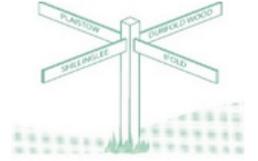


PLAISTOW & IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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PRIORITIES & FUNDING SURVEY

The Parish Council spends YOUR money, raised through the Parish Precept and collected through your Council Tax bill. Like you, the Parish Council is facing rising costs. It's therefore vital that we understand which services you value most highly and what you want us to prioritise over the coming years. To understand more about how we spend your money today and to have your say in how we should spend it in the future, please take 5 minutes to complete the Priorities & Funding Survey on the Parish Council's website. It's open now until 30th November.

JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has 11 seats. In May, only 9 candidates stood for election; therefore there are two vacancies to be filled. Could you make a difference in the community? 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 (see what our newest recruits make of the job on page 7) or if you would just like more information, please attend some of our meetings and contact the Clerk for an informal chat.

PLAISTOW & IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

07798 631410
 clerk@plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk
 www.plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The period since its election in May has been a busy one for your Parish Council.

I have previously written about our ongoing work to consider and respond to both the Crouchlands Farm and Foxbridge planning applications. In addition to the 'Whole Farm Development' application, Crouchlands' owners have submitted a further two applications for a total of up to 600 homes, while the proposal for Foxbridge includes 121 holiday units and a 50-bedroom hotel. Your Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit comprehensive objections to both schemes, which can be found on the Parish Council website. Both applications have dedicated pages.

The scale of both developments is such that your Parish Council is concerned that they could have a far-reaching and detrimental impact on our community. This is not a matter of 'nimbyism' but a question of safeguarding vital infrastructure, local character, the environment and our treasured rural landscape. 'Sustainable development' is an overriding principle of the planning system. At its core, it seeks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social, and economic limitations faced. Due to the parish's rural location, 'sustainable development' here must equal 'modest development', driven by local need.

We are very fortunate in having a number of residents with relevant expertise who have joined a Planning Working Group and dedicated many voluntary hours to reading, considering and reporting on the enormous volume of material submitted for each application.

However, some aspects of the applications are so highly technical in nature that the Parish Council needs additional support from professional experts to ensure that we fully understand the applications and can submit robust and detailed responses to the Local Planning Authority, Chichester District Council (CDC).

It was this need to ensure sufficient financial resources to instruct specialists when required that lay behind the Parish Council's decision to increase the Precept this financial year. I would be the first to acknowledge that the headline percentage increase was high but would ask you to consider that for a Band D Council Tax property, the increase was less than 42p per week. The fact is that, now more than ever, our villages are at risk of unsuitable development, whether as a result of speculative applications or strategic developments contained within CDC's emerging Local Plan 2021-2039. Whereas the current Local Plan 2014-2029 offers 'The North of the Plan Area' (which includes our parish) specific recognition and protection, constraints on development in the south of the district, particularly around the A27, mean that CDC is increasingly looking to the north of the district to take up the slack. Currently our parish has been allocated 25 new dwellings under the draft Local Plan 2021-2039 - in addition to the 10 allocated under the 2014-2029 plan - but with the district as a whole still falling short of its overall housing target, there could still be pressure to increase the allocation and some people will certainly see a large-scale development at Crouchlands as an expedient solution.

(continued on next page)

DROP IN COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 10AM - 12PM

YOUTH CLUB BUILDING PLAISTOW

Information & help with:

- changes in income
- debt support & budgeting
- employment advice
- health and wellbeing
- housing (mortgage & rent)
- paying council tax & bills
- food, water & essentials
- pensions

RELAXED

INFORMAL

CONFIDENTIAL

WWW.CHICHESTER.GOV.UK/SUPPORTINGYOUCAMPAIGN

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

The cost of living crisis is putting a strain on all of us but some are suffering more than others. In response, Chichester District Council has put together a dedicated team to provide help and advice on everything from accessing financial support to dealing with stress. There's more available than you might imagine.

The team will be on hand at the Plaistow Youth Club on Tuesday 7th November from 10am until noon, so drop in and find out more, informally and in confidence, over a cup of coffee.



(continued from previous page)

The Local Plan 2021-2039 remains subject to change as a result of the Examination process, which is anticipated to begin in Spring 2024.

The Parish Council is likewise mindful of the impact of 'windfall development'. This includes small-scale developments that are not deemed part of our new housing allocation. Census data shows that over the last 20 years this windfall development has increased the parish's housing stock by 14% (99 dwellings). Importantly, this 'windfall development' has taken place without any consideration of the wider infrastructure requirements - roads, sewers etc. - needed to support it.

