



Village News

WISBOROUGH GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

(Not part of the Church since 1894)

Issue: 53

April 2026

Chair's Message

As I type, we have had two straight days of sunshine, the mornings and evenings are getting lighter and there's a real sense Spring has sprung. By the time this newsletter is circulated I am hopeful we will be enjoying much brighter weather and the world will be a more peaceful place.

Recently I had cause to ask for help with a task, nothing onerous, just routine. I asked, to be precise, sixteen people. The only person who volunteered to help me was a girl aged 10; I'll call her Amelia. I am so appreciative of her help and I only hope as she grows up she realises volunteering and helping others is such a worthy and noble character trait; but more than that, she persuades others to do the same. As adults, we need to lead by example. For some reason, so few people either have the time or inclination to volunteer for various activities in the village, which is a shame as it is generally left to the usual suspects to step up. We all lead busy lives, but if you have a little time to spare, it is always appreciated. Maybe attend a litter pick, we already have some families who take part. Help set up the fete? It doesn't have to be regular, just the odd one-off occasion. So, thank you, Amelia, for leading by example.

The Pavilion, one could say the sports hub of the village, is proving to be a tricky process to get off the ground with various legal aspects to overcome, development on a Registered Village Green to name but one. We are working with the WG Sports to ensure what is delivered will be welcomed by the village, a legal structure on the Green, safe, welcoming and truly making the best of our central village open space. All I can say is "watch this space".

There is an interesting article later in this newsletter that I urge everyone to read and perhaps reflect. It concerns dark skies. With various gadgets and gizmos being motion activated and inexpensive these days, please consider popping one by your gate or front door and turning off your outside light at night. The myriads of wildlife we have in the village will thank you along with households into whose houses your lights could be shining.

Just a quick word about Community Speedwatch; with the arrival of SID (Speed Indicator Device) a couple of years ago and the historical deterioration of the road surface heading out of the village towards Petworth, our work has been done for us to some extent. However, if you live along the A272 you will have noticed, as the weather gets better, the "swarms" of motorbikes and supercars are gradually returning. We will be out and about making our village safer and quieter. Please lend your support.

Sophie Winship, Chair

INSIDE: Neighbourhood Plan, Traffic Management, Playground Surfacing, Emergency Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy and more ..

Successful Neighbourhood Plan Consultation



We would like to thank everyone who attended the consultation event on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February. Over 200 residents shared their thoughts and provided feedback on the sites assessed as having development potential. You may recall that the village has been allocated a further 75 dwellings and it's up to the village to determine where these homes go.

The insights and suggestions will guide the next steps. All feedback is now being carefully analysed and will be reviewed by an independent planning consultant to ensure a thorough and objective evaluation. We will provide a further update as soon as the results are validated.

Although the consultation has now closed, for those of you who were unable to attend, the displays have been published on the village website. A further consultation will be held in the Autumn.

What is Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

From February 2016, Chichester District Council (CDC) has collected financial contributions from developers to help pay for new and improved infrastructure.

With a Neighbourhood Plan in place, the PC receives 25% of this funding for any development in the Parish; without a Neighbourhood Plan in place, this is reduced to 15%. The money raised can be spent on anything that deals with the demands that development places on the village. The money is paid directly to the PC and if proposed expenditure meets the CIL criteria, the PC can authorise the expenditure. It is a substantial sum of money.

To date, the Parish Council has received a total of £188,080: In 2021, £108,650 for Songhurst Meadow and more recently, £79,430 for Barnfield Shaw.

