Parish Council has applied for a temporary road closure notice to allow the 2-minute silence at the war memorial on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November to be... silent. We thank the Parish Councillors and the Clerk who have agreed to manage the traffic.

In early September the war memorial was damaged, or just suffered from weather; so repairs are required on the base stones. Specialist quotations are being obtained, however it is unlikely that the repairs will be effected before Remembrance Sunday.

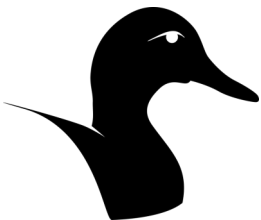
## Protecting our Trees

The trees around the Conservation Area are inspected on an annual basis to monitor health and to ensure they do not pose a risk to users of the Green. Every third year this is undertaken by two specialist arboriculturists, one of whom undertakes a decay survey, similar to an ultrasound scan. We're keeping an eye on the tree by the public toilets, one behind the Pavilion and one on Kirdford Road and are pleased to say that, currently, although there are internal cavities, there is still sufficient good wood not to pose a risk. They will be scanned again in June/July 2024.



**Stop Press:** In the last newsletter it was reported that the PC had applied for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the Scots Pine in the Glebe Field. We are delighted that CDC has confirmed this as a permanent TPO.

## New Homes Bonus Grant Funding - success



We are delighted to say that the application to CDC to secure this funding, for restoration of the village pond, was successful; the water lilies had already been reduced before the heavy rain arrived. Unfortunately, the contractor engaged to undertake the re-pointing has disappeared, almost literally! We therefore need to obtain further quotations so the work will be scheduled for next September.

# Gigabit Broadband for Wisborough Green

## Background

As you may be aware Central Government has launched a scheme to help fund the roll out of Full Fibre Broadband, also called Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), aimed at dramatically improving internet connectivity for rural communities.

As there are no current commercial plans for fibre build-out in Wisborough Green, the Parish Council has decided to apply for funding the scheme following previous expression of interest from residents. We are working closely with Openreach to determine in detail which properties can be served and what the total cost of the scheme will be.

The Council will not be underwriting the scheme, but instead rely on the pledges of individual households and businesses to sign up to a supplier once fibre is rolled out to their premise. During the installation process the new fibre will follow the route of the existing copper cabling to the premises, either fed overhead or underground.

## The Importance of Fibre

- ◆ As a society we are becoming increasingly reliant on good internet connectivity.
- ◆ Gigabit broadband offers the fastest and most reliable service enabling unhindered access to online internet services, video calls (like Zoom and Teams), HD and UHD TV streaming, online gaming, home and security monitoring – all without any frustrating buffering, drop-outs or waiting.
- ◆ Many more people are now working from home and as internet usage in our village increases, the ability to deliver the current quality of internet service will reduce unless we adopt fibre technology with its near unbound capacity.
- ◆ This will support and futureproof both local residents and businesses.
- ◆ The existing telephony service will not be affected, but there is the opportunity to upgrade to other services in future. Note that costs of fibre internet vary between £35-£45 per month (estimate).
- ◆ Fibre-to-the-home service can increase house values as they become much better connected to the outside world.

## The Process

- ◆ We are finalising Parish address details with Openreach which could be economically served by fibre.
- ◆ We will formally apply to Central Government to be part of the scheme.
- ◆ Together with Openreach, we will be carrying out an awareness campaign and encourage as many people as possible to pledge to sign up once fibre is installed.
- ◆ Please note that funding is not guaranteed and we will need to demonstrate that a high percentage (perhaps 65%) of residents and businesses will sign up.
- ◆ **If we cannot demonstrate sufficient demand, the scheme will not go ahead.**
- ◆ There is great demand in rural locations across the UK for this funding and we will need everyone's support to make this happen.

The Parish Council urges everyone that can to sign-up; not only will it be good for you but, by pledging your support, you will be helping to bring the scheme to fruition and thereby helping your neighbours and local businesses. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Parish Council Clerk.

**Parish Cllr Tim Worrall, Project Lead**

## The Green is green (again)

Following the work to the Green, Wisborough Green Sports, and the Parish Council, ordered torrential rain to put the new drainage system to the test, water the new seed and look for any weaknesses. How's it shaping up?

