

PLAISTOW & IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Councillors are very aware that the money we spend comes from you, the residents. That is why we launched the Priorities and Funding Survey last autumn, to provide an opportunity for you to tell us how that money should be spent. Top of your list was defending the rural character of the parish from over-development / inappropriate development. Faced with speculative planning applications for two large developments, at Crouchlands Farm and Foxbridge Golf Course, when we set the precept for last year, in addition to anticipating large inflation increases to our Parish running costs, we also budgeted for professional expert help and support to ensure we fully understood and were able to defend the Parish from those potentially harmful developments.

In the event, the requirement for some elements of the professional help was postponed while the applicants made amendments to the various applications. As a result, we are able to carry forward the additional money raised by last year's large increase in the precept to the forthcoming 2024/2025 period, and so have been able to restrict the increase in the amount we raise this year to a below-inflation 1.7% overall. (The increase you see in your bill may differ, depending on your Council Tax band.) The amendments to these applications, and in particular the Crouchlands applications, have now been submitted to Chichester District Council and their complexity is such that the Parish Council has considered it essential to instruct Planning and Transport Consultants to assist in our consideration of the changes.

We also know that the Chichester District Council draft Local Plan will soon be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for detailed examination. Whilst we have already made a strong submission arguing that development within the Parish should be limited to the current draft plan allocation of 25 dwellings, we nevertheless anticipate that professional expert representation, and the associated cost, may be necessary to reinforce this position and help counter pressure for a larger housing allocation or indeed a large scale housing estate development at Crouchlands or other sites.

Clrr. Paul Jordan
Chair of Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council

PLAISTOW & IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

t. 01403 839300

e. clerk@plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk

w. www.plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk

PRIORITIES & FUNDING SURVEY: WHAT YOU SAID...

Last autumn, we asked you to tell us what our priorities should be over the next 3 years, so that we could allocate funding accordingly. Over 150 of you took the time to fill in the questionnaire - so Thank You! The results have given Councillors a really good steer on what matters to residents.

We asked you to choose 6 priorities from a long list. Of those, the Top 10 scorers were:

1. **Defend the rural character of the Parish** from over-development / inappropriate development.
2. Provide and maintain **public open space** including Plaistow village green, Plaistow pond and road verges.
3. Maintain **public rights of way** / footpaths and bridleways.
4. Provide **grant funding** to financially assist local clubs and organisations to benefit residents e.g., Preschool, Scouting groups, Youth Club and village halls.
5. Work with **Sussex Police** to support crime prevention.
6. Provide / support speed reduction and **road safety** measures / traffic and road signs and support the Community Speed Watch initiative.
7. Maintain local **ditches and ponds** to prevent flooding.
8. Support the upkeep and continuation of **local facilities** such as the village halls (including WIFI) and the tennis court.
9. Provide and maintain **community assets** such as bus shelters / benches / signposts / noticeboards / telephone boxes / litter and salt bins / village entry gates / play equipment / fencing.
10. Provide and support **environment** and climate change initiatives e.g., public electric car charging / conservation areas / trees and orchards / public recycling bins / cycling routes.

We also asked you how much extra you would be prepared to pay to protect the services/facilities already delivered by the Parish Council to continue to respond to the needs of the community. The results were:

Nothing more	17%
Up to an average of £10 per year more	44%
More than an average of £10 per year more	38%
Other	0%

(Figures do not sum to 100% because of rounding.)

We will bear this in mind for future years, while always seeking to balance residents' desire for high quality service and facilities with efficiency in the way we deliver them. This year (2024/25) we have managed to restrict the increase to just £2.54 per year for a Band D property.

...AND WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

As your elected representatives, your priorities are our priorities and we will reflect them all in our activities over the coming months and years.

The Parish Council re-started the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan in 2023. This important part of the planning statutory landscape is one of the most robust ways in which we can **defend the rural character of the Parish**. Our first public consultation on the emerging plan took place in December and was well attended. Further consultation took place via the website earlier this month and there will be more public meetings as the drafting proceeds. There is a dedicated area of the Parish Council website [here](#) where you can find out more about the process and how to contribute to it.