As a result of these combined pressures, the Parish Council has decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan to help the parish to manage its future growth and needs. The Parish Council understands that the parish must evolve to survive and thrive. But understanding the principles of healthy and appropriate growth - 'town planning' - is a science. Growth must be balanced with our rising environmental concerns, be appropriate to our rural location, safeguard biodiversity and dark skies, prevent settlement coalescence and ensure that the key infrastructure needed to support an expanding community is delivered alongside housing. Decisions around housing development cannot be divorced from decisions around school places, public transport, medical services, highway upgrades, waste and water management etc. So one of the Parish Council's primary roles in responding to planning applications is to highlight these issues and act, where it has the power to do so, to support the future of our community.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a key tool to help us do this. It won't prevent development; nor should it! But it will give you and this parish a voice within the planning system and allow us to set policies which are specific to this parish and which must be adhered to by CDC when making decisions.

Some of you will remember that the Parish Council began a Neighbourhood Plan some years ago, which was ultimately unable to progress due to circumstances beyond our control (around 'water neutrality' in the district).

Although some aspects of the previous draft plan can be 're-used', this will be an entirely new Neighbourhood Plan, which will reflect the changes within our community over the last decade. It will not allocate the Local Plan housing or seek to include additional housing but it will set out housing and design policies to guide future growth. Each meeting of the full Parish Council will include discussion and decision making regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and you are most welcome to attend - either in person or remotely via Zoom. There will be public consultations and community engagement events in the coming months and I encourage you to support these.

The first public session will be a Q&A with the Neighbourhood Plan consultants on Thursday 7th December in the Winterton Hall, from 7pm - 9pm.

The Neighbourhood Plan belongs to you; you are integral to its development and success, so make sure your voice is heard!

Whilst much of the cost of developing a Neighbourhood Plan (and keeping it up to date) is met from Government grants, there is inevitably a cost to the Parish Council. Like you, the Parish Council has not been immune to cost increases. All our everyday services have become more expensive and so, particularly as we are the branch of local government closest to you, the Parish Council must look ahead to the possible demands on its budget and plan accordingly. Therefore, we have launched a Priorities and Funding Survey on our website and I urge you to take the 5 minutes necessary to complete it. The Parish Council spends YOUR money. This is your chance to tell us what you would most like us to spend it on. And while you're there, take a look at all the other useful information we publish and, if you have not already done so, sign up to receive our free E-Newsletter.

I look forward to welcoming you to our meetings and hearing your views on the Neighbourhood Plan and the future priorities for your Parish Council.

Cllr. Paul Jordan
Chair of Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council

LAGOON 3 (CROUCHLANDS)

On 18th April 2023, the owners of Lagoon 3, Mr Luttmann-Johnson, entered a not guilty plea in relation to the noncompliance of Chichester District Council's enforcement notice regarding Lagoon 3. The matter was adjourned to trial at Horsham Magistrates Court on 23rd August. However three cases were listed ahead of the

case, which took priority and unfortunately the court did not have time to hear the Lagoon 3 case.

The hearing has been further adjourned until 25th January 2024 at Worthing Magistrates Court.

PARISH CHILDREN'S PARTY FOR THE CORONATION



It seems a long time ago now but hopefully the memories of King Charles III's coronation will live on. After a weekend spent glued to the television, Parish Councillors and volunteers donned their aprons and prepared for the parish's own celebration- a children's party.

The weather was grey and a little drizzly but the mood was bright and sunny!

On a day that the King wanted to encourage and celebrate volunteers, the community came together and decorated the Winterton Hall with bunting, filled the youth club with an amazing array of cakes and prepared to welcome the excited youngsters!

Magic Marty entertained the children with tricks, banter, dancing and lollies. They all became royal when dressed up in a cloak and crown in the photo booth, creating memories for the future. All this whilst consuming far too much sugar, in the form of free ice cream and many colourful and delicious cake treats. In fact, we all ate quite a lot - children and adults alike!

Fun was had by all and £112.00 was raised in donations for the Prince's Trust. THANKYOU to everyone who took part, especially Catherine, our Parish Clerk, who drove all the way from Cornwall to help and support us.

We hope it is a day the children will remember when they tell future generations what they did to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation.



