

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SPRING 2005

With the dark nights of winter behind us, it is time to be looking forwards to the spring here in Pulborough. I'm sure you will agree the village looks delightful thanks to the planting of 100's of spring bulbs

The Local Development Framework exhibition was held at the village hall on 10th February giving residents the opportunity to have their say on planning issues for Pulborough. The only major identified site is for Riverside Concrete which the Parish Council support.

I am delighted to announce that the Parish Council has been awarded substantial funding to enlarge the facilities at the new skateboard area. The skateboard area proved to be extremely popular with the village youth and we hope to get this project up and running very shortly.

I am also happy to report that we have replaced the fencing to the children's playground at the main recreation ground. The previous one had been badly vandalised and presented a major danger to the very children it was there to protect! The new fence is constructed of a higher gauge wire and hopefully will be more difficult to damage.

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Jenny Dorling who retires as Parish Clerk in March. Jenny has worked for the Council for over 6 years and has been instrumental in organising the procedures within the office and providing the Council with invaluable advice on legislation as well as making sure that the residents issues, concerns and (sometimes praise) reaches the Councillors ears! Jenny will be replaced by her assistant Sue White.

Jan Botting Chairman Pulborough Parish Council

Did you know that?

NOISY TRAINS:

Horsham District Council has received a number of complaints from local residents concerning disturbance from horns fitted to the new 337 Electrostar trains here is an update on progress so far

Why Must Horns be Sounded?

The 'Drivers' Rules' require that horns must only ever be used as a warning device.

There have been cases where people crossing or working on the railways have failed to hear a train's approach. Unfortunately some have been fatal. As the new Electrostar trains are quieter than the old slam door units, this makes safety concerns even more relevant.

The train's horn must be sounded where a driver can see that there are workmen or other persons on the track. If a person does not appear to respond to a horn, the driver may then repeat a longer warning

Each crossing point on the railway is subject to very strict safety risk assessment. Network Rail is responsible for carrying out the assessment and for erection of 'Whistle Boards' marking the point at which the train driver should sound the train's horn in warning for the crossing.

The 'Drivers' Rules' require that the train horn must be sounded at whistle boards – at any time, day or night.

Why do train horns seem to be louder?

Horns fitted to the older slam door trains did not fully comply with national safety standards. The new train horns now comply but the increased volume has caused complaints

If you still have concerns over noise from the railways, information is available from the following sources:-

If you have access to the Internet refer to the RSSB's website at www.rssb.co.uk or queries can be directed to Jackie McGahan on 01403 215 423.

Noisy Planes

After complaints about low flying helicopters we asked the RAF at Odiham for an explanation, (in summary) this is what they said:

Low flying is undertaken in accordance with The Ministry of Defence policy. Helicopters are considered to be flying low level when they are below 500ft. For standard low flying training they

may operate down to 50ft but, for certain training requirements, can come down to ground level. Ministry of Defence policy dictates that low flying by military aircraft should be spread across as wide a geographical area as possible in order to spread the disturbance. The Low Flying Operations Centre at West Drayton is highly regulated and aims to promote safety, to distribute the training as equably as possible throughout the country and to minimise disturbance to members of the public. The RAF only carry out the minimum low flying training to meet training requirements and are acutely aware of the disturbance caused by the Chinook. Anyone wishing to make a complaint about low flying should contact the Duty Operations Controller on 01256 702134 ext 7489

NATURE AND NURTURE

POCKET PARK – UPDATE

The response to the appeal in our December Newsletter for volunteers to offer assistance in clearing Pocket Park of scrub, debris and litter was highly encouraging. On Sunday Feb 6 about 30 willing helpers got to work and cleared a number of areas, both in the stream (silt!), and near the footbridge, also by the edge of the Recreation Ground, and at the junction of New Place Road and the A29. Ages ranged from about 80 to 8, everyone seemed to enjoy it, and warmest thanks are due to them all, and particularly to the group of Scouts whose efforts were tremendous. The next steps include: the formation of a Pocket Park Committee to meet regularly to decide overall planning and consider affiliation to BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers); liaison with Harwoods concerning their area of the Park and the clearing of the silt in the stream; liaison with W.S.C.C. concerning the repair of the bridge on the Public footpath once the silt in the stream is cleared; a review of the trees in the Park so that surgery can be done next winter; and the fixing of dates for VOLUNTEER DAYS! The next Volunteer Day will be on SUNDAY APRIL 3 from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. It is to be hoped that this will be the 'Big Bash Day' where lots of people will come and make a real start to the work required. So, do come along, bring gloves, secateurs, loppers if you have them and join in the good work. Any queries about work in Pocket Park or joining the Committee should be made to John Garrett (873207), John Denison (872613), or Phil Williams (875025). We hope to see you on April 3!

