



Chairman's Message

Ding! The bell has sounded as the runners enter the final lap, not all the runners, just me; having been elected as Chairman at our May meeting I am three months into my final year on the PC. The estimable Sophie Winship was elected Vice Chair and we are thrilled to welcome David Hill who has been co-opted to fill a vacancy.

Whilst we are (all) aware that PCs aren't the be all and end all, it is worth noting a couple of things, so long may WG's PC continue:

- PCs are the first rung on the government ladder, responsible for trying to direct what happens within the parish, it leads on making WG a great place to live.
- WG is incredibly fortunate both in the strength of its PC and the civility with which it conducts its business. I recently attended a meeting of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils – non-stop fun – and was amazed to hear of the problems being experienced by other PCs. One council was applying to close as it could not attract councillors, and another unable to recruit a Clerk, at £50k per annum, because of the toxic behaviour of councillors.

Which brings me onto another of WG's Groundhog Day issues: the village pond of volunteers is heavily over-fished. Towards the end of 2022 I wrote a list of village organisations that rely on volunteers to operate, I came to a total of 32 (can you make a longer list?). Too often these organisations rely on the same volunteers.

Would now be a good time for you to volunteer in some small way? The August Fete needs extra hands, both organising in advance and helpers on the day – please, put yourself, or your partner, forward. Did you know that the English word *fête* is borrowed from the Mediaeval Latin *festus* via the French word *fête*, meaning 'holiday' or 'party'. The 12th-century Middle English root 'fest'- is shared with feast, festive, festal and festival, festoon, the Spanish fiesta, Portuguese festa, etc. How could you not want to be involved in something so happy?

One volunteer organisation that has created an annual humdinger is the team behind RunWisborough. This year over 600 runners took part and in doing so raised over £4,500 for village sports facilities. Thank you to everyone involved.

I wonder if, and it is a big if, we will have a summer, hopefully so? On the plus side we haven't needed to water our gardens, on the negative side it's been too wet or cold to enjoy them. Fingers crossed for warmth and a sunny day for the, fully staffed, village *fête* on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Peter Drummond, Chairman

INSIDE: Stable Field, Songhurst Meadow survey, Road safety, Pavilion, Friday evening parking, village maintenance and more

Stable Field - land transferred to the PC

CDC granted planning consent for 8 houses to be built on this field, close to The Green. As a condition of the PC agreeing to this limited development, a large section of the land was gifted to the PC which will be used for general recreation and sport, preventing further development and maintaining some of the Green Gap in perpetuity. Details are being finalised: Wisborough Green Sports will receive a licence to use the area with certain conditions. The land transfer includes the payment of an annual sum to the PC of up to £3,000 for grass cutting, tree maintenance and administration, limiting future costs for the village.

The PC made an application to WSCC to fund a pavement from Stable Field to The Green and its feasibility is now being assessed.

The west road - the trial access restriction has worked

As previously reported, a trial was undertaken on restricting the nature of access to the west road, leading to the Pavilion, in an attempt to improve its use, the speed of vehicles and unauthorised parking; it has been judged a general success.

After the first few months the wording on the sign was amended to allow access for turning (to prevent reversing onto the A272), but still it has been reported that the number and speed of cars using the road has significantly reduced, improving safety for everyone. The PC has now decided to make this a permanent arrangement and will be replacing the temporary cones with planters, the cost of which will be met by the residents. Thank you for your continued support.

Friday Evening Cricket

The PC is pleased that the Friday cricket on The Green is so popular, with so many young people being given the opportunity to play cricket. However, the popularity of this event inevitably brings parking concerns with it. The PC has been in contact with Wisborough Green Sports to help develop a traffic management plan to improve road safety and accessibility for those not part of the events on the Green. Additional no parking cones and signs are being put out and Stable Field will be used as a temporary car park. The Cricket Club is publicising and encouraging motorists to park safely. The PC is aware that an ambulance was delayed by inconsiderate parking and that is, clearly, unacceptable. If you are one of the many families taking part please park responsibly, the situation is being closely monitored.

Village Maintenance

Much PC work goes unnoticed. Have you, for instance, noticed that oak sleepers have now been installed in the ground by benches on The Green (where possible without damaging tree roots) which will reduce the wear and tear on the grass. It was mentioned, earlier in the year, that it was our intention to start addressing more maintenance items. Well it's started.

**WISBOROUGH GREEN FETE & HORTICULTURAL SHOW
THE PLACE TO BE ON AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY**

School Traffic - near crossing incident

The PC is extremely concerned that earlier in the year there was an incident involving school children crossing Durbans Road, and it has been repeated more recently; cars stopped to let children cross only to have another car overtake, we presume thinking that the car was parking. Fortunately, on both occasions, the children were alert and stopped.

After the first incident the PC tried to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher but due to the forthcoming leadership change, our request was declined. The PC takes the safety of children very seriously and believes that there are several initiatives that could be undertaken, in partnership with the school and parents, to improve road safety. We will therefore be arranging to meet the new Headteacher as soon as they are settled into their new role.