The **public open space** in the Parish has a variety of legal owners. We will continue to maintain those that we own directly, and to work with others - such as National Trust - to ensure that they remain spaces for the whole community to enjoy long into the future. In December 2023 the Council adopted a new Biodiversity Policy which enshrines our commitment to the **environment**. Further measures will be contained in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, and we are investigating the possibility of including fruit trees, for public use, in future planting schemes. We will also continue to dedicate significant financial resources to providing and maintaining **community assets**. In 2021 we carried out a major refurbishment of the Lady Hope Playpark in Plaistow and are now working with the Kelsey Hall Management Committee to install play equipment on the land they own. The first of two new bus shelters - near Ifold Stores - was completed earlier this year, with support from West Sussex County Council's Community Volunteer Team (see article on p5) and the first of our beautiful heritage fingerpost signs, at the junction of Shillinglee Road and Dunsfold Road, has been lovingly restored by Ralph Restorations (see article on p5).

We provide **grant funding** to a number of local groups (see article on p5) and to assist with the running costs of **local facilities**, including the Winterton Hall and Kelsey Hall. Organisations looking for funding have two opportunities per year to apply to the Council for funding; our grant awarding policy can be found [here](#).

Road safety has been a particular focus for us in recent years. Following consultations with residents, we have worked with West Sussex Highways to implement a 30mph speed limit along Plaistow Road, to extend the 30mph limit *(continued on next page)*

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down Rickmans Lane, and to institute a School Safety Zone in Plaistow. In response to comments made in the course of the Priorities & Funding consultation, we are now asking residents whether they would support new speed limits in Shillinglee and on Dunsfold Road, and a 20mph limit within the School Safety Zone. Please read the article on p4 and let us know your views on these proposals.

Respondents to the survey were clear that maintaining local footpaths & other **public rights of way, ditches and ponds**, is a real concern. Unfortunately, fixing these issues is not directly within the Parish Council's remit but your clear guidance gives us more ammunition when dealing with West Sussex County Council and we will be robust in putting pressure on them in future. We also know that WSCC is more inclined to act when they get complaints from multiple sources. Please do report issues with flooding, potholes etc. [here](#) and with footpaths [here](#).

Finally, liaising with **Sussex Police** has been made more difficult recently by the lack of a local PCO. However, we have a dedicated Parish Councillor and will redouble our efforts to work with the force to prevent local crime. You can also sign up to receive a regular newsletter from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner [here](#).

CROUCHLANDS

Various amended new documents have now been submitted by the Agents acting for Crouchlands Farm in support of their current Planning Applications for both the **Whole Farm Plan** and **Rickmans Green Village**. and these are currently being reviewed by your Council. They include revised plans, revised and additional documents including a Transport Assessment Addendum, amended Environmental Impact Assessment, Drainage Strategy, revised Design and Access Statement, revised Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments and a Water Neutrality Report.

To remind you, the three Crouchlands applications combined propose the building of 600 new houses as well as other extensive construction. The Parish Council opposes these developments on multiple grounds.

All the Planning Application documents together with the Council's letters of objection can be viewed on the [dedicated Parish website page](#) or via Chichester District Council's Planning Portal. We would encourage you all to make some time to view the applications and the Parish Council representations and consider the major changes these applications, if successful, would bring to the special character and DNA of the Parish.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 22nd May 2024 in the Kelsey Hall, Ifold at 7.30pm.

The Parish Council has made a commitment to encourage biodiversity in the parish and as part of this commitment have dedicated the Annual Parish Meeting this year to this topic and have invited David Bridges to speak at the meeting. David, who was formerly Chief Executive of the national charity Butterfly Conservation, is the volunteer coordinator of Wild About Warnham, a community conservation project he set up in 2019.



Photo: Roger Wyatt

Wild About Warnham has been running a wide range of conservation activities and David has promised to share details of these with us and to offer practical suggestions about what we could do in Plaistow and Ifold. Topics will include advice on making wildflower meadows, details of an ambitious project to help Warnham's Swifts, an Action Plan for Hedgehogs, the creation and ongoing management of the Warnham Butterfly Fields, and much more besides, all illustrated with some beautiful photographs of local wildlife and their habitats.

Please come along to this event which is hosted by the Parish Council and will also include a talk from the Chair of the Parish Council explaining what the Parish Council has done over the last year and has planned for the forthcoming year.