BOOK-A-BUS

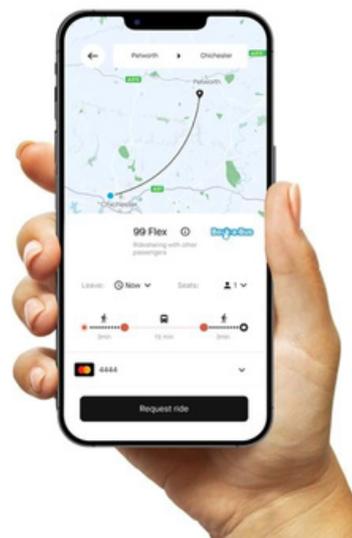
A Personal Account

My original plan was to write an angry piece about the discontinuation of the daily number 42 bus to Dunsfold, Godalming and Guildford, which was axed in June. However, having tried the new Book-a-Bus service with a neighbour who relies on public transport, I'm writing to extol its virtues instead. It was so easy and will open many opportunities for those without cars or for those who just want a day off driving or a lunchtime drink at the pub!

Not everyone has a smartphone and so I used the telephone one way and the pingo app for our return home.

Our plan was to have a morning in Petworth and so I phoned 01243 858854 and told them where we were and where we needed to go, explaining that we were in the 98 Flex North Petworth area. Half an hour later a bus arrived at our door to pick us up and take us straight to Petworth.

When we were ready to head home, I booked a return journey on the app. It informed me that someone would collect us 20 minutes later. The bus location could be tracked on my phone; it arrived on time and brought us home to our front doors. Both drivers were so lovely and enthusiastic about their new role. They can drive you anywhere within a certain zone which will give many people the opportunity to get to local places they have struggled to visit before.



The bus runs from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. There is only one in the area at the moment but the plan is to increase this to three in the future if there is more demand, which might also enable them to expand their routes. It cost me £2 each way but my neighbour paid nothing as he has a bus pass.

So, rather than bemoan the demise of the no.42, I find myself believing that this is a much better service than we had before. We can book a bus when it suits us, to a greater variety of places and for less money. What's not to love?

Leaflets are available at Plaistow Stores or visit [westsussex.gov.uk/book-a-bus](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/book-a-bus).

Cllr. Jane Price

IFOLD PLAYPARK

At the start of the year the Council conducted an online survey to ascertain the views of Ifold residents regarding installing a play area at Kelsey Hall. Ifold is highly unusual in being a large residential settlement without any designated public space for children. Information was delivered to 500 houses, as well as being publicised on Facebook and the website. The response rate was 19.2%, with 77% of respondents being in favour of a play area. Survey response rates between 5% - 30% are typical; therefore, the Parish Council is heartened by this level of engagement, which can be trusted to provide an accurate indication of project support. The results show that Ifold residents seek a public play area, within walking distance, where they can meet other families.

The Parish Council is grateful to the Kelsey Hall for permitting play equipment to be installed in its grounds. Isolation is a key issue for those with childcare responsibilities. Having somewhere 'to go' is paramount for the mental wellbeing of children and their caregivers, as borne out in studies from the Pandemic. The aim is to "make it an adventure worth going on" so equipment not usually found in private gardens will be prioritised. Preserving the rural, wooded feel of the area is key - none of the trees will be felled to accommodate play equipment.

The next step is to prepare a lease between the Parish Council and the Kelsey Hall. In 2024, play equipment companies will be invited to design the area and tender for the project. Further public consultation will be held to determine which design is preferred, before a contract is awarded. Thereafter, the timescales to instal the chosen scheme will be determined by the work schedule of the company and the Kelsey Hall's diary. Look out for project updates on Facebook and our website throughout 2024/25.

Please visit the [designated webpage](#), where the survey results can be found, alongside project information and how concerns will be addressed.



NEW WINTERTON HALL WEB PAGE & ONLINE BOOKING

The Winterton Hall in Plaistow now has a dedicated page on the Parish Council's website, including the option to book the village hall online. Regular and one-off bookings are welcome.

www.plaistowandifold-pc.gov.uk/winterton-hall

For all booking enquiries, please contact Wendy at wintertonhallplaistow@gmail.com

Don't forget to sign up for the next Quiz Night!

LADY HOPE PLAYPARK

We're sorry that there have been some unplanned closures of the playpark on Plaistow Village Green lately. Children's safety is our primary concern and if dangers become apparent, we have no choice but to close the park until they are rectified. We try to do this as swiftly as we can but if you find the park closed, please do not enter it. And if you do spot anything amiss, please let the Clerk know right away by calling 07798 631410. Thank you.