- ♦ The grass is growing back helped, no doubt, by the mild weather.
- ♦ The rain washed some seed away, leaving some areas somewhat sparse and others more verdant; the contractors will be back imminently to reseed.
- ♦ There are some areas where the torrential rain has washed out the sand infill and settlement has occurred in the trenches but this will be resolved.
- ♦ However, most importantly, the new drainage system coped and we can look forward to WG football's damp reputation drying up.

The advantages of having the Green properly drained will play out over the years, not least in minimising damage when any vehicles have to drive on it. We think this will prove to be, much, money well spent; benefitting all Green users, not just for sports.

## A bit of an Autumn Tidy Up

Not only did we collect litter during the recent community session, but we also cleaned and removed the spiders from the Information Kiosk and bus shelter, and swept the Sundial and outside the public toilets. The public toilets have also recently been deep cleaned pending some redecoration.

Thank you to those who helped out with the litter picking and to the residents (you know who you are) who can be seen regularly picking up litter around the village and along Durbans Road. Perhaps we can encourage more people to do their bit when walking around the village. If you would like to keep your area of the village looking spick and span, please do!

**Get Prepared for Winter:** Now is the time to get prepared, just in case of a cold winter, perhaps with power loss thrown in for good measure, Don't get caught out. Power loss in the winter is far more challenging so check gas and log supplies, torch batteries, candles and other items that your household may need.

### 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 will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on the following Tuesdays, if required:

**2 November  
7 & 21 December  
4 January 2022  
1 February  
1 March**

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Held in the Village Hall  
at 7.45 pm on the following  
Tuesdays:**

**16 November  
No meeting in December  
18 January 2022  
15 February  
15 March**

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



## Playground Gate Lock - does it help?

At the request of parents with younger children, we recently installed a trial magnetic gate lock on one of the gates. **Please let us know if it helps.**

Does it stop younger children from opening the gate? Or does it now stop older children from using the gate as the lock is too strong or too difficult for them to open?

We need to know if we should install this lock on the other gate, or whether we need to look for an alternative. Please email your thoughts to Louise at [clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org)



The annual RoSPA inspection was undertaken in September and we are pleased to say that only a few low risk maintenance items were identified. These will be rectified over the coming months.

The Parish Council is also extremely grateful to WG resident, Neal Bowes, who is now undertaking a weekly playground inspection. However, if you should see any areas of concern that require immediate attention, please contact the Clerk - contact details are on the playground signs so you can call from there!

### Are you HTC?

If you see someone sitting alone on a bench you don't know why they are there; do they want company, do they want to be left alone, does anyone care either way? Soon, these questions will be answered for you; there'll be a sign going onto one of the benches on the Green saying 'HAPPY TO CHAT'.

The idea is simple: sitting on the HTC bench indicates that you're ready for a chat; in fact, it probably means that you'd like to chat. If you feel like a bit of a natter, maybe because you live on your own, go and sit on the bench; equally, if you see someone sitting on the HTC bench, and you can spare a few minutes, why not take a seat and enjoy a chinwag. Who knows what might come out of the conversation: a good laugh, a shared interest, a burden shared, a sympathetic ear, a friendship started, finding a fellow Spurs supporter (burden sharing), or just a good ol' British discussion about the weather.

There'll be no awkwardness, the sign tells you all you need to know. Wisborough Green is a friendly place, let's show it by never leaving the HTC bench with only one occupant.

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P.S. Rumours that Louise wants a 'Happy to be left alone' sign on another bench are untrue.

## 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

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**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](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.

## Parish Council Vacancy

The Parish Council is the first elected tier of local Government. The role of a Parish Councillor is to bring local issues to the attention of the Council and to help make decisions on behalf of the village.

You will need to be able to attend the Parish Council meeting held one evening each month and spend extra time on areas of specialism or interest. Enthusiasm and commitment are more important than experience.

You must be aged 18 or over, an elector, and have been a resident or worked within 3 miles of the Parish for the past year. The position is unpaid.

For further information, please email or call the Parish Council Clerk.