Every year the PC considers possible projects and prepares a plan for expenditure or saving for future projects, such as a new Pavilion. So far, £86,667 has been spent on the following projects:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Village Hall Refurbishment | £24,565 |
| Village Green Drainage | £29,306 |
| Village Green Levelling | £4,508 |
| Youth Surface on the Village Green | £10,000 |
| Songhurst Meadow Path | £9,000 |
| Pavilion Planning Application | £6,963 |
| Traffic Calming | £2,325 |



With further development in the village, the PC will be receiving a significant amount of money if CIL remains in place. Can you suggest any future projects. Let us know your thoughts – clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Summer Action on the Green

Fri 1 May - First junior cricket training
Sat 2 May - First league cricket match
Sun 7 June - RunWisborough

Sat 13 June - School Fair
Mon 31 August - Village Fete
Sun 20 September - Annual Fair

Traffic Management Update

Double Yellow Lines: You may have noticed that the double yellow lines at the village crossroads have recently been extended. This change, supported by West Sussex County Council (WSCC), has been introduced to improve visibility and safety at the junction. CDC Enforcement has been asked to monitor the area.

Additional double yellow lines have also been painted at the bottom of Butts Meadow to keep the junction clear and to remind residents of the Highway Code. The PC was made aware that parked cars around the junction reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians, with near misses reported. This was not an easy decision, but public safety is paramount and it is essential to maintain access for emergency services.

New Speed Indicator Device (SID) Site: WSCC has reviewed the existing signage north of the crossroads in Durbans Road (close to the Songhurst Meadow entrance) to ensure drivers receive clear and accurate speed and warning notifications as they approach the village. A new SID site has now been installed, which we hope will help raise speed awareness and reduce speed through the crossroads.

Pavement Figure: Unfortunately, one of our pavement figures on Durbans Road, used to remind drivers about children crossing at the start of each half-term, was removed. At present it will not be replaced, leaving just his colleague in position. If anyone knows why it was taken or has any information, please do let us know.

Friday Evening Cricket: The PC is delighted that Friday evening cricket on the Green continues to be so popular, giving many young people the chance to enjoy the game. However, the increased attendance has brought some parking challenges.

The PC has been working with Wisborough Green Sports to introduce a traffic management plan to help improve road safety. Additional no-parking cones and signage will be in place, and Stable Field will be available as a temporary car park. The Cricket Club is sending out a weekly newsletter to remind visitors to park responsibly, and to highlight the car parks in the village. The situation will continue to be monitored by the PC. Again, CDC Enforcement has been asked to attend.

Playground Resurfacing

The PC is pleased to see the children's playground is enjoyed by families almost every day. With the arrival of drier, warmer weather and lighter evenings, its use is only set to grow further in the coming months.

Many of you may remember that five years ago the PC introduced the plastic woodchip-style surface in parts of the playground to address the long-standing issue of mud. The change has proved to be a great success, not least in saving parents and carers from the task of cleaning muddy shoes!

However, the black wetpour surface, re-laid during the playground refurbishment in 2012, has unfortunately deteriorated. The sub-base beneath has failed in places due to the clay soil and wet conditions, resulting in spongy patches and potential trip hazards. The PC is currently seeking tenders to replace the wetpour with the same plastic woodchip-effect surface that has worked so well elsewhere in the playground. We hope that the project will be undertaken in time for the summer holidays. The project will be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy.

Major Emergency Plan

Extreme weather is not a distant risk, it has already shaped our community. The Great Storm of 1987 uprooted an estimated 15 million trees, blocked roads and railways, damaged homes, and left areas like Wisborough Green without power for days. Just 27 months later, another severe storm struck. Since then, changing weather patterns have brought heavy snowfall, prolonged power cuts, and record-breaking flooding to the UK.



These events highlight a real concern. Wisborough Green could one day be isolated by blocked roads, loss of power and communications, damaged homes, and residents needing urgent support.

To prepare for this, the Parish Council has created a community-based Major Emergency Plan. This Plan enables the village to support itself until outside help arrives.

To make this Plan work, we rely on the support of local volunteers. Tasks may be as simple as checking on residents or making tea at the Village Hall. Some volunteers may have additional skills, such as experience in forestry work or previous experience in the emergency services, which could be invaluable in certain situations. Every contribution matters, and your involvement could make a vital difference when our village needs support the most.