Whether you are a parent, carer, grandparent or family friend – please take every opportunity to teach or remind children of The Green Cross Code:

*******THINK ***** STOP ***** LOOK AND LISTEN ***** WAIT**

******* LOOK AND LISTEN AGAIN ***** ARRIVE ALIVE.**

We have already had a new site for our Speed Indicator Device (SID) approved by WSCC in Durbans Road between the Cricketers and Songhurst Meadow targeting vehicles coming into the village. Along with a suitably sturdy pole, WSCC has also agreed to replace the faded 30mph signs. SID will not only remind drivers of their speed as they approach the crossroads but also provides us with valuable data.

We are aware the zigzags outside the school are very worn and we are chasing our previous request to have them repainted. Sussex Police have also agreed to attend drop-off and pick-up in September as well as presenting a road safety talk at the school, at the convenience of the new Headteacher.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) - can you help?

The poor state of the Petworth Road over the last few months has been doing our work for us, however, since the repair, it is increasingly apparent that traffic continues to pass through the village far too fast particularly during the rare sunny weekends recently. Hopefully the team will be able to find time to get out and about.

We have two new approved sites in Kirdford Road close to Tanglewood Nursery as residents had complained of traffic speed heading in and out of the village. We hope to get those up and running after some practical training.

The Wisborough Green CSW team is a dwindling number of volunteers who are keen to improve the road safety through our beautiful village. If you too are tired of the noise and speed of traffic and have a small amount of spare time – why not join our merry band? On a personal note – I find it very empowering knowing I am doing something practical to improve our environment. Call me to get involved on 700783, particularly Kirdford Road residents.

Cllr Sophie Winship, CSW Coordinator.



WHY ?

In the middle of June we received this upsetting image. The Field Maple, planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, has been snapped in half.

Someone/some people decided it would be a good idea to destroy it. If it was you, or if you know who did do it, perhaps you could enlighten us as to why you did this, what did you gain?

The police have been notified.

New Village Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators

Introducing Simon and Philippa

After 20 years of stoic service Priscilla Pinkham has retired as the Village NHW Coordinator. The Chairman offered the village's grateful thanks to Priscilla at the April Annual Parish Meeting. Simon and Philippa have agreed to be appointed jointly to this role and have recently completed their Police verification checks.

Simon says "My wife and I have lived in Wisborough Green since 2002 and know the village well. I was a Sussex Police Officer and my wife a nurse. We are increasingly concerned about the threat posed to the village, not just from residential and commercial burglaries and thefts of and from cars and vans, but also anti-social behaviour. The vandalism of the Jubilee Tree in Songhurst Meadow is a case in point.

Technology has moved on and we have an opportunity to circulate Sussex Police Alerts more quickly and widely in the village. Of equal concern is the threat from cyber-crime, either via email phishing attacks or phone scams. I have recently completed a 12 month deployment with the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (part of the National Crime Agency) and reviewed many reports where UK based victims have lost millions in savings to scams. Future circulations will highlight the latest methods used by scammers, and the warnings or red flags villagers should look out for to recognise when they are being contacted by fraudsters!

The Neighbourhood Watch organisation has a database of village residents' email addresses. We will be in touch in due course in the hope that we can spread the word further and hope to establish other communication methods to speed up warnings. Thank you for your support."

Wombing Free

On 1st July the Beavers were out litter picking around The Green. It was fabulous to see their enthusiasm and diligence in picking up the smallest pieces of litter, which are often overlooked. Thank you to every single busy Beaver.

Report Incidents to Sussex Police

There is possibly a feeling that the police don't do anything so why bother to report incidents to them? This is counter-productive as unless they know, they won't be aware that issues could be developing in Wisborough Green. The Police do monitor crime reports and work on a reactive basis.

It is therefore important that all incidents of anti-social behaviour, thefts, and suspicious behaviour are reported via 101 or www.sussex.police.uk If you spot something, please report it.

Pavilion

The PC is working on two aspects with regard to the Pavilion: the lease on the current building expires in December and a new, lengthy, lease is being agreed with WGS. A long lease is a pre-condition for WGS to apply for funding applications towards a new building. The lease will be linked to a licence for WGS's use of The Green.

The second element relates to the current condition of the building. The PC understands WGS's reticence to spend funds on the existing building when a replacement is planned, however, with the best will in the world, a new building is some time away. The PC believes that the existing building needs to be made safe, repaired and possibly upgraded until such time as a new building can be delivered. At its simplest, it is a legal requirement that WGS, the lessee, addresses the maintenance of the Pavilion and puts right the many defects that have appeared through lack of maintenance and in accordance with the existing lease.

Whilst the PC agrees that a new building is desirable, until such time as planning and full funding are secured, the current building needs to be maintained. Not just for the practical reason that it is the only facility available and should be acceptable to its many users, but for health and safety reasons and the aesthetics of the only building on The Green.

The PC is therefore working with WGS to identify the works required and will be making available funds held in the PC's reserve, ring-fenced for a new Pavilion.

THINK OF OTHERS – HEDGES & BONFIRES

Hedges: A strong reminder to those who have a pavement outside their property that it is essential to keep your hedges cut back to ensure that pedestrians are able to use pavements without having to push past vegetation, being caught by brambles and in the worst cases, being forced to walk in the road. This does not mean 'just a trim' it means cutting back harder than you imagine so that when the vegetation grows back it isn't encroaching over the pavement.

Overgrown hedges forcing pedestrians to walk into the road puts them at risk. As this is for pedestrian safety you are permitted to do this even though the bird nesting season is not officially over. Please be mindful of the birds when cutting.

Bonfires: Smoke can ruin peoples' enjoyment of their garden, prevent windows from being opened and washing hung out. Please do not burn any obnoxious materials on fires or wood burners/indoor fires as this can have severe health implications. Ideally, take rubbish to be recycled at the waste recycling centre in Billingshurst.

Wisborough Green History - did you know?

The History Society does an amazing job in researching and compiling historical information about the village. Everyone should join the Society to receive the fascinating monthly newsletter, even if you only have a small interest in village history.

If you have documents, photographs or artefacts relating to Wisborough Green that you no longer want, please consider donating them to the Society for its archive, or if you want to keep them, submit them for copying.

To contact the Society email wgVillageHistorySociety@gmail.com

It is hoped that a historical tour/leaflet will be prepared for the village, potentially with signs positioned around the village. This is the first trial sign now at the public loos.

The Forge and the Tyre Setting Plate

There used to be a forge in the centre of the village until the mid-1950s. This was in the brick outbuilding belonging to Forge Cottage, next to the public toilets. Horses were shod at the front and the forge and anvil were located towards the rear.

Apart from shoeing horses, another line of work was the making and fitting of steel rims to wooden cart wheels. The rim was made to the correct size from strip steel in the building and was fitted to the wheel which was positioned on the tyre setting plate outside.

The rim was heated in the forge, a part at a time due to its size. When almost red hot, two men picked up with tongs and rushed and hammered the rim onto the wooden wheel before cooling with water, amidst lots of steam. This cooled and shrunk the rim to make a tight fit onto the wheel.

The tyre setting plate can still be seen today in the grass underneath the horse chestnut tree.



This picture shows a tyre setting plate in use, but not in WG.

More information available on www.wisboroughgreen.org

THE BIG FAIR WILL BE BACK

MR TRICKETT'S FUN FAIR WILL BE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN FOR TWO DAYS THIS YEAR.

FRIDAY 20 & SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER



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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
In the Committee Room at the Village Hall, 7.45 pm on the following Tuesdays:

17 September

15 October

19 November

No December meeting

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 .

20 August, 3 September

1 & 29 October,

3 & 17 December

Songhurst Meadow Survey

Please see over for the explanation. Respond by 31 August 2024.

Complete and return either by dropping this slip into the box at the Village Shop or emailing to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Do you support sport organised by WG Sports being played at Songhurst Meadow?

YES / NO

If NO, please explain:

.....

..... Attach extra paper as necessary.

If YES, please tick:

Junior Cricket	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matches	<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Address Postcode:
Adult Cricket	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matches	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Touch Rugby	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matches	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stoolball	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matches	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Your Parish Council

Peter Drummond (Chair) T: 07976 253969

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

Sophie Winship (Vice-Chair) T: 700783

Community Speed Watch Coordinator
Local Council Associations
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan

Andy Burbridge T: 701902

Green Coordination Group
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Youth Activities

David Hill T: 07545 531193

Traffic Management Plan
Other roles/ interests to be confirmed

Andrew Jackson T: 700574

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

Mark Ogden-Meade T: 07774 904489

Neighbourhood Plan Review
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Winter Management Plan

Howard True T: 700150

Finance Committee
Planning Committee
Traffic 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
Winter Management Plan

Parish Council meeting minutes are
available on the village website
www.wisboroughgreen.org

Important Songhurst Meadow Survey

Don't complain later if you don't respond now. Respond by 31 August 2024.

It's often said (OK, by the PC Chairman) that The Green is 'the hardest working turf in West Sussex'. It not only hosts the Friday cricket training, but numerous cricket matches, and the football season starts before the cricket season is over and *vice versa*, not to mention Touch Rugby. It takes slick organisation to avoid clashes and to create a window for work maintaining and repairing the surface.

Stable Field will hopefully become available for training to relieve some pressure, but the PC has been asked to canvas the opinion of all residents as to whether sport should be permitted on Songhurst Meadow. The transfer of the land to the PC contains a provision preventing the playing of football matches so the survey relates to other sporting use.

Please complete the form overleaf and return it to the collection box in the village shop by 31 August 2024. Alternatively email your responses to **clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org** (your name and response will be kept in confidence and known by the Clerk alone.)