

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

(Not part of the Church since 1894)

Issue: 42

August 2022

Chairman's Message

Please can I start with a sorry/not sorry: the decision to drain the Green was not taken lightly, not only would it be an expensive job but it would lead to substantial disruption. When the idea of installing a drainage system in the Green was proposed, Wisborough Green Sports obtained advice on which system to install and the potential for side effects. Simply, the Green is mainly clay (hence the perpetual waterlogging and the need to drain it) and this presents special problems. Once the drainage cassettes were installed and filled with sand, which is how the drains work, if a particularly dry period were experienced the clay would shrink, the sand fall into the spaces created and trenches appear – this is exactly what happened, creating a real hazard.

By the time you read this the trenches will all have been filled and, when the time is right, grass seed will be sown. Whilst we are all very sorry about the appalling state of the Green this summer, we are sure it will be great in the years ahead. More inside.

It's wonderful to see the Green so busy on Friday evenings, what a fabulous village asset the Green is. This in turn has led to parking concerns, particularly around the Butts Meadow junction, which we have taken up with WG Sports.

The first meeting in May includes the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. I was delighted to be elected again as Chair, but it may have escaped your attention, the PC has a new Vice-Chair, Sophie Winship. Sophie has made, and continues to make, a huge contribution to the village. She is taking over from Andrew Jackson, who has been a Parish Councillor since the days of compulsory archery practice on the Green (mud permitting). Andrew continues to serve the PC and the village where his immense experience and sound judgement are invaluable.

The Jubilee weekend was a resounding triumph, bringing the village together for a four day celebration. I would like to lead the thanks to WG Sports and St Peter's for all their hard work in pulling it together.

The transfer of the Songhurst Meadow title to the Parish Council is being finalised. If you haven't yet been, go and have a nosey. Songhurst Meadow will be a wonderful adjunct to the Green for dog walking, walking, running or just chillin'; the 750m circular path should be completed in the autumn. Trees have been planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and a Field Maple for the Platinum Jubilee. I need to extend thanks to the Stride family who have been diligently watering the trees; without this more of these trees would not have survived.

As I write, we are in the middle of a glorious heatwave, the Green is being topped up again and again (the clay keeps shrinking) and we look forward to the August Bank Holiday Monday Fete.

Pete Drummond, Chairman

Gatwick Airport

For all their talk and frequent engagement it appears clear, and many involved in these discussions have thought for some years, that Gatwick are interested in engagement on anything that doesn't require them to change their plan. Gatwick are only interested in maximising revenue and they pay lip service to engaging with communities or considering any noise reduction proposal that might tie their hands. Disingenuous is a strong word, perhaps not too strong.

Suffice to say, there are able and committed people fighting for your interests and maintain energy levels, after eight years, that has to be admired.

The Parish Council has recently responded to the latest consultation and we continue to keep a close eye.

Pete Drummond

Village Green Drainage and Levelling

Wisborough Green Sports, and the Parish Council, recognised that undertaking such a large project would have an impact upon general recreational use of the Green as well as sport, however short-term disruption would have a long-term gain. Unfortunately, the completion of the project has been affected by the dry weather this year; after the grass seed was sown in the drainage channels in the spring, there was insufficient rain for germination, and the dry spell has continued. It was known that the channels would settle and top up would be required, but the very dry weather has resulted in further settling as the clay has shrunk. Work has already been undertaken to top up the channels and will continue as needed.

In preparation for the football season, further seeding will be undertaken and irrigation undertaken as necessary. The weather has worked against us, but Andy Burbridge (member of the drainage project group and also a Parish Councillor) has given his assurance that it will be available for the football season and there will be a marked improvement on the previously waterlogged ground.

The Parish Council will continue to support Wisborough Green Sports in bringing this important project to fruition.

Can we please remind you that you can start cutting hedges again from September without fear of disturbing nesting birds.

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.

Traffic Speed and Noise - the latest

Petworth Road Traffic Regulation Order: The application for a speed reduction to create a 40mph buffer zone on the west side of the village has been successful and the application is currently in consultation, supported by Sussex Police. Most evidence suggests that this will help to reduce traffic speed within the village 30mph zone. Fingers crossed for success and that it will be implemented by WSCC in the near future.

Durbans Road Speed Reduction: We have now followed up our unsuccessful application with WSCC Highways. By making a Freedom of Information request, digging deeper into the process, and generally making a nuisance of ourselves, we identified that our County Councillor, Janet Duncton, withdrew her support; we were disappointed with her response and recently invited her to meet Parish Councillors who were able to highlight their disappointment about Mrs Duncton's lack of support and candour. We are aware that recently there was another accident on the corner and will ask WSCC Highways to review the signage and, in the future, reconsider our application.