HEDGES

Please make sure that your hedges, shrubs and trees are not obstructing the footpath outside your property. It is essential that they are cut back to allow pedestrians to walk or use buggies on the pavements without obstruction. This is also important to motorists whose visibility at busy junctions can be obstructed by overgrown hedges. There seems to be a particular problem this year with pedestrians and even motorists having to swerve to avoid overhanging branches and foliage in several parts of Pulborough. Please check hedges and trees are not causing problems.

South Downs

Did you know?

- 5.3% of the area is designated as Sites of Special Interest
- 7.7% is designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
- 22.2% is covered by woodland
- 26.4% of the South Downs is remote or very remote
- There are nearly 3,000km of rights of way
- Chalk grassland now covers only 3%
- There are over 39 million visits a year
- In 2003/04 442 South Downs Volunteers carried out 5044 days of work on projects to conserve and enhance the South Downs
- For more information contact The Communications Team Sussex Downs Conservation Board, Victorian Barn, Victorian Business Centre, Ford Lane Arundel West Sussex 01243 558700

VIEWPOINT

A local resident shares her viewpoint

The local birds were obviously aware that last weekend was Big Garden Birdwatch time, because in my case they decided the weather was far too grey, damp and dismal to go out (even to eat), so they all stayed home, fluffed out and invisible. I gave up looking at an empty bird table normally buzzing with starlings finches, tits, blackbird and even sparrows (now an endangered species) and decided to try the following day. Morning brought the same result, so I worked in the garden and decided to do my hour's watching later at the end of the afternoon when they should be coming down for tea. Fiasco! Just a few tits, my usual robin and a treecreeper who doesn't often appear round here – and then a local moggy turned up under the trees and the whole lot vanished, then it got dark. I wonder how the weather and the presence of predators affect this annual event? It seems a bit hit-and-miss to me. Pulborough Brooks and the Arun Valley are alive! Home at present to almost 3000 widgeon, stunning little ducks with lovely plumage. Pinkish blush on the breast, rusty brown heads with a bright orange splash on the crown and a loud evocative whistling sound heard long before you see them. More than 1000 teal too, busy little ducks with bright chestnut and green heads and pale cream rump patches, which stand out when viewed from behind. Shelduck and shovellers in shades of brilliant white, emerald green, chestnut and black; mallards, which we think of as 'common' but look closely at their amazing colours, and perhaps the most elegant of ducks - the pintail with dark brown heads and their long necks displaying a long white eye-catching blaze. We are very honoured that with all the on-going hard work at Pulborough Brooks and along the valley, many of these birds fly huge distances even from the arctic regions to spend the winter months here in what has now become a world- renowned safe haven for them. Bewick's swans have been here too, flying all the way from the Arctic and Siberia. These are beautiful birds and a delight to see flying along the Arun

If you want to wonder at the beautiful plumage of ducks and geese at close hand, you can really get near to them at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Arundel or to get a feel of them in the wild, just walk around Pulborough Brooks. The large swirling flocks of lapwings which have been in decline throughout the country are a credit to the conservation work going on here and a thrilling site and if you are lucky you could glimpse a hunting peregrine or harrier which really gets the flocks flying