The Planning & Open Space Committee

IFOLD BUS STOP CONSERVATION AREA

The wild area around the Ifold bus stop has recently been cut-back as part of its seasonal management. Ideally, we would have left more of the area un-cut, to provide important over-wintering mini-habitats for our bugs and beasties, especially invertebrates and insects. The area is home to abundant wildlife including toads, slow-worms, moths, spiders, ladybirds, and beetles. Just brilliant! However, with some residents complaining about the area's 'unkempt appearance', we have attempted to strike a balance.



If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to visit the [webpage](#) which has two infomercials about the area, which explain its purpose and how it will be developed and managed. Once we understand the important and bountiful habitat and food sources this area provides to the wildlife we share our community with, we'll learn to see that an overgrown, 'dead' or unloved patch of 'weeds', is actually a bountiful conservation area, full of beautiful seedheads of wildflowers providing homes to countless species.



Some regular maintenance *is* required, however. This is a call to all willing volunteers who can help look after this essential community asset, which will help to support the survival of our wildlife in a world which is becoming increasingly 'built up' and 'humanised'.

The maintenance jobs include keeping the path and verge clear for pedestrian access; snipping back and weeding-out the dominant species such as sloe saplings and brambles which, left unmanaged, would prevent other plants developing and unbalance the area to its detriment. Volunteers will receive expert support and guidance from professional conservation and wildlife Garden Consultant, Angela Palmerton of Natural Gardens.



Above: Native Dogrose (*Rosa Cania*)



Right: Honesty (*Lunaria Annua*)

In spring, annual wildflowers will be sown to give the area some more colour, whilst the perennial planting, donated by Butterfly Conservation, gets established.

The area is not time hungry – an hour or so at the beginning of spring, summer, and autumn with the odd 10-minute visit once a month to cut back any brambles growing across the pathways and to make sure the area is doing well is all that's required.

The next maintenance session will be in Spring 2024 (March/April). If you can spare a little time to make sure this area develops to its full potential, do please get in touch via the Clerk (contact details on p1).

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).

IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY

The Parish Council's June 2021 public survey identified the community's concerns regarding the speed of traffic within Plaistow, particularly along Loxwood Road around the school and preschool. The work of your Parish Council to raise this issue with WSCC's Highways and School Safety teams has resulted in a School Safety Zone (SSZ) being implemented this summer. A great result! The three Powered Safety School Zone Signs, with time-controlled flashing 'wig-wag' lights (7-9:30am and 2-4pm, Monday-Friday term time only) warn drivers of vulnerable road users, which will improve road safety within the village. Now that the SSZ has been fully implemented, the next step is for the Parish Council to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit within the SSZ to 20mph.



Meanwhile, the Council's TRO application to extend the 30mph speed limit along Rickman's Lane in Plaistow is progressing. Upon submission of the application (2022), WSCC's Highways department had to update their baseline speed data for Rickman's Lane, which was out of date. A speed survey was conducted in June 2023. Thereafter, the application had to pass an Initial and Detailed Assessment, against WSCC's TRO policy criteria. These assessments were successful, as too was its progress through the Traffic Regulation Order Moderation process. The next stage is WSCC's Public Consultation, which will run between 5th and 26th October 2023.

FINGER POSTS SAVED



As part of cost-savings measures, West Sussex County Council took the decision in 2009 not to repair or replace traditional finger posts like the one above but gave Parish Councils the right to take on their maintenance under licence.

The parish has a number of these traditional signs, which the Council considers to be not only a valuable aid to motorists but also an important heritage asset in our conservation area. Consequently, your Parish Council decided to adopt them to safeguard them for future generations.

TWO NEW COUNCILLORS TELL US WHY THEY SIGNED UP

"My family and I have had our home in Ifold for nearly 20 years and feel very fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country. In that time, I have increasingly become aware of the important role local volunteers make in sustaining a rural community.

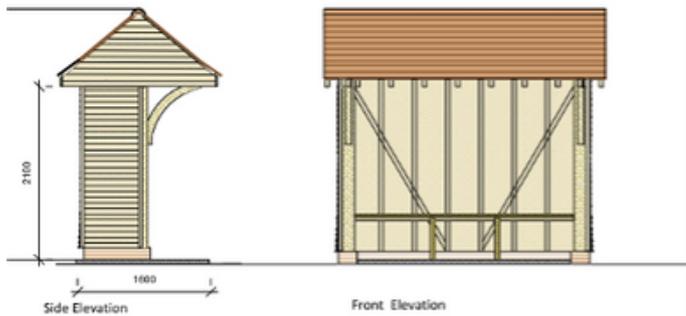
When hearing that there was a need for more residents to become Parish Councilors I saw it as an opportunity to work with others to make a difference to the quality of life in our local area.