Other Organisations are very welcome to come and speak or submit a written report on their activities. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

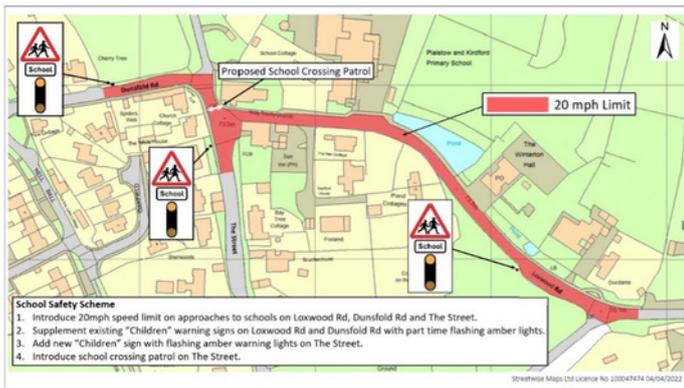
LAGOON 3 UPDATE

The hearing at Worthing Magistrates Court took place on 25th January. The owner of the lagoon was found guilty of failing to comply with the enforcement notice issued by Chichester District Council (CDC), fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £4,800 in costs. He has since appealed the decision. In the meantime the Environment Agency (EA) and CDC continue to monitor the lagoon and last visited the site in February. A leak was recently detected, which the EA deemed to have had a minimal impact on the environment steps were taken to repair it.

The emergency number to call if members of the public spot a leak is 0800 807060. However, parishioners are also reminded to keep to the open public rights of way at all times.

TRAFFIC SPEEDS: WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS

Last year the Parish Council worked with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to implement a school Safety Zone (SSZ) around Plaistow & Kirdford Primary School. Now, we are proposing to expand the safety measures by introducing a 20mph limit in the SSZ, where the limit is 30mph at present.



Residents of Durfold Wood and Shillinglee have also complained of traffic speeds in the local area and so the Parish Council is considering applying to WSCC for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce a 30mph limit in Shillinglee and a 40mph limit along Dunsfold Road.



WSCC will only introduce such measures if they have local support so **we need to know your views**. If you would like to comment on any of these proposals - whether you are for or against them or think they could be improved on - please either email the Clerk (contact details on p1) or write to us and drop your letter in the Parish Council letterbox at the Winterton Hall, setting out the reasons for your response **and telling us whereabouts in the parish you live**. Any applications we make will be assessed by WSCC according to their own criteria to determine whether they will be implemented.

WINTERTON HALL

It is clear from responses to the Priorities & Funding survey that residents value our community assets. So many halls and pubs are closing throughout the UK due to lack of support and escalating costs and we don't want to see the Winterton Hall go the same way.

The hall has regular hirers such as the village Pre-school and the Youth Club - both vital to our community. Other hirers include a twice-weekly martial arts class and the Parish Council itself but these alone are not enough to sustain the hall in the face of increasing upkeep costs.



The Winterton Hall needs your support.

The hall is run by a committee of dedicated volunteers, and every penny earned from fund raising activities and hiring out the hall goes into maintaining, repairing and improving this facility. The committee organises fundraising activities such as quiz nights, skittles nights and dance/music nights. They would welcome volunteers to join the committee and any new ideas for fundraising events. When you see them advertised - on the Parish Council website, parish Facebook page and posters in the village noticeboards and shops - please support them.

Please also think about hiring the hall for your private or group events. The hall has a fully equipped kitchen, toilets and showers, and variable lighting to suit a variety of atmospheres so it's a great place to host children's or adults' parties.

The Winterton Hall has always been central to any large events in the parish, such as the late Queen's 90th birthday and Platinum Jubilee celebrations, which brought the whole community together. Please play your part in ensuring that it continues to be able to do so for years to come.

PAPER COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Do you know someone who would like a paper copy of this newsletter? Perhaps a neighbour who doesn't have access to the internet? Paper copies are available on request from the Clerk (contact details on p1).

SAFER BUS STOPS



The first of our two new bus shelter has finally been installed and we are hugely grateful to Sara Burrell for designing it and to West Sussex County Council's Community Volunteer Team for building and erecting it. It really is a thing of beauty as well as a welcome shelter from the weather.

The Plaistow shelter is currently being built and will be installed later this year.

FINGER POSTS RESTORED

Following West Sussex County Council's decision to stop maintaining old iron finger posts, the Parish Council has adopted the four in our parish. The first two have been lovingly restored by Ralph Restorations and the Council will continue to maintain these and other heritage assets in our villages.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The process of drawing up our new Neighbourhood Plan is well underway. The first public consultations took place in person in December and online earlier this month. The Neighbourhood Plan represents our best opportunity to influence planning and development decisions made by Chichester District Council and your input is important. Please look out for invitations to take part in future consultation sessions.

JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has 11 seats but there are currently just 9 Councillors; therefore there are two vacancies to be filled. Would you like to play a more active role in your local community? The time commitment is not great: the Council usually meets monthly on a Wednesday evening.

Councillors are community leaders elected to represent residents and provide services to meet local needs. Councillors work together to make decisions on behalf of you! Would you like to see the community change for the better, because of the decisions you have helped make?

If you think you would like to become a Councillor or if you would just like more information, please attend some of our meetings (you'll find all the forthcoming dates [here](#) or contact the Clerk for an informal chat about what's involved.

POND SAFETY

Following its annual review of safety risks around the parish, the Parish Council has installed a life belt at Cox's Pond. Although we hope you never have to use it, it's there for emergency use if needed.



NEW SCOUTS FACILITY

The Parish Council supports a number of local organisations with grant funding. One recent example is the 1st Ifold Scout & Guide Group, who were raising funds to enable them to realise the ambition of their late Scout Leader, Andy Spencer, to build a barn to provide the Group with much needed covered space for outdoor activities in bad weather as well as storage for equipment.

Opened by Andy's wife, Caroline, and family at the Group's AGM on 1st October last year, the barn, named Andy's Barn, has already been put to good use with all the foul weather this winter!

The Parish Council welcomes funding applications from local groups twice a year. You can find out more about the process and the criteria we apply [here](#) and you can see a full list of all the grants we have made in the past [here](#).

SPRING QUIZ

Hello! Cllr. Doug Brown here again with another of my 'frame builder' quizzes, which you should be familiar with from previous news-letters. Scoring is based around a game of



snooker, with red ball questions and coloured ball questions. The red ball questions are designed to be relatively easy (although I fully appreciate that the term 'easy' depends on whether you know the answer!) The coloured ball questions carry increasing values starting at 2 points for the yellow ball question, rising to 7 points for the black ball question. As you'd expect, the degree of difficulty of the questions (in my humble opinion) gets greater as you progress through the coloured ball questions but there's another catch: in order to score the points on the coloured ball questions you must get the immediate preceding red ball question correct or, to put it in 'snooker parlance', you must 'pot a red ball' before you 'pot a coloured ball'. The maximum score you can achieve if you 'clear the table' is 33 points; however, if you get, say, the third red ball question wrong you can't claim the 4 points for the brown ball question even if you get it right. But that doesn't mean an end to your frame building. If you get every other question correct apart from the third red ball question then your score will be: $1+2+1+3+0+0+1+5+1+6+1+7 = 28$ points.

You can find other quizzes - and the answers to this one - on the [Quiz](#) tab of the Parish Council website. (This quiz is the 'March 2024 Newsletter' quiz.)

1. **Red ball question** (all red ball questions carry 1 point): The logo for which popular app consists of a white telephone in a white speech bubble on a green background?
2. **Yellow ball question** (2 points): In which sport could you win the Davis Cup?
3. **Red ball question**: Which word can come after 'dream', 'steam' and 'life' to form other words?
4. **Green ball question** (3 points): The now-abandoned Chernobyl nuclear power plant is within which modern-day country?
5. **Red ball question**: If someone uses the letters MRCVS after their name, which profession do they have?
6. **Brown ball question** (4 points): In which US city was the sitcom 'Frasier' set?
7. **Red ball question**: Where on the body would you wear an epaulette?
8. **Blue ball question** (5 points): Where in the world would you expect to find a car with the vehicle registration code 'V'?
9. **Red ball question**: Which author created the character Paddington Bear?
10. **Pink ball question** (6 points): In which country would you find the coastal resort of Lara Beach?
11. **Red ball question**: In which decade was Donald Trump born?
12. **Black ball question** (7 points): By what name is the HG Wells character Griffin better known?

PARISH LITTER PICK: SATURDAY 27TH APRIL (10.00 am - maximum 2 hours)



Please come and join your neighbours for the next parish litter pick. This twice-yearly event is a fun and well-supported activity, which not only maintains the visual appeal of our roadsides and hedgerows but also helps wildlife that inhabit those areas.

This year, subject to getting sufficient volunteers, we will extend the activity to include the cleaning of roadside items such as road signs, the white (currently green!) posts by the village name signs etc.

Routes will be allocated. Equipment and hi-viz vests will be provided but please bring your **OWN GLOVES**.

Please sign up in advance by contacting rick.robinson@plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk or clerk@plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk