



Chair's Message

I've been Chair of the Parish Council (PC) for all of three months now and I have to say – Pete Drummond's shoes are still too big. He was Chair for over 8 years and in that time he oversaw some major changes and issues in Wisborough Green – Great Meadow, Songhurst Meadow, the threat to the fields surrounding our ancient church amongst just a few. Thank you, Pete, for your more than capable stewardship.

For those of you who don't know me, I grew up in the village, School Road to be specific. I went to the primary school then onto the Weald. I moved away from the area to pursue a career in London, married and had two daughters, both now in their twenties. I moved back to WG about six years ago, mainly to be able to provide my mother with a little bit more support and having been widowed, perhaps I needed a bit of support too. To say I felt as if I had come home sounds somewhat of a cliché but it couldn't be more true.

I joined the PC in 2021. I was led to believe that places on the PC were highly sought after in the village, so perhaps in a few years' time I would be successful if I kept trying. I think you know where this is going ... there were two available places ... and I was one of two applicants! It was quite daunting early on having no experience of local government whatsoever, but I was guided expertly by the other members along with Louise, our PC Clerk, and will always be grateful to them all for their knowledge and experience ... in fact I still am!

Inevitably there are changes on the Council. Howard True retired back in May. Having spent over ten years on the PC he will be missed and we collectively thank him for all his efforts over the years. Mike Foster has joined in his place – welcome Mike. However, we do still have a vacancy and if you, like me, have a passion for our village but no idea how to get a bit more involved, why not consider joining? There are so many aspects to parish life; from care of our trees, ensuring, should disaster strike, (another storm of '87 perhaps) we have a robust emergency strategy in place to guidance on local planning applications.

I feel very privileged to be Chair of the PC and I believe, the first female chair in its history. Going forwards I will endeavour to keep the interests of our village at heart. If there is an issue you would like to raise with the PC, please do come along to our meetings – the dates can be found on the village website – you don't have to stay for the duration!

Sophie Winship, Chair

NSIDE: Neighbourhood Plan, Road Safety - we need your help, Trees, Major Emergency Plan - volunteers needed, and more

Neighbourhood Plan – what’s happening?

We included an update article and Call for Sites in the July Ad Vincula magazine. This article is still available on the Wisborough Green website - www.wisboroughgreen.org. This is an important issue for WG as it enables us, collectively as a village, to decide where new housing will be built. We will be consulting further with the village later this year, so please keep an eye open for notifications in the Ad Vincula magazine. Here is a summary of what was said.

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a local planning document that allows villages like Wisborough Green to influence the type, design, and location of new housing developments required by the government. While it cannot change the number of houses allocated to the village (currently 75 additional homes between 2021 and 2039, on top of the original 68 allocated) the NP helps maintain some local control over how and where development happens.

NP review is necessary because the Chichester Local Plan (LP), which guides broader planning decisions, has now been updated. The NP must be revised to align with this updated LP and the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Without an up-to-date NP, site allocation decisions would be made by Chichester District Council (CDC), potentially ignoring local preferences. A valid NP also increases the village's share of the Community Infrastructure Levy from 15% to 25%, funding improvements in local infrastructure.

The NP is created and updated by a Steering Group of local volunteers and Parish Council members. They review current policies, assess housing sites, and consult the public. Once finalised, the revised NP undergoes examination, a public referendum, and must be formally adopted by CDC.

Local Government Reorganisation - what we know

You may have read rumblings about Local Government Reorganisation. What we do now know is that district and county councils will disappear and one unitary authority established. At the moment, several options on how best to achieve this authority are being considered, whether East and West Sussex are combined, but then what happens with Brighton & Hove, which would like to be a separate authority. It depends on population numbers. We do know that a Mayor will be elected in May 2026, and you may have noticed that potential candidates are now coming out of the woodwork.

This directive has come from Central Government. It is not something that the district or county council have chosen. The powers that be at county and district level are working together and with other districts to find the best solution for what will be a much larger area.

At a recent conference on the subject, Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council, said having a Mayor will give our region a much louder voice in Central Government than we currently have, being a forerunner in the process provides additional funding and combining services will improve efficiencies. We are facing changing times and, certainly for the PC, quite a learning curve. We have been assured that the status of PCs will not change although until the expected White Paper on the subject is released in the Autumn, we don't know any more. We will keep you posted as we find out.