Durbans Road Residents – if there are further accidents, please phone the police and get the incident recorded, however minor; new evidence will assist any further application.

Community Speed Watch (CSW): The village team have held 41 Speed Watch sessions since the beginning of the year; logging over 700 offenders on the Police-led Community Speed Watch website – so they're still getting out there on a regular basis despite the dwindling numbers.

A bit of background – we can only operate sessions with Police prior knowledge and approval. We do this by logging our intended sessions on their website. We can only operate at Police-approved sites within 30 and 40 mph limits. We have several locations around the village but tend to concentrate on the A272 that has the greatest impact on the village with regard to noise and safety. Once a session is completed we log our results and leave the rest up to the Police.

If you are concerned about the speed of vehicles where you live then join the team and we can get a site approved near you. Our volunteers usually carry out just a couple of hour-long sessions a month, and fewer during winter months.

Speed Indicator Device: At long last WG's SID is on order. You will shortly see 'SID' at 7 locations around the village, for up to 3 weeks at a time. All village residents will be required to elicit a smile from SID.



School Traffic: With the start of a new school year in September, the Parish Council has produced a flyer, to be distributed to all parents and included in the September Ad Vincula. It highlights the voluntary one-way system in School Road, identifies the village car parks and addresses parking and speeding concerns. Your support would be much appreciated.

Pond Re-Pointing

This work was originally planned for last September, but the contractor let us down. We now have a different contractor arranged to complete the pond refurbishment in September when the water is a little lower and hopefully warmer. He will be donning his waders and working waist deep in water to rake out the old mortar and re-point. This work is not just for appearance but to ensure the structure is sound for years to come.

War Memorial

The War Memorial is showing its age, and why shouldn't it – it was installed in Spring 1921 at a cost of (old money) £168. 12s. 4d, supplied by G Maile & Son, Euston Road, London. Part of the base and lime mortar has failed so the memorial will shortly be cleaned and repaired.

Project Gigabit - no progress to report

We had hoped that the WSCC Officer responsible for the Gigabit rollout in West Sussex would attend our July meeting, but he has postponed until September/October when he hopes to have more information.

The reason for this delay is that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has had some slippage in delivering against its Project Gigabit milestones. In West Sussex this means that they continue to design and finalise an intervention area that will be eligible for public subsidy having analysed the plans of the commercial telecoms market. This also means that the Voucher Scheme remains paused in West Sussex until we are notified.

We are sorry that there is no further positive news, but we will keep pushing on behalf of the village.

Cllr Tim Worrall.

School Admissions

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that new residents, or those considering a move to the village, are unable to secure school places at Wisborough Green School. This is a concern and one that we have highlighted to CDC, on more than one occasion, in relation to further development in the village. We are now taking the matter up with WSCC that has responsibility for school admissions. We'll report any developments.

Satisfying and frustrating!

Despite being a relatively small group, our community litter pick in May still managed to clear a considerable amount of litter from the village verges. Thank you to those who turned out to help.

We will be organising another session in **early October** so look out for that date in Ad Vincula and posters on the noticeboards. Do consider joining and please keep doing your bit to keep our village beautiful. Thank you.

Songhurst Meadow Open Space - take a look

We are delighted that most of the new homes are now occupied, some by existing village residents but also those new to Wisborough Green; the Parish Council extends a warm welcome to you all. We are sure that you will enjoy this wonderful village and hope that once settled, you will fully immerse yourself in village life.

The legal agreement to transfer ownership (and maintenance) of the open space land to the Parish Council has now been completed and we look forward to creating an open space that is more rural and not another formal village green. Wildflowers, trees, long grass and enhancements that improve and promote wildlife and nature have been included; although some junior cricket may be played it is not intended to be a formal sports area. The installation of a perimeter(ish) track, planned for September, will make this area accessible to all, and will hopefully encourage more of us to run/walk that mile a day (two circuits is an Olympic Mile).

Immediately inside the entrance from Durbans Road there is a car park for use by anyone visiting the village or for school runs. A short and pleasant walk takes you straight through to Newpound Lane opposite the school – children can run freely without traffic worry, so please use this car park to ease congestion around the school.

Neighbourhood Plan – dare we say we're getting there?

The Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan Review is nearing the end of the review process and is currently undergoing a 'Health Check' by an external advisor, to ensure that it meets the Basic Conditions and National Planning Policy Framework requirements.

