

Upper Beeding Parish Council

Spring 2023 Newsletter

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In this edition we give an overview of the Parish Council Finances. The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cllr Bob Harber, explains the budget and precept process.

Staff Changes

We would like to wish Celia Price the former Clerk all the best in her new role in Lancing and welcome our new Clerk Steve Keogh.

FINANCE

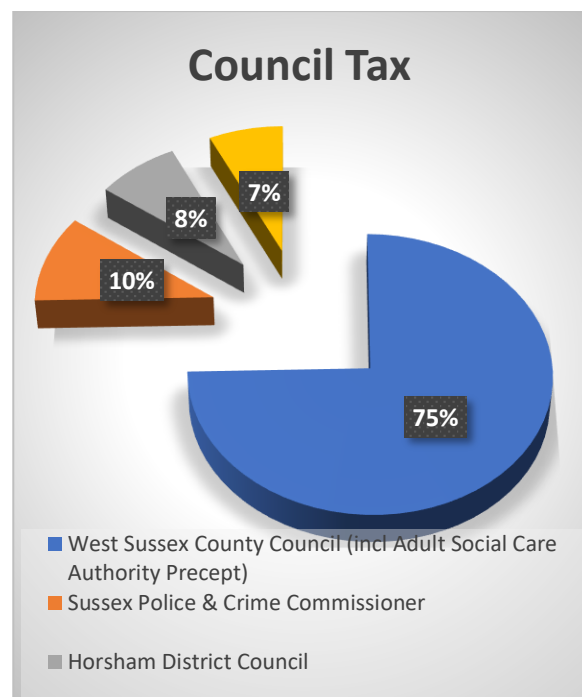
Parish Councils are responsible for managing their own budgets and are mainly funded by an annual payment, or precept, collected by the District Council. This forms part of your Council Tax.

West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Upper Beeding Parish Council all produce budgets detailing the amount of money needed to run services for local people.

The chart shows that in 2023 Upper Beeding Parish Council received 7% or 7 pence in every £1 of your overall Council Tax; the major share goes to West Sussex County Council.

Each Autumn, Upper Beeding Parish Council plans its spending – its Budget - for the financial year which began on 1 April. Our Budget for 2023/24 has been kept substantially below the current rate of inflation. We have worked very hard to keep spending as low as possible. The amount residents will be asked to pay will be slightly higher than last year, about 13p a week for a Band D property.

The diagram below shows how the precept is spent; if you would like further information the detailed budget is on our Parish Council website.



WELCOME TO HYDE STREET GREEN: THE QUEENS CANOPY TREE

The Queens Jubilee was the celebration for the whole country and that includes our Parish.

One of the nationwide activities was the Queens Canopy, which was a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK was invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season began through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she had built.

The District Council gave trees to all Parish and Town Councils to plant, our one was planted in Hyde Street Green (picture overleaf).



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Over the last 12 months, the Planning Committee have continued to review planning applications via email circulation (28 applications) and formal discussion in a meeting (3 applications) in accordance with our standing orders. In most cases the Planning Committee were supportive (or with no objection) of these applications, in accordance with our Neighbourhood Plan. Four of these applications were in relation to tree works and on each occasion our tree warden visited the site. We also asked Horsham District Council, via our District Councillors, to consider 3 of these applications at committee rather than delegated authority approval; we are pleased to report that our concerns were supported.

The main application which the Council continues to object to is the proposed development at Pound Lane. Whilst amendments have been made, these do not address the Council's concerns with the site and associated infrastructure. Two full Council meetings have been held to date on this development with significant attendance from the local community on each occasion. The Planning Committee have also undertaken a pre planning application engagement with

Cemex for their proposals to reopen their site at Small Dole and expressed our concerns with this, particularly on the impact to Small Dole and significantly increased lorry movements via Upper Beeding and past the Towers.

Water neutrality continues to be an impediment to Planning Applications generally in the area and our District Councillors regularly report on efforts being made by Southern Water to address this issue. Whilst progress is being made, there is no simple solution, and we understand this will continue to block proposals such as Reeside / Pound Lane for the foreseeable future.

Riverside Link



The Steyning and District Community Partnership exists to provide activities and facilities which the three local Parish Councils, Bramber, Steyning and Upper Beeding, may struggle to fund, through their own resources or by grant funding.

The current project is an all-weather footpath and cycle way from Kings Barn, Steyning, over the White Bridge, along Beeding Riverside, then down to the South Downs Way.

It is hoped that this new footpath and cycle way will encourage and enhance sustainable, safe, active travel, connecting the communities within the Adur Valley area of Bramber,

Steyning and Upper Beeding. It will advance community connectivity, encourage healthy lifestyles, and help improve physical and mental health for all ages and abilities.

This project is being developed in sections, Stage 1: the White Bridge link; Stage 2: Beeding Riverside, and then the final section (Stage 3) to the South Downs Way footbridge.

Election Results

These local elections took place on Thursday 4th May this year.

Eleven Councillors are returning to carry on the work and we welcome one new Member, Frank Bull.

<u>SMALL DOLE</u>
BULL Peter
IVATT Ian
WARREN Chris

<u>UPPER BEEDING</u>
BIRNSTINGL Simon
BULL Frank
CANNON Jill
CHILVER Alan
DEADMAN Chris
HARBER Bob
HEAVER Fred
KARDOS Tom
TEATUM Sean

BEEDING IN BLOOM

Now being well into spring, thoughts go to the summer hanging baskets that are always welcomed around the Parish.

Each year, the floral displays cost approximately £5,000, for which the Parish Council contributes the sum of £3,500.

To keep the costs down, the Parish Council works alongside the volunteers of Beeding in Bloom, who do much of the planting and maintenance as possible. The volunteers raise funds at cake/plant sales at coffee mornings, sponsoring a hanging basket and the sale of plants at garden gates for the remaining £1,500.

Additionally, this year, several householders will be opening their gardens for the bi-annual 'Open Gardens' fundraising event on Sunday 9 July.

However, following the pandemic and people having been restricted in their movements, much hard work is needed to renew the beds around Upper Beeding village and bulb planting in Small Dole.

Beeding in Bloom is also in need of new volunteers/members, so if you are able spare a little time to help make the Parish a friendly, pleasant place to live, please contact Mary Levett on 01903 815137 or Colette Harber on 01903 814586.

Everyone will be very welcome.



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY VILLAGE

Upper Beeding Parish Council is working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Our aim is for Upper Beeding to become a place where people affected by dementia can continue to take part in activities that are meaningful to them, safe in the

knowledge that the wider community is understanding and supportive of their needs.

Becoming more dementia friendly means:

To ensure that people living with dementia, carers and families have a voice and can maintain and, where necessary, increase their social contacts within their local community.

To develop or contribute to the development of suitable inclusive social activities and services locally for people living with dementia and their carers.

To work in collaboration with local groups and organisations and to recognise that local councils and do have a role to play in achieving this.

The Council has started to meet with businesses and organisations to look at ways that the Parish can work together to help people who are living with the condition, to make people aware of what to look for and to find spaces where carers can meet and gain some much-needed respite.

So far, the main meetings have been at The Hub and the Upper Beeding Village Hall.

The Steyning Medical Centre has also provided some much-needed support with the project.

If you wish to be involved, please contact the Parish Council Office.

PROPOSED NEW ROAD CROSSINGS

The Parish Council continue to look at ways to make the Village safe, roads in particular. The Parish Council has applied for three crossings which we hope will make the roads safer to cross and slow traffic down.

Whilst there will not be traffic lights, the crossings will include a central reservation and fluorescent bollards.

There will also be road markings to warn drivers of each crossing, and these may help to slow traffic.

We are awaiting confirmation of crossings at:

Dacre Gardens (A283) improved crossing.

Shoreham Road (A283) South Downs Way

Shoreham Road (A2037) Beeding Court

MEETING DATES

2023	Full Council
June	20 th
July	18 th
September	19 th
October	17 th
November	14 th
December	19 th
January	16 th
February	13 th
March	19 th
April	23 rd
May	14 th

Additionally, there are Community, Facilities, Planning, Finance and Staffing Committee meetings at intervals through the year. Details of all meetings are on the website.

VOLUNTEERS

Your local village council is ambitious to improve our environment, greenery, and pathways.

Increasingly, only essential services will be financed by hard-hit county and district councils.

So, we are going to need your help.

You may have read how volunteers helped establish the Community Orchard at Hyde Street Green and the Litter Volunteers who regularly clear the roads.

Can you help us to further improve the Green by joining in clearing unsightly shrubs and brambles?

We also have other projects too!

We have many similar projects, but we don't have the resources to achieve these without your help. We really do need you!

Please contact the Clerk.