Traffic Matters

Sports Parking: The summer is well and truly upon us and with that, the Cricket Season. It's wonderful to see our Village Green used regularly but we are aware with that comes the inevitable parking and traffic issues. We have been working closely with Wisborough Green Sports to find appropriate solutions, as well as enlisting the support of CDC parking enforcement who have, so far, paid us a couple of visits and eased congestion and dangerous parking on and around junctions. Next year the Stable Field Open Space will be available for Friday evening parking. The PC intends to take a firm stance to ensure that it is used so that the parking issues we have experienced will be a thing of the past. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support.

Durbans Road Speed Reduction – we've done it: We are delighted that after one failed application and many years of badgering, we were able to resubmit the application when WSCC policy changed. They say that patience is a virtue and, in this case, it really was. The new 30mph speed limit is now legally in place, with signs freshly installed. We kindly ask all drivers to respect the new limit. Slowing down will not only improve safety for residents along the road but also make a real difference in the village centre and the school crossing point.

Improving Safety - the School Crossing: As mentioned in our last newsletter, WSCC assessed the school crossing point against national criteria, but unfortunately, it did not qualify for funding for a School Crossing Patrol. Since then, we've been actively working with WSCC and closely liaising with the school to explore alternative ways to enhance safety in the area. We're hopeful that the new 30mph speed limit on Durbans Road will have a positive impact, and we're currently looking into improved signage to alert drivers to both the crossroads and the school. We're also working to find a more effective location for the Speed Indicator Device just north of the crossroads. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make our village safer for everyone, especially our children.



Community Speedwatch: If you are sick and tired of cars and motorbikes speeding in and around the village – please – step up. You CAN make a difference. Regular offenders soon become aware of the team's presence and change their driving habits accordingly. We are few in numbers so would welcome some new recruits. Please contact Sophie Winship, Parish Council Chair, on 07872990911 if you can help out.

TRAFFIC CONTINUED OVER - WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUPPORT OUR APPLICATIONS FOR:

- ◆ JUNCTION PROTECTION DOUBLE YELLOWS AT THE BOTTOM OF BUTTS MEADOW
- ◆ AN EXTENSION OF THE DOUBLE YELLOWS OPPOSITE THE CRICKETERS TO IMPROVE VISIBILITY AT THE CROSSROADS
- ◆ AN EXTENSION OF THE ZIG ZAGS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL TO KEEP THE CROSSING CLEAR
- ◆ AN EXTENSION OF THE DOUBLE YELLOWS TO KEEP THE CROSSING CLEAR IN DURBANS ROAD

Please email your support to improve road safety

Double Yellow Lines : The PC has discussed the provision of double yellow lines with WSCC and after considering the frequency of the concern, where displaced vehicles would park (it could be moving a problem elsewhere) and the visual impact upon our rural village submitted, three applications along with an application to extend the zig-zags (School Keep Clear lines) by just 9m in Newpound Lane to keep the crossing point and visibility clear.

We have just heard that our applications for the Butts Meadow junction and the zig zags passed the initial assessment but then subsequently failed. Why, because there are no reported accidents (whatever happened to accident prevention?) and no evidence of residents' support.

Please email your support to improve road safety

So, please, if you support these applications to improve safety in our village, please email your comments and any photographs to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org Your email will not be disclosed to anyone else and only your comments/photos will be sent onto WSCC. Thank you. **We can't improve road safety without your support.**

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

FRIDAY 19 & SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Community Litter Pick - Let's Tidy Up Together!

When? Saturday 4th October, 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!



Dog Fouling - Songhurst Meadow

We would like to take a moment to remind residents of the reasons behind the introduction of the temporary dogs on leads policy. The decision followed reports of excessive dog fouling. One concerned resident picked up over 20 deposits in a single day. At its worst, the problem was so severe that, during warm weather, certain areas developed an unpleasant odour. This level of fouling posed a potential health risk not only to children, but also to dogs themselves.

We are pleased to report that since the policy was introduced, there has been a noticeable improvement. This is likely thanks to the efforts of responsible dog owners, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Other contributing factors may include the drier summer weather making alternative countryside walks more accessible, or owners choosing areas where dogs can run freely, something we completely understand.

The PC has now lifted the temporary dogs on leads policy. Updated signage is in place to reflect the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which continues to apply in the area.

We are hopeful that the current level of responsibility continues. However, please be aware that if the situation deteriorates again, the PC may need to consider applying for a permanent 'dog on a lead' Order.



Report Incidents to the 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

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

No meeting in August
16 September
21 October
18 November
No meeting in December

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please refer to the agendas 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 .

12 August
2 & 30 September
4 November
2 & 16 December

School Road drainage work - a spring has sprung

You may have spotted a new spring on the Little Green, where water now flows constantly through the ditch. While some suspected a leak, Southern Water has visited three times and confirmed that this is not the case.

There was a brief hiccup during the works involving the shuttering and ditch levels, but we're pleased to report that everything has now been resolved. The recent heavy downpours gave the new road gully and ditch a good test and they passed with flying colours! The remaining shuttering will stay in place to allow the bank to settle and the grass to become established, which may take a year or two. This improvement project was kindly funded by West Sussex County Council.

Our Horse Chestnuts are suffering

As previously reported, some of our Horse Chestnut trees around the village are sadly beginning to show signs of decline, some possibly due to age, some were planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. One such tree at the bottom of Butts Meadow had to be removed. This was not a decision taken lightly; two independent arboriculturist reports found significant areas of decay and a large amount of deadwood, confirming the tree was in poor health. Having also been struck by lightning some years ago, it was unfortunately dying.

The PC is aware that this removal prompted some concern on social media. However, the recent tragic death of a child in Southend-on-Sea due to a falling tree is a stark reminder of the importance of regular safety inspections.

Regrettably, another tree is also due to be removed. The Horse Chestnut outside the public toilets has been found to have extensive internal decay and is now visibly declining. Given its location near a busy area and close to the road, the PC has agreed that removal is necessary for safety reasons. We appreciate residents' understanding as we continue to care for the village's trees responsibly. Replacement trees will be planted.

Wisborough Green Ideas

With a Neighbourhood Plan in place, the PC receives 25% of the financial contributions the developer pays to CDC for infrastructure improvements. There are restrictions on how this money can be spent, but we are always interested to hear your spending ideas. Do email your thoughts/project ideas to clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org



WISBOROUGH GREEN FETE & HORTICULTURAL SHOW THE PLACE TO BE ON AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, 1 PM



Village Major Emergency Plan - help needed

The PC has a plan in place which provides simple guidance to support our emergency services or, if appropriate, to start a self-help response in the event of a major incident in the village (available on the village website).

A 'Major Incident or Emergency' is an endangering of, or likely to endanger, life and property event that would be beyond the scope and facilities of normal day-to-day operations of an inter-agency response, such as the great storm of 1987 which decimated the Southeast of England and our local environment. An estimated 15 million trees were uprooted, roads and railways blocked, and severe widespread damage to housing. Electricity supplies were gradually restored but some areas, including Wisborough Green, were still without mains power several days later.

In normal circumstances the response to a major emergency would come from the Emergency Services, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council. Sussex Police would probably take the initial lead in co-ordinating the operation. In these circumstances the PC will assist with local knowledge, as requested. However, with Devolution and local Council re-organisation, the village may have a greater role to play, we don't know yet.

As has occurred in the past, self-help and a community response maybe required when the emergency services and outside agencies are unable to attend. The scenario envisaged is widespread travel disruption and blocked roads caused by severe weather, with potentially damaged, uninhabitable homes and injured parishioners. The PC will take the lead in whatever initial steps are possible, however, these circumstances would have to be exceptional and should not be confused with uncomfortable situations experienced with short-term power loss!

Skills List: Our village skills list needs to be reviewed; sadly, some residents on our list are no longer with us. If you have any of the following skills or equipment and would be able to help out in a self-help emergency situation, please email Louise on clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org or call 701102. By contacting the PC you are confirming that you are happy for the PC to hold your details on file and to contact you in an emergency situation only. You can be removed from this list at any time by contacting the Clerk.

- ◆ Medical/First Aid Training
- ◆ Current/Ex Emergency Services
- ◆ Tractor/4-wheel drive vehicles
- ◆ Experienced chainsaw operator with safety equipment
- ◆ Willing and physically able to help with various roles (setting up the Hall/making tea/morale boost/traffic control)



LET'S BE PREPARED AND THEN IT WON'T HAPPEN.

Your Parish Council

Sophie Winship (Chair) T: 700783
Community Speed Watch Coordinator
Local Council Associations
Neighbourhood Plan Review
Planning Committee
Traffic Management Plan

Andy Burbridge T: 701902
Green Coordination Group
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Winter Management Plan

Peter Drummond T: 07976 253969
Finance Committee (Chairman)

Michael Foster T: 07974 202730
Finance Committee
Planning Committee

David Hill T: 07545 531193
Major Emergency Plan
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

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

Could you join the team?

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. Visit the website to see a short film about the role.

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!

