



WISBOROUGH GREEN  
PARISH COUNCIL

# Village News

(Not part of the Church since 1894)

Issue: 44

February 2023

## Chairman's Message

Happy New Year.

This, more or less, is an impression of Chichester District Council's plans for Wisborough Green.

**This is important**, please read the details in this newsletter (page 3) about CDC's Local Plan revision and, when appropriate, let them know your thoughts. The PC will be doing everything within its (limited) powers to control development in the village, but **we really need help from every single one of you**.



I often mention that the pond of village volunteers is heavily overfished and needs restocking. At the end of this month we lose one of the biggest carps: after 17 years as both committee member and Chairman, Keith Carter is finally hanging up his Village Hall boots. Keith has done a huge amount for both the hall and the village. We will forever be in Keith's debt and, on behalf of the whole village, I would like to say an enormous 'thank you'.

The Songhurst Meadow track is open, remember two circuits is a mile. If you haven't yet been, do give it a try. The addition of this large open space is like offering another, village centre, lung, a wonderful alternative to the green itself.

At long last the Parish Council has a logo, proudly displayed at the top of this page. It was created by a village graphic designer and highlights the Martlets of the West Sussex flag, the Horse Chestnut trees and the Church.

If you plan on becoming Prime Minister now might be the time to put your foot on the first rung of elected office; the Parish Council elections are in May albeit completely non-political. It would be wonderful to have someone standing who could run 100m in under 15 seconds; details on the back page.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May we can all look forward to the Coronation of King Charles III. Wisborough Green Sports, who did such a great job over the Platinum Jubilee, has offered to lead in organising a village celebration – something to look forward to.

I hope we can all look forward to an excellent village Spring.

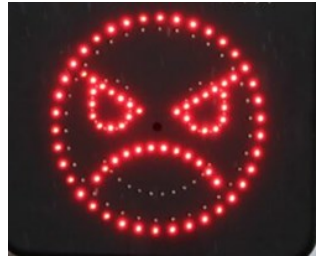
**Peter Drummond, Chairman**

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**INSIDE: CDC's Local Plan, SID and traffic update, the decline of the Horse Chestnuts, a message from King Charles III and much more!**

## SID at work, make it smile

The Parish Council's recently acquired mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) is now at work. You may have seen it situated by Great Meadow, on Petworth Road, before Christmas, and then in Kirdford Road; SID is currently monitoring traffic on Durbans Road. Not only does it let drivers know their speed, and display a smiley face as a reward for keeping to the speed limit, but it's also collecting significant data. There are several approved sites around the village so you can expect to receive the reassurance, from knowing that you are not speeding, all over the village.



Petworth Road 40mph Buffer: We were successful in achieving the implementation of a buffer zone on the A272 Petworth side of the village. Data recorded that 50% more vehicles were over 35mph when entering the village from Petworth (prior to the buffer) compared to entering from Billingshurst. It is to be hoped that the matching buffer zone should have a positive impact on vehicle speed through the village.



Speed Limit Change: West Sussex Highways have reviewed their policy framework for speed limit change applications and we hope we can make some of the more rural roads into the village safer for all road users – but particularly pedestrians. We will keep you posted.

Community Speed Watch: Our team is enjoying the quieter traffic that the winter months bring, however, once we get Police approval, we should have a new cohort and site on Kirdford Road. Thank you Kirdford Road residents for stepping up and contributing to making our village safer for everyone. If you would like to join the team then please contact me on 700783.

**Sophie Winship, Parish Councillor & CSW Coordinator**

## Village Spring Clean - let's all do our bit

What a fantastic turnout at the last Village Pick (VP), genuinely exciting to see so many new faces, and it's encouraging that many people appear to be taking the initiative by collecting litter when out and about. Even if a staggeringly important appointment prevents you joining the next VP, on 1<sup>st</sup> April, please consider always doing your bit when walking in the village and surrounding countryside. Perhaps take a bag to collect the rubbish that other disrespectful walkers and drivers have left behind. Why not post what you have collected on the village Facebook page?

The village takes a battering over the winter: debris, litter and soil accumulates in the gutters. If you haven't joined a village litter pick before, now is your chance to witness this first-hand. It would only be an hour of your time (1/8760 of your year) and is the kind of selfless act to empower you and enrich your soul.

**Please join the spring litter pick at 2 pm on 1st April (not an April fool) and, at least, clear the area in front of your home.**

## CDC blows up 4 year's of work ... and, potentially, WG

For the past 4 years, a small volunteer team (with PC support), have been navigating the complexities of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) to accommodate the Chichester Local Plan (LP) housing allocation, whilst protecting the village from speculative development. There's been several village consultations on site identification and updates have been provided in the both the PC newsletter and Ad Vincula.

At first, the new housing number was 25, this was increased to a minimum of 40. After a further year's prevarication, and a reluctance to engage, CDC has just announced the number's been **INCREASED TO 75 DWELLINGS**... on top of 68 already added.