Pulborough Community Partnership

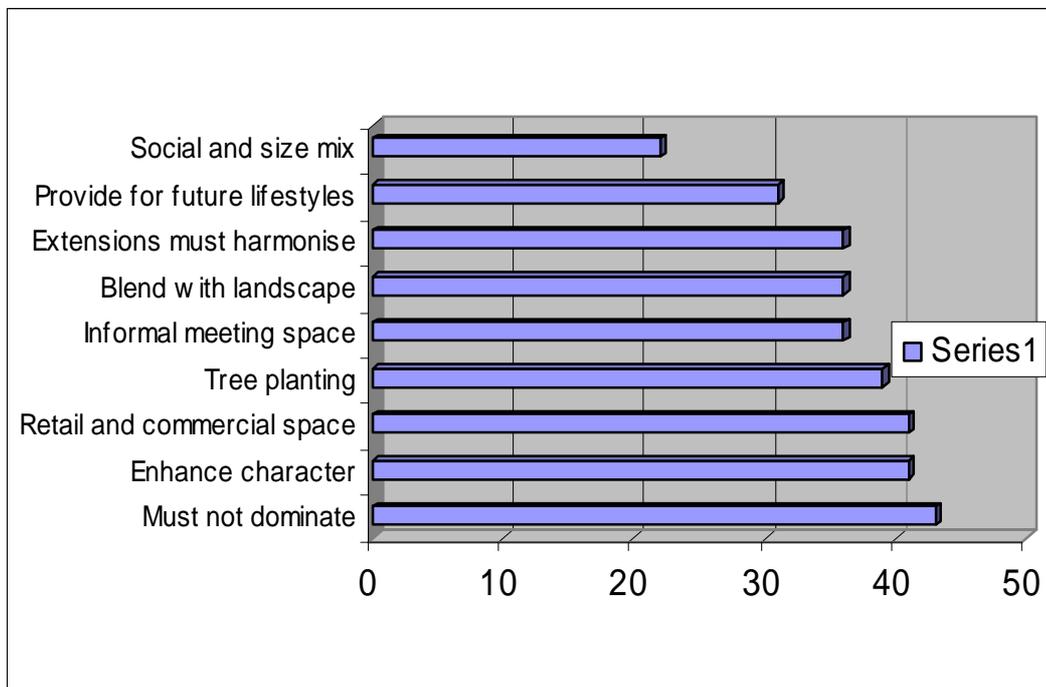
How Pulborough should look – what people said.

On the 26th of February over 100 people visited an event organised by the Pulborough Community Partnership. One of the most commented on displays concerned the creation of a planning guidance document called "The Village Design Statement".

The display showed pictures of buildings in the Pulborough area and suggested principles that planners and builders should adopt. Those attending were then asked which of the principles they supported and to comment if they disagreed with any of them. The brief principles, in the priority that people gave them, were:

- Buildings should not dominate their surroundings
- New Buildings must demonstrably enhance village character
- There must be no net loss of retail or commercial space by any new development
- New developments must include tree planting of native species that link buildings with the landscape
- We must have informal meeting spaces, such as greens
- Buildings should blend with the natural landscape
- Changes and extensions to existing buildings must harmonise with the existing materials and architecture
- Developments must provide for today's and tomorrow's lifestyles
- New developments should provide a social and size mix of houses

The total number of people scoring each principle is shown in the table



Additionally four people said that they felt that Pulborough did not need any additional housing.

The Pulborough Community Partnership will now work with the Parish Council to take these views to Horsham District Council Planning to draft a final document that will then be given to the people of Pulborough to comment on before it becomes part of the planning guidelines.

If you would like to add to the comments already made or work with the Partnership on this and related projects please call Rob Aylott on 01798-872823.

MEETINGS OF PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MONTH	FULL COUNCIL	FINANCE & POLICY	PLANNING & SERVICES	RECREATION & OPEN SPACES
March			3	10
April	21	28	7	
May		24	5	26

Pulborough Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 12 May details will be advertised nearer the time.

All meetings are open to the public and start at 7.30 PM unless notified otherwise. Agendas are displayed on the Parish Council's noticeboards in the main car park in Pulborough and in The Street Nutbourne on the Friday preceding each meeting.

Full Council meetings are held at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre). All other meetings are held at the sports pavilion in Rectory Close.

Community Care

POP INTO PULBOROUGH

Since July 1981 PIP has opened every Tuesday as a meeting place for all ages. Many have enjoyed the delicious cakes, sausage rolls and a cup of tea or coffee whilst meeting up with friends – old and new!

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month there is a special selection of snacks and treats, which are fat-free, wheat-, free and sugar-free.

If you would like to attend but have trouble with mobility or transport then transport can be arranged. For details please contact

Jean Seagram 01798 872540 or Rosa Reeve 01798 872300

PULBOROUGH COMMUNITY CARE

Could you make some puddings for the Wednesday Club? Drivers and

Volunteers are always required.

Contact 01798 872819

Get Out More!

The Pulborough Society

Since its inauguration in 1972, The Pulborough Society has continued to keep a keen interest in the environment and planning, news of which are reported at our general meetings and in regular newsletters. We warmly welcome new members and visitors. The Society is here to serve the village community and if you would like to see any changes or have any ideas you would like implemented please contact either your Chairman or any committee member.

