



Chairman's Message

Whether a supporter of Donald Trump or not, one thing I am taken by is his willingness to repeal/undo, what he perceives as, bad laws and to challenge the thinking that surround them. As a country we have far too many laws on the Statute Book that were, probably, poorly drafted and have now metamorphosed into unintentional strictures on society that leave many of us wondering how we got here.

Sadly, or not, Parish Councils (PC) are unable to repeal laws or undo errors; it is inevitable that Parish-level mistakes are never undone, because of a refusal to admit a mistake was made or on cost grounds. However, the one thing a PC can do is attempt to prevent the mistake happening in the first place, to examine not just the glaring, but also to seek out the unintended consequences, to ask whether the cure is worse than the ill. Should a PC do this, quite often to be accused of being stick-in-the-mud or an enemy of progress? I would hazard 'definitely': Wisborough Green is a truly special place and we should be its custodians and do our best to ensure that we pass it on with its beating heart, its essence, intact.

Clearly the most obvious examples of this are housing development that is too large or despoils village gems. The PC, mainly through the Neighbourhood Plan process, endeavours to guide where the inevitable, and welcome, new housing goes. Another example I would cite concerns the crossroads by the Cricketers: a scheme was designed involving installing a 'raised table' at the crossroads that would have made the junction marginally safer, however the extensive signage and lighting would have altered the village green forever. What is more if it had proved ineffective it would never have been removed.

As Angela Rayner's devolution plan comes into force, at enormous expense obvs, it appears that the role of PCs will grow and, quite possibly, take on the delivery of services currently within district council's remit. I hope whomever makes up the WG PC by that time will not lose sight of the need to be the village's bulwark against mistakes, that it is never too late to call a halt before a mistake is made for, as sure as eggs is eggs, they won't be undone.

Devolution promises to create a whole raft of items for the PC to address, it promises to be both an exciting and challenging time to be a Parish Councillor (I won't be here). There is an existing vacancy looking for someone who fancies getting involved, if it's you, or could be you, I beseech you to contact the PC Clerk.

Spring will be with us soon, thank goodness.

Peter Drummond, Chairman

INSIDE: Local & Neighbourhood Plans, Road Safety, Dog Fouling - Zero Tolerance, Trees, Kirdford Road Development Name and more

Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan – what’s happening?

The first key update is the outcome of the Local Plan examination, which took place last November. The good news is that the examiners have confirmed the Plan is sound, with some suggested modifications. The post-hearing letter is now available on the CDC website, but we are still waiting to understand the full details and how these changes might impact our village. CDC is now working hard to make these modifications which will be on consultation. One thing we do know is that the district's overall housing target has been increased, and we sincerely hope this won't place additional pressure on Wisborough Green.

Another factor to consider is the recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One positive update is that, with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in place, the village will have greater protection for three years if CDC falls short of its required five-year housing land supply. Obviously an incentive for us to continue the NP Review process.

With so many changes, it's complex for the NP working group to navigate, but we are keeping a close watch and will update you as soon as we know more.

Remmus Homes Development - has a new name

CDC recently consulted the PC regarding the road name for the new housing development in Kirdford Road. Once again, we turned to the expertise of History Society members who reviewed the 1842 Tithe Map for old field names and owners. The map identified a small wood (shaw) along the boundary with Greenways Nursery called *Barnfield Shaw*.

CDC initially requested two names for the eight houses, which seemed bizarre. The PC felt this would lead to future confusion, but with a bit of persuasion, *Barnfield Shaw* was accepted. The open space area will continue to be known as *Stable Field*.

Further Trees Lost to Disease

As part of our commitment to maintaining the health and safety of village trees, every three years the PC engages a qualified arboriculturist to undertake a professional risk assessment survey. This is particularly important given that many of the trees have benches underneath them and the Green is so well used.

A year or so ago we lost two large trees and following last September's survey three others were placed on a watch list. Recent stability tests have confirmed further decay in two of these trees, meaning they must now be removed.

One of the affected trees is at the bottom of Butts Meadow near the playground and will be removed shortly. The other, located outside the public toilets, is scheduled for removal in the autumn. Unfortunately, both trees have been in decline for some time and will not recover.

The PC believes that early removal is the best course of action, as it allows for new trees to be planted as soon as possible. Replanting will take place in the autumn, although the choice of species is still under discussion. Horse Chestnut trees have long been a part of WG's landscape, but their decline and the risk of soil infection make this a challenging decision. This is just one of the many difficult choices the PC must make in balancing tradition with the health and safety of our green spaces.

Traffic Matters

Durbans Road – School Crossing Concerns

Road safety near the school remains a serious concern, and we have been in discussion with the school about potential solutions. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) recently assessed the crossing point in Durbans Road against national criteria, but it did not meet the funding requirements for a School Crossing Patrol. This is incredibly disappointing, especially as we are aware of three incidents that could have resulted in serious harm if pedestrians had not been so alert.

We are now working closely with WSCC to explore alternative ways to improve road safety in the area. We will keep you updated as soon as we have more information.