	2011	2012	2016	2018	2020	2023
	Census	LP required	WG deliver	LP V1	LP V2	LP V3
	636 homes	60 homes	68 homes	25 homes	40 homes	75 homes
Increase from 2011		9.43%	10.69%	14.60%	16.98%	22.48%

**Do you want the village to expand by 22.5%? Did you vote for this? Do you want this?**

The four northeast parishes (WG, Loxwood, Kirdford and Plaistow & Ifold) are being clobbered because CDC are, apparently, unable to place new homes in the southern area (where they're needed) due to the debacle surrounding the upgrading of the A27, around Chichester, not being resolved.

The PC strongly objected to the speculative development of 25 houses on the Glebe Fields and has made representation to CDC that the village and infrastructure cannot support further development. The brownfield sites (Clark's Yard, Ansell's Yard and Tanglewood) are allocated within the WG's Reviewed Neighbourhood Plan so further development, of at least 40+ dwellings, will be on greenfield sites.

Whether it's public transport, medical facilities, school places, sewerage, roads, not to mention water, (where we're likely to be asked to reduce our usage) the village doesn't have capacity in any of these critical infrastructures to support this growth. Almost everything about WG will change, from our views to our way of life, to cope with unwanted growth.

Unless you want the heritage, character, and community of our village to be lost you need to take personal action by objecting strongly to CDC. We do not see why CDC's difficulty in resolving the A27 issues around Chichester should cause the destruction of this beautiful, quintessential village, one of the jewels in the West Sussex crown.

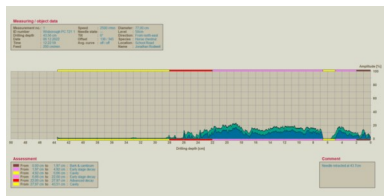
**If, as seems likely, the Local Plan goes to consultation (planned for 6 weeks from 3rd February) YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION.**

- ⇒ Object to the forthcoming CDC consultation. Details will be provided on the village website (as not confirmed prior to this going to print), noticeboards and village Facebook page. Also look out in the local press and on the CDC website.
- ⇒ Write to our MP, Andrew Griffith - House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA  
[andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk)

## Curtains for Horse Chestnuts

Once a year, Mike King, the Tree Warden, and George Nicholls, tree surgeon, very kindly conduct an annual inspection of all the trees on the wider village green – no mean feat, there are 83. Maintenance work is undertaken based on their recommendations: lift canopies, remove deadwood and epicormic growth (shoots growing off the trunk). However, occasionally a tree must be placed under 'watch' as it shows signs of decline, possibly due to bleeding canker. A small tree by the war memorial is dying and will shortly be removed.

They also expressed concern about 4 larger trees showing signs of fungal growth, bark damage and/or decay. Tests to locate and assess the extent of internal decay were done by a specialist arboriculturist using a Resistograph® microdrill. The microdrill measures the resistance of the wood to a depth of 500mm; a constant pressure is applied and reaction to both drill feed (compressive strength) and drill speed (torsional strength) measured, with recorded data shown as a digital graph. The results have confirmed that it is necessary to remove a large tree in School Road and another opposite the Cricketers Arms; the work will be undertaken in the next three months. Their removal will have a significant impact upon certain views around the green until the Parish Council arranges their replacement in the autumn, possibly with different species.



On a positive, the large tree at the bottom of Butts Meadow, by the playground, has only a small amount of decay and the tree by the public loos, whilst having significant internal decay, has sufficient sound wood to support the tree for the immediate future.

**Annual Report** - Through articles in this newsletter and the Ad Vincula, 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 available in the published meeting minutes, and a full annual report is published following the 31<sup>st</sup> March year-end. Last year, for the first time, we circulated a summary Annual Report to every household via the May parish magazine which we intend to do again. We also invite you to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 20th April.

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

**21 February**  
**21 March**  
**18 April**  
**16 May**  
**20 June**  
**18 July**

### **PC 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 .

**7 March, 4 April,**  
**30 May, 4 July**

## Parish Precept 2023/2024 - Increased from £70,000 to £78,000

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 PC's element of the Council Tax, collected by CDC on our behalf, is the PC's main source of funds and is used for maintaining and administering the village.

The Parish Council acknowledges that it's a tough time financially so has looked closely at its costs for next year. Whilst considering the budget, the PC decided to avoid any major projects that would increase the Precept and to limit the increase to cover unavoidable items and cost increases. Whilst some maintenance projects have been postponed to keep current year costs down, village maintenance costs have increased generally and the Songhurst Meadow open space is new, add to the that the decline of the Horse Chestnuts.

Although the tax base (the number of households paying full Council Tax used for the calculation) has increased, it has proved necessary to increase the Precept; the increase adds 9.68% to a Band D property, equivalent to 17p per week.

## You spoke, we listened

In December 2021 a survey asked the village young what the village might offer them; not all suggestions could be realised but we're delighted to say that one, a permanent basketball area, is going ahead.