Chairman Mrs A Ball 873008

All meetings take place in the village hall

March 11th Annual General Meeting – Follies and Garden Buildings 7.30pm

May 6th Home Truths From Foreign Policy 7.30pm

June 17th Amberley – The Family Museum 7.30pm

Wood You Try?

Do you want to try something different? In the winter gloom, do you feel like a spring challenge?

Try bowling with The Pulborough Bowling Club Physical fitness is not required and age is no limit. Men and women can compete equally. There's good company with plenty of laughs – and there's even a bar!

There are plenty of friendly matches, a Ladies League and there are plans next year for a mixed league.

You are very welcome to come along to an Open Day on Saturday 7 May at 2.30pm. All you will need are some flat -soled shoes. The members will be on hand to get you started Our outdoor green is adjacent to the main recreation car park If you would like to join before then come along to indoor short mat bowls in the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings

For more information contact

Howard White, Hon Secretary 01798 812206.

BUDDYLINKS – GET OUT AND HAVE FUN!

Would you share some of your leisure time to accompany an adult with a Learning Disability twice a month to a leisure activity of their choice and of interest to you?

The activities we are wanting to promote are: swimming, going to the cinema, ten pin bowling, walking, picnics in the countryside, trips to the theatre, going to the gym or a café for a drink, visiting a local attraction.

A person who has a learning difficulty looks forward to their free time but in a lot of situations their choices are limited to staying at home due to a lack of extra care support and isolated living.

If you would be interested in volunteering with this new project we would be delighted to hear from you or if you know a friend. We are able to cover mileage, entrance fees and car park costs by way of appreciation of your help and time and offer training and support to you in your role as buddy

For more information please contact

Buddylinks team

Tel 01403 713528

The Acorn

The Acorn is part of The Aldingbourne Trust Charity, is based at Brinsbury Campus, Chichester College, Pulborough off the main A29. The centre is totally unique within West Sussex, developing skills required for adults with learning disabilities to gain voluntary or paid employment within the community.

The Acorn, which is open to the public, sells wonderful fresh Soil Association organic vegetables and fruit, including a box scheme, which are grown by the students on the site. It also has a fantastic Coffee shop offering home made cakes, main meals, plants, gifts and always service with a smile!

The aim of The Acorn is to train adults with learning difficulties to acquire skills for work. Students may attend for up to 3 years, during which they will work in each of the Acorn's areas – Horticulture, Catering and Retail.

Over 27 students achieved their Basic Food Hygiene certificates last year on the programme, giving them the knowledge and skills to prepare such a high quality of home-made produce.

The Acorn Shop is open on Monday – Fridays 9.30 – 4.00pm for further information please contact Rachel Smither or Michelle Wykes on 01798 873533

Mobile Civic Amenity Service

The vehicle will be available for the deposit of rubbish in Lower Street car park from 9.00 am to 3.00 PM on the following dates. These are Saturdays apart from 2 Sundays following Bank Holidays

	Saturdays	Sundays
March	5,19	
April	16,30	3
May	14,28	
June	11,25	

USEFUL CONTACTS

Pulborough Parish Council

Swan View, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2BF.

Email: clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Office Hours

The Parish Council's office at the rear of the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre:

Mon - Friday 9am –12pm

Telephone 01798 873532 (**answerphone available**).

Keeping the Parish Clean

Horsham District Council are responsible for recycling and refuse collection, dog bin emptying, litter bin emptying, clinical waste collection, highway sweeping, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. If you have a problem, please telephone **01403 733144**.

Highways

For potholes, floods and other day to day problems with the maintenance of the roads and pavements, please telephone Denise at County Highways on **01903 878500**. You can also report faults on line at www.westsussex.gov.uk.

Street Lights

West Sussex County Council owns most of the streetlights in Pulborough. Most WSCC lights are on numbered concrete posts. They are serviced by SOLVe who can be contacted on **0845 7581622**.

The Parish Council owns 66 streetlights. These are checked regularly and serviced by SEEBOARD. Please let the Parish Council know if you have a problem with a street light which is not on a concrete post, or telephone SEEBOARD direct on **01273 432541**.

West Sussex County Council Help Points

Help points are a single point of contact for any enquiry by the public about any local government service in West Sussex. There is a 24 hour help line on **0845 7581232**.

Citizens Advice Bureau

For free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and support on a wide range of matters including benefits, consumer issues, debt, housing, employment, relationship problems and much more call the Advice Line on **0870 126 4080** or telephone an appointment in Pulborough (every other week) on **01798 872815**.