The review process and policy amendments have had to tread a fine line between its intended purpose of protecting the integrity of the village and passing examination, enabling it to be 'made' (adopted) by CDC.

The NP Review team has worked extremely hard to achieve this milestone, over a period of years, and all in spite of the complications that arose due to the continuing delay of the Chichester Local Plan Review.

We will continue to keep the community updated as the reviewed Plan goes through its final stages.

CDC's Subsidised Tree Scheme is now open

District residents, landowners, farmers, community groups, businesses and other organisations, can apply for these trees, as long as the site is suitable. This scheme is funded by HM Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund, and covers 50% of the cost of the trees, with applicants contributing the remaining 50%. CDC has five different bundles available, depending on where the trees are being planted, plus a hedgerow bundle. Each bundle contains 10, 20 or 25 trees and people can apply for up to 20 bundles.

All the information, including the application form can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme>

The Parish Council has a vacancy

The Parish Council is the first elected tier of local government; it is not part of the Church. 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 Louise, Parish Council Clerk.

"I have learnt, and continue to learn, so much about all aspects of the village since joining the PC over 2 years ago. It's a good feeling to me making a positive contribution to the community and 'putting something back'." Sophie Winship

See it. Note it. Report it.

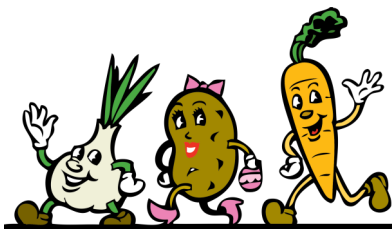
If walking or driving around the Parish and you notice or hear that something needs repairing or is a concern, then please let those responsible know. It's only by things being reported that we can get these repairs/issues addressed. **If you are unable to report online, please call the Parish Council on 701102.**

Village Maintenance Items/General Appearance: generally in the Conservation Area around the village green, please report by email to the Parish Clerk clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

A problem with a road or pavement: potholes/loose granite setts/manhole covers/pavement concerns/highway issues, please report to WSCC <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

Public Rights of Way: issues with way markers, broken stiles, obstruction, missing planks on bridges, please report to WSCC: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/>

ALLOTMENT PLOTS AT HARSFOLD LANE NOW AVAILABLE



Will you be inspired by the Horticultural Show this August? Is the thought of growing your own fruit & veg appealing but yet you haven't enough space in the garden? Call Louise, Parish Council Clerk, on 701102 for more details.

Major Emergency Plan - Can you help in a time of need?

The Parish Council has a plan in place which provides simple guidance to support our emergency services or, if appropriate, to start a self-help response in the event of a major incident in the village (available on the village website).

A 'Major Incident or Emergency' is an endangering of, or likely to endanger, life and property event that would be beyond the scope and facilities of normal day-to-day operations of an inter-agency response.

In normal circumstances the response to a major emergency would come from the Emergency Services, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council. Sussex Police would probably take the initial lead in co-ordinating the operation. In these circumstances the Parish Council will assist with local knowledge, as requested. However, as has occurred in the past, self-help and a community response maybe required when the emergency services and outside agencies are unable to attend. The scenario envisaged is widespread travel disruption and blocked roads caused by severe weather, with potentially damaged, uninhabitable homes and injured parishioners. The Parish Council will take the lead in whatever initial steps are possible, however, these circumstances would have to be exceptional and should not be confused with uncomfortable situations experienced with short-term power loss!

Skills List: We do have a village skills list but this should be regularly updated. If you have any of the following skills or equipment and would be able to help out in a self-help emergency situation, please contact Louise on 01403 701102 or email clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

- ◆ Medical/First Aid Training
- ◆ Current/Ex Emergency Services
- ◆ Tractor/4-wheel drive vehicles
- ◆ Experienced chainsaw operator with safety equipment
- ◆ Willing and physically able to help with various roles (setting up the Hall/making tea/morale boost)

LET'S BE PREPARED AND THEN IT WON'T HAPPEN.

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 Committee Room at the Village Hall.

2 & 16 August
6 September
4 October
1 & 29 November
13 December

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

No meeting in August
20 September
18 October
15 November

No meeting in December

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

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 01798 865546

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

Sophie Winship (Vice-Chair) T: 700783

Community Speed Watch Coordinator
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan

Lucy Bartley T: 700457

Neighbourhood Plan Review
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan
Winter Management Plan

Andy Burbridge T: 701902

Green Coordination Group
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Youth Activities

Andrew Jackson T: 700574

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

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

Tim Worrall T: 700100

Communications
Major Emergency Plan
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.

**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**