

Withyham Parish Council - Bulletin 6



SAVE THE DAY FOR YOUR APA!

YOUR ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY IS ON

Saturday 25th May 2024 10.00AM - 12.30PM

AT GROOMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

**Withyham Parish Council is delighted to host its
Annual Parish Assembly.**

FUTURE PLANS

WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL PARISH PLAN 2024-2028

Our Parish Plan outlines the key issues that drive the work of the Parish Council across areas such as crime and policing, supporting the community, highways and transport, the young and elderly, housing and planning, leisure and tourism, assets and services, and volunteering.

We want your input in guiding our priorities for the future. We will be launching a consultation at the APA which will also be accessible online on our website.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

As usual we will be showcasing the wonderful Clubs, Societies and Groups in our Parish.

Come along and see what the Parish has to offer and you may be in for a surprise...

If you would be interested in a **free** table for your group, please contact the Parish Office (subject to availability).

PLUS DON'T FORGET THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND BACON SARNIES!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF YOUR BAKING SKILLS! CAKE CAKE CAKE

Withyham Parish Council is running the **Community Café** on 25th May. We love seeing your bakes, and sampling them. If you are able to make a cake please bring it along before the café opens at 10am.

Thank you!



CLIMATE CHANGE ECOLOGY

Did you know we have a new advisory committee headed up by our Community Engagement Co-ordinator, Stephanie! At the APA you will find information on existing and future projects, which include: Wildlife Projects, using carbon calculators (assess your carbon footprint) and other resources, including our Thermal Imaging Camera. We would love to know what you are doing to address climate change and support wildlife in your community. Come along and share your actions and ideas!



Would you be interested in becoming a **Speed Watch volunteer**? Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, help the community and gain new skills.

Find out more about Speed Watch, and have a chat with our lead Councillor.



Your local PSCO will be available at the APA. Do come along and chat about any concerns.



WIN £25,000

Your chance to win £25,000, whilst supporting your Community Post Office and Shop.



To find out more Scan the QR code or visit

<https://bit.ly/3ynG3KI>



Supporters must be 18 years or over.

Withyham Parish Council, The Old Station, Station Road, Groombridge TN3 9RD.

Tel: 01892 864557 E-mail: clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



SO WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?

Parish Councils are the most 'grass roots' form of local authorities. Unlike District and County Councils, we have fewer statutory obligations (things that we have to do) and so we are able to respond to local needs. This means that every parish council does slightly different things, because our parishes have different priorities. All Parish Councils have elected Parish Councillors making decisions together at meetings. These councillors are volunteers from the community who want to make a difference.



WHO FUNDS THE PARISH COUNCIL?

Withyham Parish Council is funded via approximately 5% of your Council Tax and aims to always offer value for money to the residents of Blackham, Groombridge, St John's (Crowborough) and Withyham. You can see a breakdown of your Council Tax on the bill sent to you by Wealden District Council.

WHAT DO WE DO? HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

LOCAL NEEDS:

- We saved the Post Office in Groombridge.
- Every year we support local groups and organisations with grants
- We invested in a Speed Indication Device which supports road safety throughout the parish.



COMMUNITY SPACE:

We provide our residents with well looked after areas of recreation space across the parish, namely Balls Green Community Space, Groombridge Recreation Ground, St John's Reading Room land and Teasley Mead Recreation Ground. Local children are now enjoying the new play equipment funded by us in Groombridge and Blackham.



SPEAKING FOR THE COMMUNITY:

As the grass roots of local government we represent your voice on public consultations that will affect our parish both locally and nationally.



PLANNING:

Our Planning Committee is consulted for its recommendations on planning applications in the Parish. Our input is taken into account by Wealden District Council when they make their decisions.



ASSETS:

Providing and maintaining vital assets for the community. Such as: bus stops, benches, wooden fingerposts, grit bins, dog and waste bins and the vast majority of streetlights.



PROVIDING A COMMUNITY RESOURCE:

Our Parish office is a vibrant hub used by community groups, other community service providers, such as Wealdlink, The Good People Company and Kent Association for the Blind, plus many more, and, most importantly, our residents.



How do we work with other Councils? Some Examples:

We fund additional grass cuts where we would like more than the statutory amount provided by East Sussex County Council.



Whilst the Parish Council is not responsible for roads, that doesn't stop our amazing volunteer Highways Coordinator from reporting any issues we see. We would also encourage you to make reports to East Sussex Highways who are responsible for not only the dreaded potholes, but also all road projects, speed changes, safety measures and road signs etc.



We have a very active advisory Rights of Way Committee, which monitors our public footpaths reporting issues when they arise and making suggestions for how they can be made more accessible to East Sussex County Council.

The District Council is responsible for the provision of:

- Planning and Building Control
- Council Tax, Council Tax Benefit and Business Rates
- Environmental Health
- Leisure Services
- Business and Tourism Support
- Housing and Housing Benefit
- Elections
- Land Charges
- Waste Collection and Recycling
- Car Parking

Contact details:
Tel: 01323 443333
www.wealden.gov.uk

East Sussex County Council based in Lewes is responsible for the following services:

- Education
- Libraries
- Trading Standards
- Transport and Traffic Safety
- Adult Social Care
- Waste Disposal
- Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Oversight of the East Sussex Highways contract

Contact details:
Tel: 0345 6080190
www.eastsussex.gov.uk

East Sussex Highways delivers highways maintenance and improvement schemes on behalf of East Sussex County Council. These include:

- Repairing and maintaining most roads and pavements in East Sussex
- Providing and maintaining traffic lights, streetlights, road signs, bridges and other structures
- Maintaining road drainage systems, gullies and ditches
- Maintaining roadside verges, hedges and trees

Contact details:
Tel: 0345 60 80 193
www.eastsussexhighways.com