



Chairman's Message

Firstly, I'd like to make a correction, thanks to our wonderful village History Society, I discovered to my relief, that I'm not the first female chair of the Parish Council – Mrs Barlow was chair way back when. I remember her as a child, hearing her piano lessons when walking past her house to buy sweets from Forrest Stores, and on returning home invariably Mr Spooner would call my mother to say I'd left our dog tied up outside the shop!

If you haven't signed up to the History Society's regular newsletter, I cannot recommend it enough. There are aspects of the long history of our village that are truly enlightening. If you would like to become a member and receive the newsletter please do contact the Society Chairman, details are in Ad Vincula.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new residents of Barnfield Shaw. I hope everyone is settling in well. The PC wish you a long and happy time in the village, and if anyone is minded to be a bit more involved in village life, there are several organisations in the village that offer opportunities to meet local people – have a look in Ad Vincula.

We said goodbye to Allan and Debbie Self who ran the village shop and Post Office for over 35 years. They provided a truly vital service, particularly during Covid. Welcome Mr & Mrs Thangarasa – we hope you have settled in and we look forward to seeing you put your own mark on the shop. With the woeful public transport service, life would be much more of a challenge for many of us if we did not have such a facility in the centre of our village. I think what I'm trying to say is – if you want to keep it, support it. Same goes for other aspects of the village, from the pubs, and cafes to the community minibus, Lunch Club, Espresso in church and a lot more besides.

As I write, Remembrance Sunday has just passed. Seeing the cubs, scouts, beavers *et al.* in church on Sunday morning looking so smart was heartwarming. As I sat in my pew watching them all file past with their flags held high, I was very impressed. Listening at the War Memorial to all the members of our village that made the ultimate sacrifice, it was even more poignant as there are still several of those family names still resident in the village today.

Well, Pete Drummond's shoes are still feeling a bit loose but I hope they will shrink in time. I would like take this opportunity to wish you, your families and friends a very Happy Christmas and my very best wishes for the New Year.

Sophie Winship, Chair

INSIDE: Neighbourhood Plan, Road Safety, Pavilion, Trees, Zoar Chapel, Get Prepared for Winter and more

Your Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Update



This article was first published in the November Ad Vincula but we are repeating it here in case you missed it.

The Chichester Local Plan was adopted by Chichester District Council in August. The Local Plan sets the housing allocation for Wisborough Green, which is 75 new homes between 2021 and 2039.

Barnfield Shaw (8 homes – under construction) and Tanglewood Nursery (10 homes – planning permission just approved) in Kirdford Road will count towards the 75.

In July we advertised a 'Call for Sites' to accommodate this new housing and over the summer, you may have seen some of us out and about around the village with our clipboards. This was the first stage of the NP process. We undertook a first inspection and assessment of the new sites put forward and reassessed previously offered sites for potential changes that may have occurred since our last assessment. To ensure that the assessment process has been applied uniformly, fairly and with rigour, the Parish Council has also engaged the services of an independent planning consultant and will be seeking further advice from Chichester District Council.

This information will be shared with the village at an important consultation in the Village Hall on **Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February 2026**.

Please refer to the poster on the back page.

Traffic Management Update

Village Parking Update: Friday evenings over the summer once again brought parking challenges to the village. Despite the best efforts of the Cricket Club to put out no-waiting cones and have a marshal on duty, some drivers unfortunately ignored the guidance and on occasion were even rude to those trying to keep our village safe. In response, the PC contacted the CDC Enforcement Team, and officers visited the village several times, offering advice and issuing penalty notices where necessary.

Parking and road safety have been regular topics at PC meetings, particularly as we balance the need for safety with preserving the rural character of the village and avoiding simply moving the problem elsewhere. Looking ahead, and mindful that Stable Field will be available for Friday evening parking next summer, the PC has applied for new road safety measures. These include:

- ⇒ Junction protection double yellow lines at the bottom of Butts Meadow.
- ⇒ Extending the double yellow lines opposite the Cricketers Arms to keep the visibility clear.
- ⇒ Extending the double yellow lines to the laybys in Durbans Road to keep visibility at the crossing point clear.

We're pleased to report that WSCC is progressing this application, and we extend our sincere thanks to the resident who initiated and submitted the supporting petition which provided the key evidence needed to move the request forward. With these improvements in place, and the use of Stable Field for parking, we hope to see a much safer and more manageable situation next summer.

Traffic Management Update (continued)

Improving Safety – Durbans Road Crossing: The PC continues to work closely with WSCC. You may have already noticed our new pavement signs designed to raise awareness of children in the village. The PC believes that permanent signs can lose their impact over time, so these temporary signs will be displayed for a couple of weeks at the start of each half term to help raise awareness and keep drivers alert.

WSCC is also reviewing ways to enhance road signage north of the crossroads to highlight the crossroads and the presence of children. We hope to be provided with a new pole for the Speed Indicator Device to provide speed awareness on the approach to the crossroads. Thank you for your continued support as we work to make our village safer for everyone.