Bonfire Smoke - A reminder to be considerate

As the lighter evenings and warmer weather arrives, more of us will be out enjoying our gardens or opening windows after the long winter. Please remember that bonfire smoke can have a significant impact on this enjoyment, prevent windows from being opened and washing hung out. Ideally, take rubbish to be recycled at the waste recycling centre in Billingshurst.

The Precept

You may have already received from CDC your Council Tax statement containing itemised charges for CDC, WSCC, Sussex Police and the Parish Council. The Precept, the local element of the Council Tax, is the PC's main source of funds and is used in maintaining and administering the village.

The PC has had to increase the Precept in the past to cover growing maintenance costs. However, this year councillors were mindful that many people in the village continue to struggle financially with the changing world and economic climate. As such, the Precept will not be increased but we will continue to manage the budget wisely and seek best value at every opportunity.

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, as well as possible damage to properties and cars.

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

A Little Light Goes A Long Way



Did you know that the South Downs National Park Authority is celebrating its 10th anniversary as an International Dark Sky Reserve?

With part of the Parish in the Park, the village is considered to be 'in the setting' of the Park, and the PC is striving to support this important designation by **encouraging everyone to turn off unnecessary lighting.**

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 hedgehogs 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.

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.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2026
VILLAGE HALL - 7.30 PM - REFER TO THE BACKPAGE**

Village Litter Pick

Saturday 11th April at 2 pm - meeting at the Sundial

For the past 16 years the Parish Council has organised bi-annual village litter picks and it's been great to see so many people getting involved.

Join us for our Spring Litter Pick and help keep our village looking its best! Spend a couple of hours in the fresh air, meet neighbours, and make a real difference by helping to tidy our road verges, paths, and green spaces. All equipment will be provided. Just wear sturdy shoes and bring plenty of enthusiasm.

If you can't make the next session, why not take a bag with you on your next walk and collect litter left behind by less considerate walkers and drivers? Feel free to share what you find on the village Facebook page and encourage others to do the same.



LAST CALL - ALLOTMENT PLOTS AT HARSFOLD LANE AVAILABLE

Were you inspired by the last August Horticultural Show, or did a New Year's resolution convince you that this was the year to grow your own vegetables? If so, you're in luck! We currently have two small allotment plots available.

If there's no interest from Wisborough Green residents, the plots will be offered to two eager gardeners from Billingshurst who are patiently waiting on the list. Much as we'd prefer to keep them local, the main aim is to ensure the plots are well-tended and that the weeds don't think they've won. If you fancy giving home-grown produce a go, please get in touch! 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 at 7.45 pm.

7 April
5 May
2 June
7 July
4 August

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS Held in the Committee Room at the Village Hall at 7.45 pm on the following Tuesdays:

21 April
19 May
16 June
21 July

No meeting in August

**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: 07967 711549
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

Alternatively, letters can be posted in the PC letter box at the Village Hall.

Hear all about it – Annual Report

Through articles in the Ad Vincula and this newsletter, the PC tries to provide an update on the projects being undertaken. However, these only provide a summary of the work that the PC does. More details are available in the published meeting minutes, and a full Annual Report is published following the 31st March year-end.

For the last couple of years in May, we have circulated a summary of this report to every household and will be so doing again.

New Website Coming Soon

It is now necessary for the PC to meet website accessibility requirements. Website accessibility means designing a website so that everyone, including people with disabilities (visual, auditory, physical, cognitive, speech) or situational limitations (slow internet, old device), can navigate and find the information they require, ensuring equal access to information and functionality. As such, the village website is being updated and a new look website will be available soon. Please bear with us as we make this change. Thank you.



WISBOROUGH GREEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL
7.30 PM, VILLAGE HALL**

AGENDA

**Chair's Report
Neighbourhood Plan Update
Public Questions**



**DID YOU MISS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN CONSULTATION AND THE AMAZING
DRONE FOOTAGE?**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, ANOTHER
CHANCE TO SEE OUR BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE
AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

**Sophie Winship
Parish Council Chair**