



CHAIR'S ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORT 2025

In the last 12 months the parish council has undertaken several high-profile projects carried out with the wishes of residents who attended previous Annual Parish Assemblies. The parish council is proud of its accomplishments, of note are the following: -

- Installation of new Village Gateway signs that also highlights all the hamlets within the parish.
- A new Signal Indicator Device, which from data collected is beginning to show changes in traffic behaviour. We now have eight locations approved by West Sussex County Council, with the device moved every two weeks. Once the device has been in situ in each location at least three times, the parish council will provide data on its website. (and not it does not take details of registration numbers).
- Traffic Regulation Order in Hook Lane. In conjunction with residents, the parish council supported a permanent change to the speed limit to 30mph throughout the entire lane.
- New Benches have been installed in key locations throughout the village and replace old benches.
- The parish council has launched its inaugural Aldingbourne in Bloom competition with deadline for applications 27 June 2025 (Full details are on the parish council website).
- New equipment has been installed at the Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, including a disabled access roundabout and zip wire which is proving incredibly popular.
- Adoption of two new bus shelters in Westergate Street.
- The parish council has been involved in WSCC's Bus Route 500 working party and is working to ensure that 'Real Time Indicators', which let people waiting at stops when the next bus will arrive, are beginning to be installed on all bus shelters within the parish.
- The parish council is responsible for an Ancient Scheduled Monument within the parish at Tote Copse: this has recently been cleared with confirmation having been received from Historic England that it has been removed from its "At Risk" register.

There are several other projects in the pipeline and Cllr Harbord, Chair of the Street Scene Committee will outline these later in the evening.

The parish council does of course have challenges, not least in the matter of planning and the number of homes that are proposed throughout the parish, with several developments already having approval and a number in the pipeline still to be determined by Arun District Council. The parish council works tirelessly on behalf of the community in ensuring that residents' views are represented.

The Planning Committee considers all applications located in the parish. It is Arun District Council rather than our Planning Committee which makes the decision on applications – but our committee

meetings provide an opportunity to voice our concerns as well as yours and we have seen some significant planning applications recently that the council has objected to strenuously on behalf of the community. Planning Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday each month and residents are more than welcome to attend.

Another part of the council's business is the work of the Finance Committee who manage all aspects of spending your money and make sound decisions to recommend to Full Council. The Finance Committee has policies in place for managing your money and there is a clear picture of how we spend that money through a planned Budget and Business Plan. All financial matters are available on the parish council website. The councils' finances are healthy, and earmarked reserves are in place for future projects. The parish council has a robust investment policy in place to ensure the best value for money and the best return for residents' precept.

We work closely with our District and County Councillors and with our local PCSO. They update us on current issues and take our and the residents' comments back to the respective people to put our views forward.

The Council has formed a working party that is looking into IT/MEDIA and communications and has put a strategy together that will improve how we engage and advise the Community on what is happening. Our new Instagram account is proving successful with followers increasing month by month as well as being on Facebook and we are really pleased with the number of followers on both platforms. Please sign up to see regular updates from the parish council. Our website is also a valuable source of information and provides a wealth of information not only about the parish council but also other organisations within the parish and links to other external agencies and bodies that residents may need. We were pleased with the comments we had from our first Parish Booklet and the parish council is planning to update and distribute this annually. Also look out for our newsletter and sign up when it is launched later in the year.

The Council administers the Westergate Recreation Ground Fund, a Charity set up to manage the upkeep of the Playing Fields and open spaces throughout the Parish.

Let me conclude by reminding residents that all council meetings are open to the public, that an item on agendas allows your voice to be heard on anything you have concerns over, suggestions or requests for improving the community.

Cllr Sue Foott