

# Your Parish Council

## Chairman's Report

Council Tax payers will soon be receiving notification of their 2014-15 tax demand including an increase in the amount required by Pulborough Parish Council of 12p per month per average household.

Whilst the Parish Council has once again managed the budget very carefully over the last year, this increase has been necessary to fund two major projects; on this page you will see an article about the upcoming Neighbourhood Plan which whilst being an expense for the Council, gives you the Community the opportunity to influence how the Parish will develop during the next twenty years. The second project is the landscaping of a Memorial and Peace Garden, opposite the library in Brook Way. The opening date for this will be in August – more details to follow in the next issue.

Ray Qusted, Chairman

## Parish Council information

Agendas are posted on the Parish Council noticeboards and website at least three days before each meeting.

Members of the public wishing to speak on an Agenda item at any meeting must inform the Clerk by noon on the day prior to the meeting.

In addition, at Full Council meetings, if time permits residents may raise any issue with the Council although, as not about an agenda item, no discussion may take place at that meeting.

Contact the Parish Office at: - Swan View, Lower Street, Pulborough, RH20 2BF

Tel: 01798 873532

clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

## Neighbourhood Plan update

### What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

In September of last year, the Parish Council agreed to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Pulborough parish (including Codmore Hill, Mare Hill, North Heath and Nutbourne) and appointed Action in rural Sussex (AirS) as consultant. A Neighbourhood Plan is a new way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. It can be used to:

- Develop a shared vision for a village or town.
- Choose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built.
- Identify and protect important local green spaces or other treasured assets.
- Influence what new buildings should look like.
- Influence what type of housing should be built.

The plan must be based on consultation with the people who live and work locally and it must be approved by local referendum before it has force. It's important to understand that it is about influencing development and not opposing it altogether, as any Neighbourhood Plan must comply with the wider housing and development strategy of the county or district (in our case, Horsham District).

### Why do we need one in Pulborough?

There are three main reasons:

1. An approved Neighbourhood Plan has legal force when it comes to planning decisions. Having an approved and adopted plan gives a community considerably more power to resist development that is unwelcome or ill-considered.

2. Communities with a Neighbourhood Plan have greater access to and control over any planning gain money (formerly Section 106 funds, now known as the Community Levy) tied to local development.
3. Pulborough has for many years suffered from the lack of a coherent vision for itself and a strategy to make it happen. As a result, the village has seen piecemeal development that creates more problems than it solves and contributes to overloading of our basic infrastructure. The Neighbourhood Plan process is an opportunity for people who live and work in the village to stop this trend by creating a shared vision and strategy for Pulborough that cannot be ignored.

### What's the process for creating a Neighbourhood Plan?

In essence the process is as follows:

1. Gather the evidence about how Pulborough is now.
2. Use this information as the basis for consultation with everyone who lives and works in the village.
3. Create a plan that reflects the results of the consultation.
4. Put that plan to a vote.

Of course, in reality there will be a lot more work to it and we estimate it will take at least 18 months, if not more.

### Who will be doing this?

As consultant, AirS will be doing a lot of the technical work but it will be down to local residents and organisations to work with the Parish Council to ensure that the plan is as representative and well-researched as possible. In addition to the Steering Group, we will be establishing a number of working groups to focus on particular themes or issues. Currently these are:

- Our Community
- Our Housing
- Our Infrastructure

For a full list of contacts at the Parish Council and a list of meeting dates please visit our website:  
[www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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As well as the working groups, we also hope to have a group dedicated to Communications & Consultation so that we ensure the process and final plan is as representative as it needs to be to enjoy the support of the village.

#### What can I do?

Your chief responsibility as a resident will be to take part in the consultation

process when it happens. But we also need volunteers to help us form our working groups and publicise the project to everyone who lives and works here. You will know best what your skills, interests and availability are; if you would like to have an informal discussion about getting involved with creating the Neighbourhood Plan, please call or email the Parish Clerk or Steering Group Chairman Richard Keatley (contact details below).

Please also come along to one of the public meetings in the Village Hall on 29th March (10am to 12pm) and 2nd April

(7pm to 9pm) to speak to the project team and learn more about the process.

#### Further information

[www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk)

#### Contacts

Sarah Norman  
Parish Clerk  
pulboroughnp@gmail.com  
01798 873532

Richard Keatley  
Steering Group Chairman  
richard.keatley@pulborough.org  
0781 380 6979

## Pulborough Parish Churchyard at St. Mary's Church

### The churchyard is in trouble

Legally, anyone who dies within the Parish is entitled to be buried in the Churchyard.

The cost of the maintenance of the Churchyard is around £8000 p.a. The PCC has been awarded an annual grant of £1,000, by the Parish Council in recent years and this has been a great help. However budget discussions for 2014, have concluded that, despite this grant, there will not be enough regular income to support the work for the whole 2014.

Various ideas have been considered to curb the costs, such as using volunteers, closing parts of the churchyard, and even the use of sheep but these ideas have been discarded. The conclusion is that the PCC will have to stop cutting the grass, once the money runs out towards the middle of the year.

Remembering that anyone who dies in the Parish is entitled to be buried here, and how many of us have relatives buried in the graveyard, perhaps some contribution or sponsorship might be possible? Sponsorship of just £10.00 per year each would raise more than enough.

**Can you help? If so, please contact Brian Hunter, 01798 875253, Ann Kaiser 01798 872819 or Peter Gregory 01798 812788.**

## HORDERHEALTHCARE

### Do you need orthopaedic surgery or treatment?

Horder Healthcare, the award winning healthcare charity, now offers NHS services locally at **Pulborough Primary Care Centre** including Consultant appointments and physiotherapy. Patients can choose to be referred to the nationally recognised hospital, The Horder Centre, located in Crowborough, East Sussex for surgery.

Horder Healthcare specialises in orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal treatment and has been identified as consistently achieving well above the national average for hip and knee operation outcomes.



Orthopaedic surgery is available on the following areas:

- Shoulder
- Hip
- Knee
- Foot

For further information please ask your GP or call **01892 600804**

Pulborough Primary Care Centre, Spiro Close, Pulborough RH20 1FG

[horderhealthcare.co.uk](http://horderhealthcare.co.uk)

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