In March, the current cricket net area will be extended to provide an all-year-round surface for basketball and netball. Not only will the provision include 2 hoops for the winter months (when cricket nets are down it's a mini court), but there'll also be a five-a-side goal. The area will be out of bounds during organised cricket net practice (flying cricket balls), but for the remainder it will provide a mud free informal sports area, and a meeting place for the young. The Fete Society has kindly offered to provide a storage box and balls; this is a great opportunity for young Magics and Lionels to hone their basketball and football skills as they pass.

## What - is - wrong - with - people?

### Hint: there ain't a dog poo fairy; own it.

A pitch inspection is undertaken prior to sport being played. Unfortunately, it appears that dog poo is on the increase despite the provision of dog bags and bins around the Green. Let's face it, we know our dogs and we know that they all 'go' within a few hundred metres of home. It is totally unacceptable to expect others to clear up so please keep a close eye on your faithful friends. Thank you.

## Catch the allotment bug!

Allotments will be available in the Spring.

For more information, please call Louise on 701102 or email [clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org)



## Civility and Respect

Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Examples of ways in which we can all show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.

There are many Town and Parish Councils where civility and respect are sadly lacking and there is a national campaign to address this. Wisborough Green Parish Council has signed the Civility and Respect Pledge which demonstrates the PC's commitment to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.

## New Pavilion, still no news

Parking now has a challenger as the village 'Groundhog Day' issue: the new pavilion. Planning has still not been granted although is imminent (as it has been for months and months).

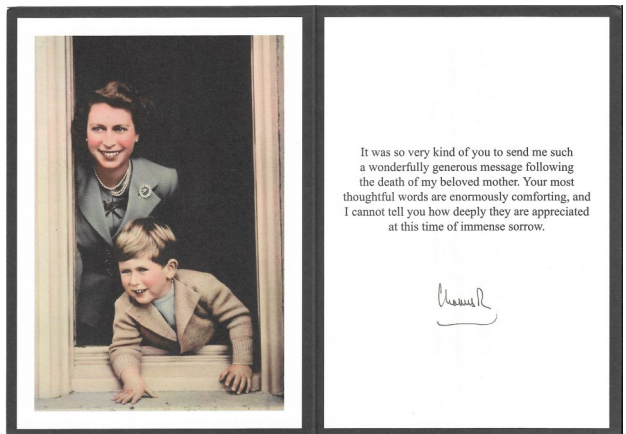
In preparation the PC and WG Sports are sorting out a new lease which will confirm both WGS's terms of tenure and what they can do in the building (its location on the village green creates restrictions). This needs to be in place so WGS can apply for grants from various funding bodies.

## A message from King Charles III

Following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Parish Council Chairman wrote to King Charles and the Royal family to express condolences on behalf of the whole village.

This response was received at the end of last year.

This card will be held in the History Society's records.



## ACT QUICKLY – CUT YOUR HEDGES BACK

This is your reminder to cut your hedges back hard before the birds start nesting (and no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March). It's essential 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; the slackers shouldn't be surprised to receive a reminder from the PC.



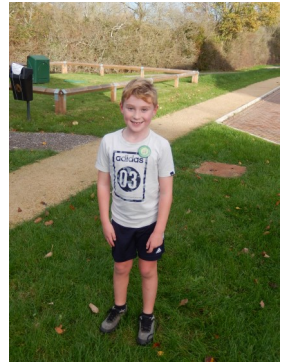
# The first person to run the Songhurst Mile



On a sunny November Sunday afternoon, a number of Wisborough Green residents met to run/walk the mile and enjoy a cuppa together.

**Congratulations to  
Charlie Brown**

for being the first person to  
run the Songhurst Mile and  
receive his badge.



**Village Spring Clean**  
**Saturday 1st 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 Louise on 701102, otherwise just turn up on the day. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.



## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** **THURSDAY 20th 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 Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Refreshments will be served.

## How to contact your Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Louise Davies  
Wisborough Green Parish Council  
PO Box 255, Wisborough Green  
Billingshurst, 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.



# Wisborough Green Parish Council

## Parish Council Elections May 2023

### 5 reasons to join the Parish Council

#### 1 First level of democracy

Protecting, maintaining and caring for Wisborough Green for us and future generations to enjoy



2

#### Have your say for the village

Your opinion matters – represent other residents

- 9 Councillors (unpaid) & the Parish Council Clerk (employee)
- Meet on the 3rd Tuesday of most months
- Additional meetings as required



#### 3 Make financial decisions

The PC is funded through your Council Tax collected by Chichester District Council – help make spending decisions



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#### Look after the Parish's property

Contribute in the decision process of maintaining our village's assets – The village green, Songhurst Meadow open space, allotments, playground and other items around the village such as the trees, war memorial, paths and benches



#### 5 Represent the Parish

- Comment on planning applications
- Inform the Neighbourhood Plan process
- Respond to important consultations
- Consult residents on local matters
- Communicate decisions to the Parish

**Come to a meeting to see what's involved**

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For further information contact  
**Louise Davies,**  
WGPC Clerk, on  
01043 701102 or email  
[clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org](mailto:clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org)

[www.wisboroughgreen.org](http://www.wisboroughgreen.org)