

Wisborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council News

(Not part of the Church since 1894)

Issue: 43

November 2022

Chairman's Message

The last time I put fingers to keyboard we were celebrating the joys of the Jubilee weekend. Who would have thought such a short time later we would be reflecting on Her Majesty the Queen's death and the mourning that engulfed the world? We were blessed to have her as our Queen, she will be missed.



This time last year I was writing about the amazing attendance, and success, of the annual village Fete; I put it down to everyone wishing, post-Covid, to get out and about. To what should we ascribe the unbelievable attendance, and success, of this year's Fete?

I suggest that it is a chance for everyone within WG to celebrate what an exceptional village it is and, for those unlucky enough to live elsewhere, to experience the joys of a traditional English village. We really do live in a special place.

What makes WG so lovely? Heaven knows we, like many other places, have our problems but, I suggest, these are outweighed by the exceptional beauty of where we live and the *esprit-de-corps* that we derive from living here.

One of the backbones of maintaining this dazzling situation is the volunteers who keep everything that contributes to the 'glory of Wisborough' going. The 'Volunteers of Wisborough Green' is a heavily over-fished pond, the same names keep cropping up again and again.

Louise and I tried to compile a list of individual roles and groups that volunteer within WG, we came to 32 and yet aren't sure that we haven't missed anyone off. If more people don't put themselves forward to help, even in a small way, the social foundation upon which the village is built will gradually erode and we shall all be poorer for it. The Fete committee is withering, creating an existential threat to the Fete itself.

I would beseech, and thank, anyone reading this to ask themselves why they cannot spare a few hours a year to keep the WG show on the road; please volunteer.

Let's hope that we have a mild winter and that the warm spaces in the village will remain unused; stay warm, enjoy Christmas and, please, consider volunteering.

God Save The King.

Pete Drummond, Chairman

INSIDE: Warm Spaces, Unwelcome Visitors, Songhurst Meadow Official Opening and much more!

Odd decisions for a Parish Council Chairman

The path around Songhurst Meadow was meant to be exactly 750m long (2 circuits = an Olympic mile – 1500m). An error was made in measuring the existing path which meant the path, as planned, was going to be 797.5m long; As the Clerk was laid low with Covid, I was asked to visit the site and agree where the path could be shortened, effectively cutting a huge corner. After much discussion, I realised that with the addition of just over 7m the path would equal half an Imperial mile, two circuits being the same distance that Sir Roger Bannister covered in under 4 minutes. A very WG solution.

Please join the village on Sunday 20 November at the opening of the Songhurst Meadow path when I, personally, undertake to present a magnum of champagne to anyone who can (verifiably) complete two circuits in under four minutes. (Refer to the back page for more info.)

Unwelcome Visitors

At 3.15 pm on Friday 19th August, the Clerk received the dreaded call that travellers had arrived on the village green. Not good at any time of the year and certainly not a week before Fete Day; to say that the Clerk was stressed is an understatement.

A call was made to both Chichester District Council and the Police, and the removal wheels were set in motion. Being in the village centre, with cricket on the green, the planned fete and unfortunate altercations provided strong justification for the Police to move the travellers. We are grateful to the Police and CDC officers for acting so quickly and ensuring that the site was left clean.

Without fundamentally changing the appearance of our village centre, there is little that we can do to prevent these incursions. However, the law changed on 1st August which gives the police more removal powers. If an incursion does occur again, please:

- Immediately report it to the Parish Council and the Police.
- Any altercations, antisocial behaviour or damage, however small, should be reported directly to the Police. Don't leave it to someone else as this is the evidence required for them to act.

Can we please remind you that winter is the time to cut hedges 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.

Feeling chilly?
**This winter be sure of a very warm
welcome and no rush to leave**

WARM SPACES

You are welcome to pop into

**The Cricketers Arms
The Three Crowns
The Bat & Ball**

**during opening hours where the fires will be roaring
(No purchase necessary - complimentary tea and
coffee available courtesy of WGPC)**

Don't forget

**St Peter's Xpresso Coffee
Every Friday 8.45 am until 11.30 am**

**and of course, for a nominal cost, why not join
St Peter's Luncheon Club
and enjoy a two course meal and a catch up with
friends (details in the Ad Vincula)**

And please look out for your neighbours

**Working together to keep
Wisborough Green warm**

Traffic Speed and Noise - the latest

Petworth Road Traffic Regulation Order: Success at last. Our application for a 40 mph buffer zone on the A272, to the west of the village, has been successful; signs and road markings will be in place soon.

Community Speed Watch (CSW): The Wisborough Green Speedwatch group had a quieter Summer - mainly due to the exceptionally hot weather - man-made high viz and soaring temperatures are not a good combination! We hope to be back out there this Autumn encouraging those travelling through our tranquil village to check their speed. Our fingers are crossed the impending implementation of the 40 mph buffer zone on the Petworth side of the village will make that stretch of the A272 not only slower but also a bit quieter for residents.