Parking Issues – Kirdford Road & Village Crossroads

It's wonderful to see sport being enjoyed on the village green, however, this often leads to inconsiderate and dangerous parking. The 'no parking' cones are there for a reason - to keep key areas clear and allow traffic to flow safely through the village.

Please respect restrictions and avoid parking around the crossroads as it significantly reduces visibility for other road users.

We urge everyone to follow the Highway Code and use common sense when parking. The last thing we want is to resort to double yellow lines throughout the village, but this may become necessary if the situation does not improve. We are actively discussing our options with WSCC and have requested that CDC enforcement officers, who do operate outside office hours, visit the village. Please help spread the word - let's all do our part to keep Wisborough Green safe.

The West road to the Pavilion – Slowing Down in Style

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting our efforts to keep speeds down and make the village green safer. The temporary signs have been doing a fantastic job, and we've already noticed a real improvement. Even better news, the temporary cones will soon be replaced with beautifully designed planters.

A272 Road Surface – Progress at Last

We've been relentless in pushing for action on the poor surface of the A272, and at last, our persistence has paid off. A big thank you to everyone who has reported issues and helped raise awareness. WSCC has officially acknowledged the problem and will be investigating the underlying cause to ensure a long-term solution. In the meantime, warning signs have been put in place, and regular checks will be carried out to maintain safety.

Durbans Road Speed Reduction – Nearly There

Good news. The long-awaited reduction of the speed limit on Durbans Road from 40mph to 30mph is now in its final stages. It's been a lengthy process, but it's almost there. The final consultation is underway, and if all goes to plan, we'll soon be seeing new speed signs in place, making the road safer for everyone.

Final Reminder: Your last chance to cut your hedges – the birds are nesting!

Before nesting season begins, please take a moment to cut back your hedges to help keep footpaths clear. Overgrown hedges can make it difficult, if not impossible, for wheelchair users, pushchairs, and pedestrians to pass safely. A good cut now helps keep the village accessible for everyone through to the autumn. If a hedge does get out of hand, you may receive a gentle nudge from the Parish Council. Thanks for doing your part to keep our community safe and welcoming.

Protecting Our Dark Skies & Wildlife

A Little Light Goes a Long Way!

One of the joys of living in WG is the beauty of the night sky, those clear evenings where you can see the stars in all their glory. But as more outdoor lighting is installed, we're losing that special view, and it's not just astronomers who are affected. Excessive artificial light can disrupt wildlife, particularly nocturnal creatures like bats, owls, and insects, which rely on natural darkness to navigate, feed, and thrive. We're asking all residents to be mindful of their outdoor lighting. A few simple adjustments can make a big difference:



- ◇ **Angle lights downward** – This reduces glare, keeps light where it's needed, and prevents unnecessary skyglow.
- ◇ **Use motion sensors or timers** – This ensures lights are only on when necessary, cutting down on energy use too.
- ◇ **Choose warm light, low-intensity bulbs** – Bright, cool-toned lights are the most disruptive to wildlife and visibility of the night sky.

To this end, the PC has budgeted to make improvements to the lights in the public loos to reduce light spill. By making small changes, we can all help protect dark skies, support local wildlife, and keep our village's natural beauty intact. Let's work together to let the stars shine.

School Road - Drainage Works Rescheduled

The planned road closure for drainage improvements outside the Gate House (corner of the Little Green, Newpound Lane end), originally set for the February half-term was postponed.

A water leak in the area has caused significant saturation on the corner of the Little Green, and to ensure the work can be completed effectively, this must first be resolved and the ground allowed to dry out properly.

The work has been rescheduled for the May half-term (26th – 30th May). We apologise for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience and support.

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

18 March
15 April
20 May
17 June
15 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 .

4 March
1 April
6 May

Dog Fouling: Zero Tolerance

Dog fouling is totally unacceptable and it's encouraging that failing to pick up after your dog is now considered unacceptable. However, the PC and most of the village have had enough of the inconsiderate few who continue to ignore their responsibility, turning our open spaces into a health hazard, particularly for children. This is very evident on Songhurst Meadow where even front gardens are being fouled.

We have repeatedly asked dog owners to do the right thing, with increasingly firm reminders. Now, enforcement action is being taken. The CDC Enforcement Team is now actively involved, and to curb this issue, all dogs must be kept on leads in Songhurst Meadow until further notice; notices will be displayed and CCTV is being considered. This measure will remain in place until the problem is fully resolved. As this area may well be used by children for cricket practice over the summer, the PC is taking a firm stance.

We urge all residents and visitors to follow the rules. If you witness someone failing to pick up after their dog, please report them to the PC immediately.

Bag it. Bin it. No excuses. Offenders will be fined.

Keeping You in the Loop

Through articles in *Ad Vincula* and this newsletter, the PC does its best to keep you updated on PC projects. But let's be honest, these are just the highlights. There's a lot more happening behind the scenes, and if you're curious about the finer details, meeting minutes are always available on the village website.