Having only joined in May I'm still in the learning phase of being a Councillor. In the first months I have quickly gained confidence through seeing my

fellow councillors' commitment to working positively together to represent the residents of the Parish as best we can." Cllr. Andrew Woolf

Having lived in Ifold since 2014, I recently joined the PC due to growing concerns over speculative large-scale developments in our rural area. As a working mum there have been many opportunities for me to contribute to improving the facilities in our parish for all ages, including plans for the installation of a bicycle rack and helmet box at Ifold Stores (see next page), to encourage and make it easier for children in Ifold to cycle to the bus stop. Cllr. Sarah Denyer

BUS STOP DELAYS



The project to replace the bus stop by Ifold Stores and build a new one in Plaistow was originally due to be completed in 2020! The Parish Council is hugely conscious of the delay and the discomfort it has caused, particularly for those who use the Ifold bus stop, where the old shelter was removed in March 2022, just days before work on erecting the new shelter was due to begin.

The work is being carried out on our behalf by West Sussex County Council’s Community Volunteer Team, who have been hit by what can only be described as a perfect storm of events. In 2021 they were diverted to support the County’s Covid pandemic response. In early 2022, the Team returned to their community projects but were swiftly re-deployed in March to support WSCC’s refugee efforts. That work continued until spring 2023 and, since then, several equipment and personnel issues have caused various start dates to be missed this year.

At every stage, both the Parish Council and the Community Volunteer Team have acted in good faith, upon information known at the time, and everyone is saddened and frustrated by the continued delay. Nevertheless, after this litany of unfortunate circumstances, good news at last: the build has begun!

The local oak, supplied by Miliam Ltd in Kirdford, has been delivered to the Team’s workshop and our current expectation is that the team, led by Darren Rolfe, Senior Community Solutions Officer, will be working to erect the shelters towards the end of the year.

Disruption (deliveries/noise etc) is anticipated to be minimal. A small concrete mixer and hand tools will be used. The greatest noise will be from a generator but this will not be in continuous use. If you would like to get involved with the build, you are most welcome. There is no minimum time commitment, and all tools, equipment, training, and insurance are supplied. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

The ‘[Safer Bus Stops](#)’ webpage has plenty more information covering need, location, design, permission, public consultation, the build, budget, and maintenance. Please do take a look.

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY & PROPERTY SAFE

At a recent meeting West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service highlighted the importance of people regularly checking their fire alarms – and the batteries within them. There are lots of different types of smoke alarms (some even have ten-year batteries) but they all need to be checked regularly. You are four times more likely to die in a fire in the home if there is no working smoke alarm and so this action is so important.

Sussex Police also issue lots of useful advice - from shed thefts to cyber crime- which you can find on the [Useful Links](#) page of the Parish Council website. Check it out!

BIKE RACK FOR IFOLD

The Parish Council is investigating the feasibility of installing a bike rack and helmet store in Ifold, to encourage local schoolchildren to cycle to the bus stop and take the bus to school. The owner of Ifold Stores, Craig Knight, has kindly agreed in principle to the installation of a rack outside the shop.

The number of individual car journeys being made to local schools is bad for the environment and bad for our children’s health. It also causes dangerous levels of traffic congestion, particularly outside Plaistow & Kirdford Primary School.



AUTUMN 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 'October 2023 Newsletter' quiz.)

1. **Red ball question** (all red ball questions carry 1 point): Which song from *Evita* was a number one hit for Julie Covington?
2. **Yellow ball question** (2 points): The most southerly part of the British mainland lies at the tip of which peninsular?
3. **Red ball question**: A platinum wedding anniversary celebrates how many years of marriage?
4. **Green ball question** (3 points): At over 40,000 square miles, which is the largest island in the Caribbean?
5. **Red ball question**: The actress Charlotte Rampling was formerly married to which French musician, an exponent of the synthesiser?
6. **Brown ball question** (4 points): In the Bible, who was the brother of Moses?
7. **Red ball question**: Of which country is Manila the capital?
8. **Blue ball question** (5 points): What nationality was the astronomer Nicholas Copernicus?
9. **Red ball question**: What title was held by George VI before he acceded to the throne?
10. **Pink ball question** (6 points): Running for 46 miles, which London Underground line has the greatest length of track?
11. **Red ball question**: What is the name of the camera introduced by George Eastman in 1900?
12. **Black ball question** (7 points): Which protein is a major component of hair, skin, nails and tooth enamel?



Come and join the next
PARISH LITTER PICK
 SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER - 10AM
 (maximum 2 hours)

Routes will be allocated. Picking sticks, bags 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