Pavement Parking – Newpound Lane: The PC remains extremely concerned about the ongoing issue of pavement parking associated with the school. Parking not only blocks the crossing point but also forces parents and children to step into the road and cross between parked cars, putting lives at risk. It is extremely disappointing that parents themselves are willing to endanger other children for the sake of convenience. This sends entirely the wrong message to young people about road safety and respect for others in our community.

The PC continues to work with WSCC to have the no-waiting lines extended and with the police to ensure that enforcement action is taken where necessary. While WSCC initially rejected our request due to a lack of accident data, we have made it clear that waiting for a serious incident before acting is unacceptable. As a result, we are pleased that the application is being re-considered. We urge all parents and visitors to the school to park considerately and legally, for the safety of every child in our village.



Please do not park on the verges along Newpound Lane. Parking on the grass is damaging the verges and spreading mud onto the road and footpaths. This mud could create a safety hazard and will inevitably find its way onto shoes and into the school. A little extra care when parking will help keep our village looking tidy and reduce shoe cleaning!

B2133 – Roundstreet Common: Following concerns raised by residents, and in connection with a similar application by Loxwood Parish Council, the PC submitted a request to WSCC to reduce the current 60 mph speed limit to 50 mph, from the Parish boundary to the start of the existing 40 mph section at Newpound. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful. WSCC advised that there was no collision data

linked to excessive speed, and that average vehicle speeds were well below the 85th percentile indicating that most drivers are already travelling at appropriate speeds for the road conditions. Loxwood Parish Council's application was also unsuccessful.

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.

Pavilion - 2025 Round-Up

The PC has been discussing and engaging with Wisborough Green Sports (WGS) throughout 2025, focusing on three key areas: repairs to the current building to maintain until a new Pavilion can be built, the lease and the new Pavilion.

Pavilion Repairs: The PC is mindful that the current building will need to remain in use for several years before construction of a new building. As such, to ensure the Pavilion remains safe and fit for purpose, the PC commissioned a comprehensive Schedule of Dilapidations in August 2024. The Schedule identified several areas needing attention to meet health and safety requirements. WGS have been asked to complete all safety related actions and regular inspections have been undertaken to ensure that the work has been completed. The PC has been clear that it expects the building to be maintained and safe for public use. Unfortunately, the current lease is weak and contains no sanctions to encourage timely repairs. As some repairs remain uncompleted, it has now been necessary to refer the matter to CDC.

Pavilion Lease: This year the PC has continued work on updating and clarifying the lease for the existing Pavilion, as well as preparing for a future lease for the replacement building. Legal advice has been sought to ensure the agreement reflects best practice and clearly defines responsibilities. Further work towards this has currently been put on hold until the Pavilion repairs have been completed.

Replacement Pavilion: Alongside ongoing maintenance, discussions have continued about a replacement building. The PC has been exploring the legal and planning implications of building on a Registered Village Green and reviewing solicitor advice to ensure any proposal complies with the law. The PC is happy to resume discussions with WGS when the current building has been repaired and a business and funding plan for the new building, that received planning approval in April 2025, has been submitted to the PC.

With declining football team numbers, stoolball no longer being played and a reduction of grant availability perhaps now is the time for discussions to consider a smaller building; less money to raise for the initial build, less money needed to keep the building clean and in good repair and within the law with regards to buildings on designated Village Greens. Any comments would be welcome.

Declining Horse Chestnuts

Earlier this year, the Horse Chestnut at the bottom of Butts Meadow had to be removed due to its declining health. The remaining stump will be taken out shortly. Decisions to remove trees are always made with professional arboricultural advice and are never taken lightly, not least because the work is costly.

Unfortunately, the tree outside the public toilets has also reached the end of its life. It's been in decline for several years, with a large area of decay inside the trunk and a hole at its base. This tree will be removed in the coming months and replaced with a different species, possibly an Acer, which will bring lovely autumn colour to the area.

The PC is committed to keeping the Horse Chestnuts on the main Green for as long as possible, as they are such an important part of our village character. However, this is becoming increasingly challenging due to the diseases that affect these trees.

Safety First - No Golf on the Green or Songhurst Meadow

The PC would like to remind everyone that golf is not permitted on these two public areas. While we understand that residents and visitors enjoy using the Green for many informal activities, golf poses particular risks that make it unsuitable for this shared public space. These areas are used daily by a wide range of people. Golf balls, even when hit gently, can travel at high speeds and pose a serious risk of injury to anyone nearby. In addition, repeated use of golf clubs and balls can cause damage to the grass surface, creating uneven ground and holes that affect sports fixtures and community events.

Please respect this rule. There are local golf courses and practice areas nearby that provide safe, designated spaces for the sport. Thank you.

Bonfire Smoke - A reminder to be considerate

At the end of September, some residents were affected by heavy smoke from two bonfires in the village. Unfortunately, those responsible seemed unaware of how far the smoke travelled, with it lingering in the air and seeping into homes; it was very unpleasant and lasted a few days. The CDC Environmental Protection team responded to reports and visited the sites and will continue to monitor the situation. This is as a good reminder that reporting issues really does make a difference!

A Hidden Gem - Zoar Chapel

Many of us drive past and perhaps hardly notice the Zoar Chapel and Chapel House, located on the edge of the A272, Petworth Road. The Chapel, constructed in 1753 by Mr Weston, is a rare and well-preserved example of an 18th century nonconformist chapel. A gallery was added in 1820, reflecting the growth of the congregation at that time. The adjoining Chapel House, possibly of even earlier origin, has long served as the minister's residence. These buildings are not only important heritage assets but also represent over 270 years of spiritual and community service.



In September 2022, Juliet Ryall took on the role as Pastor and Caretaker. At that time, both the Chapel and Chapel House had suffered considerable neglect. The Chapel has been carefully restored over the last three years and, in September 2023, reopened for regular Christian worship and wider community use. The Chapel has now been transformed into a bright, functional, and welcoming community space although the work continues.

Unfortunately, drainage issues in the A272 have been causing a significant damp problem in the building. The PC stepped in to raise this with WSCC and is delighted that WSCC has recently undertaken investigatory work and is designing a scheme to repair the drainage system. This will hopefully solve one problem, but further work will be required within the grounds and to the buildings which will be organised by Juliet.

Juliet has been working tirelessly to raise awareness as well as funds to restore this historic building. When you next see an event advertised, wander down to see and support this hidden gem.

Get prepared for Winter - Our annual reminder

Now's the time to make sure your household is ready just in case we experience any power cuts this winter. Power loss during the colder months can be particularly difficult, so it's wise to check your supplies in advance. Make sure you have enough camping gas, logs, torch batteries, candles, and any other essentials you might need to stay comfortable and safe.



Although we haven't had significant snowfall for some time, plans are in place to ensure key areas of the village can be cleared if we do get heavy snow this winter. However, we all need to be realistic about what can be achieved, and your help will make a big difference. If snow does arrive, please lend a hand in keeping pavements and pathways clear so that everyone can move around safely.

You're encouraged to clear snow and ice from pavements near your property. Don't worry, it's very unlikely you'll be held liable if someone slips, provided you've cleared it carefully. Here are a few simple tips to help:

- Start early in the day – fresh, loose snow is easier to move.
- Avoid using water – it can refreeze and make surfaces even more slippery.
- Use salt if you can – it helps melt snow and ice and prevents refreezing overnight. (Please don't use the salt from village grit bins - this is needed for the roads.)
- If you're short on salt, ash or sand can be used to improve grip underfoot.
- Take extra care on steps and steep paths - grit and salt can make them safer.

With a little preparation and community spirit, we can all help keep the village safe and moving this winter.

ALLOTMENT PLOT AT HARSFOLD LANE AVAILABLE

Have you been inspired by the August Horticultural Show? Is the thought of growing your own fruit & vegetables appealing but you haven't enough space in your 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.

2 & 16 December
6 January 2026
3 February
3 March
7 April

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

No meeting in December
20 January 2026
17 February
17 March
21 April

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

Your Parish Council

Sophie Winship (Chair) T: 01403 700783

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

Andy Burbridge T: 01403 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: 01403 700574

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

Francis Vickery T: 01403 701006

To be confirmed

Martin Watson T: 07836 700923

Communications
Finance Committee
Green Coordination Group
New Pavilion Project/Pavilion Trustee Liaison
Planning Committee

Tim Worrall T: 01403 700100

Communications
Major Emergency Plan
Planning Committee
Winter Management Plan

How to contact the PC

Clerk: Mrs Louise Davies
Wisborough Green Parish Council
PO Box 255, Wisborough Green
Billingshurst
RH14 0WT

T: 01403 701102

E: clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org



Vacancy Filled

We're thrilled to welcome Francis Vickery onto the Council. Francis is following in the footsteps of his Nan and Father and in his application said "I care deeply about our parish and the people who make it such a special community. Having lived here my whole life, this parish has always been an important part of who I am. I've seen it grow and change over the years, and I want to play an active role in helping it continue to thrive for future generations. Being on the council would allow me to give back to the community that has shaped me and supported me throughout my life. I want to listen to others, share ideas, and work together to make sure our parish remains welcoming, vibrant, and strong."

Hedge Cutting Reminder

Now is the time to cut back hedges without fear of disturbing nesting birds. Please check whether vegetation is creeping over the pavement. Even a small overhanging branch can make it tricky for people with pushchairs, wheelchairs, or mobility scooters to get by safely. And with the darker evenings, those stray brambles can easily catch on sleeves, bags, or even someone's face..

Let's all do our bit to keep our paths clear and welcoming for everyone.



Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan 2021 – 2039

Produced in consultation with the community by Wisborough Green Parish Council

Wisborough Green's Neighbourhood Plan Review Important Village Consultation

⇒ **Village Hall**

⇒ **Friday 27 February 2026**

1.00 pm to 7.00 pm

⇒ **Saturday 28 February 2026**

12 noon to 4.00 pm

You can help select the site/s for future housing development. This is your chance to have your say so don't miss the opportunity.

Members of the Parish Council and
Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group
will be on hand to answer your questions.

Consultation organised by Wisborough Green Parish Council: 01403 701102