For a bigger picture, we also publish a full annual report after the financial year ends on 31st March. For the past couple of years, we've sent a handy summary of this report to every household in May and we'll be doing it again this year. When it lands on your doormat, please take a moment to have a read. It's a good way to understand what we do, how we manage the budget, and where your money goes. We promise it's more interesting than it sounds - well, at least we think so.

Community Litter Pick - Let's Tidy Up Together!

When? Saturday 5th April, 2.00 pm

Where? Meet at the Sundial, Little Green

Gloves, litter pickers, bags, and holders are all provided! Just bring yourself and a bit of enthusiasm.

Want more info? Contact the PC Clerk on **701102** or simply turn up and join the fun!

Let's make our village sparkle - see you there!



Grow Your Own - No Space? No Problem

Were you planning to grow your own veggies in 2025 but are running out of space between the trampoline and the BBQ? Well, here's your chance, **there are two allotment plots available.**



WG residents get priority, but if no one steps up, we'd rather see allotments full of thriving veg than lonely weeds, so local non-WG residents can also apply. Interested?

Email the PC Clerk on clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org or call 701102.

Get ready to swap supermarket veg for homegrown goodness!

Pylon Refurbishment Underway

The National Grid is undertaking essential refurbishment on the Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line to ensure a safe and reliable electricity network. The project involves work on the main pylons located to the west and north of WG and is scheduled for completion by autumn 2025. While the refurbishment is in progress, you may notice various activities, including the establishment of access routes, repairs to pylon steelwork, and engineers working at height to replace fittings. However, there will be no disruption to the local electricity supply during the work. For further details and updates, please visit: www.nationalgrid.com/lovedeantobolney



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM **A St George's Day to Remember**

- St George's Day often slips by unnoticed, but what better way to mark this national day than by joining us for the Annual Parish Meeting?
- This year's event is particularly special, as it will be the Chairman's final meeting in the role, and he's determined to go out on a high. He's even organising the refreshments, so expect a fitting send-off.
- Join us to hear what the Parish Council has been working on over the past year, including an overview of our activities and expenditure. It's also your chance to ask questions, share any concerns, and be part of shaping our village's future.
- The Chairman will also be presenting his Unsung Hero Awards.
- Don't miss it. We promise good company, useful insights and, of course, refreshments.

Lifesaving Skills with Free CPR & Defibrillator Training

The PC is offering members of village organisations and groups the opportunity to learn vital lifesaving skills through the Rescue Ready project. This initiative, launched by The Sussex Heart Charity in partnership with Pulse South Coast, provides free Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) awareness sessions to community groups across Sussex.

In a cardiac emergency, every second counts. These sessions aim to empower communities by providing essential knowledge and hands-on training, ensuring more people feel confident using AED devices and performing CPR when needed.

WG is equipped with five publicly accessible defibrillators, located at:



- **The Village Hall** – outside the top entrance in the car park
- **The Pavilion** – outside the side entrance
- **The School** – outside the front main entrance
- **Bellmans** – outside the main entrance
- **Bat & Ball** – inside the red telephone box

These devices can make the difference between life and death. In fact, one of them has already been used in a real emergency at the Village Hall, highlighting the critical importance of community-wide awareness and training.

The PC has arranged two free training sessions at the Village Hall on Saturday, 27th September 2025 (morning and afternoon). We are inviting all community organisations to send one or two representatives to participate, ensuring that groups regularly meeting in the village have trained members.

Want to attend? There may be spare spaces available, so if you're interested, please contact the PC Clerk at clerk@wisboroughgreen.org or call 701102. If there is enough interest, additional sessions may be arranged.

Let's come together to ensure our community is Rescue Ready.

Parish Precept 2025 / 2026

If you haven't already received your Council Tax Statement from CDC, it will shortly be arriving on your doormat. This statement itemises the charges being made by CDC, WSCC, Sussex Police, and the PC. The Precept, the local portion of the Council Tax, is the PC's primary source of funding, helping us to maintain and manage the village.

Like everyone, we are facing rising costs, and we remain committed to ensuring the best value for money and using public funds responsibly. This year, we have had to increase our Precept request to £89,000, an increase of £4,000 (4.71%) from last year. However, this will **not** result in an increase to your Council Tax.

Why? Because the number of homes in the village has grown which means that the cost is shared across more households; the PC's portion of your bill will remain unchanged from last year. We appreciate your continued support and remain dedicated to keeping our village well-maintained and thriving.

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.

A Chance to Make a Difference – Join Us!

We currently have a vacancy on Wisborough Green Parish Council, and we are looking for an enthusiastic and community-minded individual to step forward. This is an exciting opportunity to have a real say in local matters, contribute to important decisions, and help shape the future of our village.

No prior experience is needed – just a passion for making a difference! As a councillor, you will attend meetings, collaborate on projects, and ensure the views of residents are heard.

If you would like to know more or express your interest in joining, please contact Louise, the PC Clerk. We would love to hear from you!