Hopefully, you will soon see the new mobile Speed Indicator Device around the village - smiley faces all round ... all will become apparent. As we have seen with the village market - without volunteers these community projects have a habit of dwindling ... so if you would like to do your bit - just an hour a month ... please get in touch. All that's needed is some straightforward online training (30 minutes) and then a practice session road-side and you're good to go! Maybe team up with a partner or friend ... make a difference!

Sophie Winship, CSW Coordinator, T: 01403 700783

Remembrance Day Road Closure



The War Memorial has now been cleaned and repaired in time for the commemoration on Sunday 13 November.

The Parish Council has been granted a Road Closure to allow some peace from passing traffic when the service is conducted. The A272 will be closed from Durbans Road to opposite the shop for 5 minutes from 10.58 to 11.03 am.

Project Gigabit - we're still on the case

The Parish Council received a presentation at the October meeting by a member of the WSCC Digital Infrastructure Team. We were told that the voucher scheme has now been paused and the Government intends to introduce a new scheme which involves both commercial and subsidised roll out. Unfortunately, this is all taking time and WSCC do not anticipate being able to confirm any details until Summer 2023. We received assurances that WSCC remain focused on the best outcomes for the Parish of Wisborough Green. We will let you know when we hear more..

New Pavilion

Frustratingly, a year after submitting the planning application, we have still not received CDC's decision. It appears that, due to the water neutrality issue affecting this area, further consultation with Natural England is required. We understand that if Natural England has no objection, CDC would be in the position to permit the application. However, we won't count our chickens before they have hatched.

What don't you understand? If it's you, stop!

Although we have new litter and dog waste bins installed at Songhurst Meadow, unfortunately CDC is currently unable to empty these. We hope that an emptying arrangement will be in place very soon, but in the meantime, the bins have been closed so please do not use them.

Why oh why, do some people ignore the signs and expect others to clear up their dog mess?

Please take litter and dog bags home or dispose of them in the bins on the village green. Thank you.



Billingshurst Recycling Centre Winter Opening Hours



The site is now open from 9 am to 4 pm until 31 March 2023. Closed on a Thursday and Friday.

Did you know that you can now recycle hard plastics such as garden furniture, plants pots, coat hangers and toys.

How to report potholes to WSCC is changing

From late November the process for reporting road and pavement issues will be replaced with mobile friendly e-forms. The benefit is that your reports will be automatically uploaded onto the Highways Case Management System and assigned to the right team. Those who would normally make reports using Love West Sussex will receive a pop-up message signposting them to the correct e-form for the issue being reported.

The new system includes a more detailed and accurate interactive map to improve location reporting. The map will feature all current reported issues and status for the type of issue being reported, for example, potholes, flooding or overgrown vegetation. You can receive status updates by providing your email address.

Both Frustrating and Satisfying

Thank you to all who supported the October litter picking session. It was especially fabulous to see new village residents as well as some youngsters. We managed to clear a considerable amount of litter from the village verges; Kirdford Road was by far the worst.

Another session will be organised in April but in the meantime, please do continue to pick up litter as you walk around the village. It all helps, thanks.

Get prepared for Winter - don't get caught out

Now really is the time to get prepared, just in case of power loss this winter. Winter power loss is far more challenging so check camping gas and log supplies, torch batteries, candles, generators and other items that your household may need.

We haven't had snow for a while but just in case, arrangements have been put in place to have key areas in the village cleared should we have heavy snow this winter. We have to be realistic about what can be done and therefore help from the community to clear pavements is needed. If we do get heavy snow, please do your bit to keep the village moving.

You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself. It's unlikely that you'll be sued or held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if you've cleared it carefully. When you clear snow and ice:

- * Do it early in the day - it's easier to move fresh, loose snow.
- * Don't use water - it might refreeze and turn to ice.
- * Use salt if possible - it will melt the ice or snow and stop it from refreezing overnight (but don't use the salt from village grit bins as this is used to keep roads clear).
- * You can use ash and sand if you don't have enough salt - it will provide grip underfoot.
- * Pay extra attention when clearing steps and steep paths - using more salt may help.



ALLOTMENT PLOTS AT HARSFOLD LANE AVAILABLE

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

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.

1 & 29 November
13 December
3 January 2023
31 January
7 March

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

15 November
No meeting in December
17 January 2023
21 February
21 March

**Members of the public are
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?
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY 2023**

**For more information, please contact the Parish Council Clerk
on 701102 or email clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org**

SONGHURST MEADOW OPENING COME & COMPLETE YOUR MILE

RUN, WALK, SKIP, POTTER

OR SIT & WATCH OTHERS
ENJOY THE CIRCULAR TRACK
AROUND OUR NEW PUBLIC
OPEN SPACE
(2 LAPS ARE A MILE)

BADGE
FOR ALL



**SUN 20 NOVEMBER
2.00 PM**

**BY THE CAR PARK OFF DURBANS RD
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

DON'T FORGET US!



LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER
WISBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL