



Chairman's Message

Just like that, we're coming to the end of another year, they do fly by don't they?

The Parish Council (PC) has been very busy mainly with work that has been time-consuming but not particularly visible. Although the PC doesn't generally meet in August, this year an extra meeting was called as decisions had to be made to progress projects. The most prominent of these was the Planning Inspectorate's examination of the Chichester District Local Plan, this links to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and future development – see explanation inside.

Considerable time has also been spent discussing the condition of the current Pavilion, the replacement building and a new lease. Short summaries have been included inside but as with all PC discussions, full details are available in the meeting minutes published on the village website.

Sadly vandalism in the village appears to be on the increase, with the Village Green most recently targeted. We urge everyone to report any incidents to the police as reports are monitored and the police will react accordingly, especially if a trend appears to be starting.

Dog fouling, especially on Songhurst Meadow, has been a continuing problem. The PC instigated, at considerable expense, a trial to cut the grass more frequently to keep it shorter so that dog mess would be more obvious. This seemed to be working but now, with the advent of darker mornings and evenings, the problem is back, with a vengeance. I almost cannot believe that I am writing this: the PC is considering the installation of CCTV cameras so that miscreants can be caught and prosecuted. Take a torch and keep a close watch on your four-legged friends.

After nearly 18 months on the PC, Mark Ogden-Meade has stood down as he found combining a full time job with PC activity was hard to reconcile. We want to thank Mark for stepping up in the first place. It is inevitable that PC membership changes; Councillors are all volunteers and contribute much time, but circumstances change which makes the commitment more challenging. If you are interested in joining the Council, do get in touch.

The festive season will soon be upon us, and we hope that you will again enjoy the PC's projection on the church tower. I wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Pete Drummond, Chairman

INSIDE: Local Plan, Road Safety, Pavilion, Vandalism, Village Maintenance, Successful Applications to WSCC and more

Local Plan (LP) and Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Update

At the inception of the revision of CDC's LP, in 2018, WG was allocated 25 new homes, in 2020 this figure was increased to 40 and then in January 2023, literally just before the draft LP was published, increased to 75. How CDC arrived at this figure is shrouded in mystery, not least (as the PC's Freedom of Information requests have revealed) by the lack of meeting minutes and records of relevant conversations.

The PC did not have significant spare funds available to engage professional consultants to challenge this figure and so PC members took on the task themselves, which involved building a case that CDC had made fundamental errors in their preparation of the LP in respect of WG. It is hoped that the resultant representation and the personal appearances at the actual enquiry (in amongst the barristers etc. representing voracious developers) has done enough to get the Inspector to ask CDC to look again at their thinking. Who knows whether the PC will be successful but, safe to say, we've given it our absolutely best shot on the village's behalf. Once the number has been finally confirmed the whole Neighbourhood Planning process will restart.

The Pavilion

There are three elements that have involved more Council time in recent months:

Current Pavilion: With the planning delay for a new building, the PC is concerned about the building's condition. The current building needs to continue to be a facility supporting sport in the village until such time as a replacement building can be funded and constructed. The PC engaged a surveyor to undertake a Schedule of Dilapidations linked to the existing lease to identify the work that was required. Wisborough Green Sports (WGS) also commissioned a Fire Risk Assessment. Both reports have identified the work that is required to bring the building up to a safe standard and bring the fabric and appearance, both internal and external, up to an acceptable standard. WGS has already undertaken some of the necessary work.

Lease: The current lease expires this December. A new lease has been drafted by the PC's solicitor. It is a more comprehensive and long-term lease which needs to make provision for a new building, use of the Green and protect both future WGS Trustees and the Parish Council. The new lease is being discussed so, in the meantime, both parties have agreed that the current lease continues. The PC has set future review points partly linked to the building's repair.

Replacement Building: This has been on the cards now for many years, latterly held up by CDC planners, primarily relating to water neutrality requirements for this area. An updated water use report has recently been submitted and it is hoped that CDC will determine the application by the end of this year. The PC is supportive of a new building and hopes the village will support WGS's fundraising campaign.

Operation Watershed Application - success

For the last 18 months we have been working towards improving surface water drainage in School Road at the Newpound Lane junction. We are pleased to report that our application to WSCC was successful and WSCC will be funding improvements which will be undertaken in the school half term in February.

Traffic Management Update (continued over)

Road Safety: In September Councillors Sophie Winship and Tim Worrall had a positive and productive meeting with Ms Greenway (Deputy Head) and Mr Harder (Teacher) to discuss road safety concerns. The school already have in place various measures to minimise congestion in the village at drop off and pick up times with a staggered start time and two entry points for pupils.

They comprehensively explored the issues with the road crossing point in Durbans Road and it was agreed that some signage was necessary – firstly to indicate to road users that this is a crossing point but also reinforce to the children, parents and carers that this is the place at which they need to cross the road. The PC and WSCC are discussing the correct signage to be put in place in due course and whether a 'lollipop person' would be feasible.

The school are looking into getting some signs from the Ellie Thornton Foundation to keep the zigzags outside the Newpound Lane entrance clear and warn road users of the presence of children. The PTA has generously agreed to provide funding for these.

The Police Community Support Officer is in touch with the school and plans to hold a road-safety assembly and some other road-safety initiatives. Mr Harder initiates the Walk-to-School week (held in the Summer) where staff encourage as many children as possible to walk to school – some even walking from Billingshurst along footpaths!

One initiative with which Sophie was particularly impressed is their 'Bike Week'. The staff realised that having a Bikeability Course in Year 6 was simply too late and that children need to build on their cycling skills and road safety awareness from a much younger age. Hence each year group have a "Bike Week" and most of the children are confidently riding their bicycles without stabilisers by the end of Year 2 – quite an achievement. They plan to meet again soon to discuss our mutual progress.

Speed Watch: The CSW team have been out on the Petworth Road where, until recently, the state of the road was doing the job for us. We've also been focussing on Kirdford Road – aware that traffic coming into the village from Kirdford past the children's playground is simply too fast and clearly not adhering to the 30mph limit. As ever, the pool of volunteers is still small. If you fancy contributing to the road safety of the village and have an hour here and there to spare – please get in touch. Many hands make light work.

If at first you don't succeed...

Durbans Road Speed Limit Reduction: The first application to reduce the 40 mph to 30 mph through the residential area failed in 2018, but the PC didn't give up. We are pleased to report that another application has been approved by WSCC and the police, subject to one final consultation.



Kirdford Road Footway: The PC has been pursuing a Community Highways application to create a footpath that links the village centre to the Stable Field open space and the new development. We have been extremely encouraged by WSCC's response with plans now being drawn up for WSCC to install this, at their cost.

Traffic Management continued ...

B2133 Traffic Speed: Roundstreet Common residents attended the September PC meeting to raise concern about the traffic speed on the B2133 from Loxwood to Newpound; they had also attended a Loxwood PC meeting. We know from traffic data captured by SID that speeds exceeding 70mph have been recorded outside Bellmans. Loxwood PC is seeking a speed reduction as far as the parish boundary, WG PC will seek a reduction between that boundary and the 40mph at Newpound; it makes sense to submit these in tandem.

Parking - Butts Meadow Junction & Kirdford Road: Parking, particularly associated with the Friday evening cricket and weekend matches, has again been raised as a concern. This is now continuing with the start of the football season and is also associated with school pickup. The PC has stressed to the sports clubs the importance of putting out the no parking cones to create the passing space, however motorists often ignore them, causing frustration to those travelling along Kirdford Road. There is no easy solution without urbanising the village. However, safety is paramount and the PC is seeking advice about installing more double yellow lines.

Vandalism

The August newsletter reported the vandalising of the Memorial Tree in Songhurst Meadow. Now, in this edition, it's the Village Green that has come under attack.

At 11.15 pm on Friday 11th October, many heard the roar of a souped-up engine; daylight revealed the damage done by 'donutting' on the Village Green. Words fail us.



Fortunately the Green's drainage system helped to reduce the damage. Although the time of year was against us, the PC authorised expenditure for necessary repair. Luckily the subsequent heavy rain helped to lessen the marks and the PC is pleased to see that football is being played again. Obviously, this incident has been reported to the police and a line of enquiry is being followed up.

Coincidentally, earlier that week CDC and WSCC officers met the Clerk to advise on unauthorised land incursions on the Green; being a registered Village Green, the Enclosure Act prevents any fencing or enclosure. The only option would be to create a ditch and bund or numerous posts around the whole Green which would fundamentally change the Green's appearance. On the basis that incursions have been few, 4 in about 23 years, the PC decided not to make any changes at the moment but will return to this decision over the coming years.

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. Clear pedestrian access, especially for those with wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters, is important, so please cut back vegetation bordering pavements. Thank you.

Stable Field Development

You've probably noticed that the development of 8 new homes has started. The PC met a Remmus Homes representative and understand that all immediate neighbours have received a letter providing a site contact number. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is circulated, all parking will be on site. Workers will all be reminded to stick to speed limits, be especially attentive during school drop off and collection times and to minimise vehicle numbers with lift shares. There will be a wheel wash facility on site and a rotary cleaner will be used once a week in Kirdford Road. The PC was reassured by the meeting and believes that the developer is genuine in seeking to minimise their impact upon the village.

Weather and ground conditions permitting, they hope the site will be completed by October/December 2025, with the first 3 houses completed in early summer.

Ukrainian Flag - new friendship flag



On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. For the first year or so a Ukrainian flag was flown in the village to demonstrate our solidarity and support to the country and especially to the families who had fled and were staying locally. It appears that some villagers(?) did not support the PC's decision to fly this flag; it has been stolen, twice. What was hoped would be a short-term war has continued. The PC has decided to fly a Friendship Flag, which it is hoped will be fully supported.

Riparian Ownership - your responsibility

If you have a watercourse, ditch, stream, river or culvert on or next to your land you are known as a 'riparian owner'. Riparian owners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of watercourses on their land to ensure that they are not a flood risk to other people or property.

Under law, those with riparian responsibilities are to ensure that the water flow is not obstructed or polluted, the watercourse is maintained with vegetation cut back, obstructions are removed and structures maintained. More information is on the WSCC website: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/dealing-with-extreme-weather/flooding/flood-risk-management/managing-flood-risk/>

DITCH THE PROBLEM



Help avoid flooding and care for the wildlife in your area!

WHY ARE DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES IMPORTANT?

They help prevent flooding and improve habitats for wildlife

Water needs to flow along ditches – not meet barriers, debris, silt, blocked culverts or buildings.

If there is a watercourse such as a ditch, stream or river on, under or next to your land, you are known as a riparian owner. As a riparian owner you are normally responsible for maintaining that watercourse.



For more information on ownership and maintaining watercourses: www.westsussex.gov.uk/ditchtheproblem

Improved Broadband - not for a while

Any improvements to broadband speed are a long way off. Parish Councillor Tim Worrall is relentless in trying to get answers for WG however the WSCC coordinator has now advised that the scheme will be delivered by Building Digital UK's appointed supplier for the East and West Sussex contract. It will be delivered across 4 main stages up until 2030 and, no surprise, WG will be in stage 4, towards the end of the timetable. This is disappointing news but pressure will be applied wherever possible.

Songhurst Meadow - sports use?

In the August newsletter you were asked you for your views on using the open space area for sport. 35, out of 700, households responded and the assumption is that those who did not respond are happy with all the options. The results indicated support, albeit marginal, for junior cricket, touch rugby and stoolball practice, and concerns were raised about parking, damage to property/cars and litter. The PC has decided that the area can be used for junior cricket practice for the Friday evening sessions, for a closely monitored trial period. The PC will agree the arrangements with the Chairman of the Cricket Club, and Songhurst Meadow residents will be asked to provide feedback. The trial will reviewed after next summer.

Village Maintenance Continues

Kirdford Road pavement: The PC is pleased that some residents have taken the time to email their thanks for the resurfaced pavement. We're not sure when it was last done, if ever, but it was needed to address the increasing surface cracks and trip hazards.

Pothole repairs in the west road (leading to the Pavilion): Patching repairs done.

Bench footrest wear: Where wooden footrests couldn't be installed due to tree roots, the areas have now been built up and new turf laid.

Noticeboards/Village Sign: Sanded and oiled.

All Benches: Sprayed in the summer with an algae/lichen preventative treatment (safe for use in public areas) as a trial to see if it will prevent build up over the winter and keep them cleaner. These will be assessed in the Spring.

Both Frustrating and Satisfying

Thank you to all who supported the October litter picking session. It was fabulous to see new village residents as well as some younger members of our community. We managed to clear a considerable amount of litter from the village verges.

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. Thank you.



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 PLOT 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.

3 & 17 December
7 January 2025
4 February
7 March
1 April

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

No meeting in December
21 January 2025
18 February
18 March
15 April

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

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
Winter Management Plan
Youth Activities

David Hill T: 07545 531193

Traffic Management Plan
Planning Committee

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
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

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 HAS A VACANCY.
WHY NOT JOIN & HELP LOOK AFTER THIS VILLAGE?**

**To chat about the role and what is involved, do contact the
Parish Council Clerk on 701102 or email
clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org**