

Welcome to the Winter 2021 issue of Parish Council News. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the parish. The newsletter aims to keep all residents in touch with matters that may be of interest, including the Parish Council's activities and forthcoming meetings.

# Newsletter

## Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

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## Chair's update

Dear Resident,

As we now slowly move into shorter days and longer nights and begin to plan our Christmas celebrations, I thought rather than looking back over the last year, I would look beyond 2021 into 2022.

The Parish Council will, in 2022, be operating from its new Parish Office located next to the new Neighbourhood Centre. It's a purpose-built facility that has been provided to the community from funds allocated to the Parish Council from the housing development in Wickhurst Green.

The Parish Office will be for all council meetings and a place for residents to visit to get information and advice. The council has never had an office to operate from since its formation in 1987.

As the population of Broadbridge Heath has grown in size, so has the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council. Additional new play areas, allotments and green open spaces will be added to areas over which the Parish Council has responsibilities to maintain and develop for the benefit of the community.

The Council, both councillors and staff, are looking forward to providing the right level of service across all areas for which we have direct responsibility. The aspiration is to meet as much of the needs of residents as possible.

We are aware of some of the current challenges the community faces. Facebook, emails, and telephone calls are some of the ways that councillors and staff get some insight into the current issues that concern residents: antisocial behaviour, traffic calming, speeding and dog fouling to name a few. Hopefully, we do identify your concerns and work to try and find a resolution to them within the very limited powers granted to town and parish councils.

The question often arises as to what a parish council can actually deliver. It is natural to expect the council that is closest to the people, and which may be the first point of contact, to act but does it have the power and authority to respond effectively?

Unfortunately, many of the current challenging issues are ones where the council is not able to directly respond and act.

Town and parish councils in West Sussex operate under the three-tier system of local government and understanding the different tiers of local government structures can often be confusing. Details of the areas of responsibility of each of the three tiers can be found on our website and page 3.

A local council is a universal term for community, village, neighbourhood, parish, and town councils. They are the first tier of local government and are statutory bodies. They serve communities and are elected by residents. They can raise their own precept (a form of council tax). Across England there are 10,000 local councils and 120,000 councillors who serve on these local councils.

I hope that this explanation of the Parish Council's role within the tiers will help explain why the Parish Council is unable to deal with many of the issues that residents may face. However, hopefully by liaising, signposting, and lobbying, we are able to find solutions that go some way to improving our residents' daily lives.

I, like my fellow councillors, look forward to meeting you face to face in 2022 at one of the Parish Council's monthly meetings that will be held in our new Parish Office. These meetings are normally held on the first Monday of every month, except in August, when there is no meeting.

Finally, may I, on behalf of the Parish Council, wish you a Happy Christmas and a secure and positive 2022.



Terry

**Cllr Terry Oliver,**  
Chairman  
Broadbridge Heath  
Parish Council



# Parish Council finance update



## Precept

The precept is the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council (PC) annually from Horsham District Council to fulfil its activities and services.

The precept requirement for 2022/23 has been approved by the Finance Committee and will be submitted to Horsham District Council after approval from Full Council. The precept for each household will increase by £2.60 for a band D property.

As always, the PC is keen to ensure that its priorities and initiatives reflect the wishes of the electorate. If you have any ideas or feedback, we would be most pleased to hear from you.

Also, don't forget that the Parish Council has a small fund for helping local organisations. Details of our grant policy and an application form can be found on our website.



## Update from Councillor David Trangmar, Chairman of the Finance Committee

Since 2012 the Parish Council element of Council Tax for a Band D property in the UK has risen by an average of 4.7% per year to £71.86. In Broadbridge Heath we have kept the average rise to 2% per year, with a Band D parish council tax element of £52.08 in 2021/22.

The UK wide increases in precepts are mostly as a result of the pressure on Parish Councils to provide more services to residents. In Broadbridge Heath, the Parish Council have introduced youth services and an Age UK agent, renewed play areas, contributed to the Village Centre enhancements, and improved other parish assets. We are also due to move into a new office and administer some new allotments and other green spaces in the near future.

We have been able to limit the increases to residents over this period with careful budgeting as the size of the village has increased, incorporating the maintenance contributions of the developers into our forecasts. In coming years, I anticipate that increases in the precept will need to align more with the national trends that we have seen elsewhere.



## Do you:

- Live in Broadbridge Heath?
- Want to know what's on in your area?
- Need information or advice?
- Want someone to talk to?
- Worry about returning home after a hospital stay?
- Require assistance with household chores?
- Need a Handyperson or Gardener?

As Age UK we have access to a lot of information and we are here to help, working within your community to ensure local older people love later life.

The Village Agent is provided by Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, supported and kindly funded by Broadbridge Heath Parish Council.

**To find out more please contact:  
01403 260560  
info-horsham@ageukwsbh.org.uk**



Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.  
Registered Charity Number: 1086323. Registered Company Number: 4146487. Registered Office: Suite 2, Anchor Springs, Littlehampton, BN17 6BP

## Annual accounts 2020/21

The Parish Council's annual accounts have been signed off by our external auditors and can be viewed on the PC's website under Annual Accounts.

## New Councillors

The Parish Council welcomed 3 new members in July this year, when 3 new councillors were Co-opted to the Council: Sam Hazell, Debbie Lambert and Sarah Chandler.



Councillor  
**Sam  
Hazell**



Councillor  
**Debbie  
Lambert**



Councillor  
**Sarah  
Chandler**



### Save the date for the Village Fete!

**Saturday 2nd July 2022**

**We are pleased to confirm the BBH Gala Association Village Fete is planned to be at The Common again next year - a fun event for the whole village to enjoy!**

I've been asked to give a few words about myself and why I decided to become a Parish Councillor.

Having worked for an airline for 35+ years, I decided to leave. My husband also retired at the same time.

I guess the Covid pandemic made us reflect a little.

Our children have all fled the nest, so I'm now lucky enough to have the time to try and give back a little.

Becoming a Parish Councillor is all very new, and I have so much to learn, so different from my previous experience.

I know I will be unable to please everyone all the time, but rest assured I will do my best to represent our community. I guess what we all aim for is a happy and safe place to live. A tall order but I'll do my best!

*Debbie*

Just about two years ago, as I moved into Broadbridge Heath reports began emerging of a coronavirus being increasingly troublesome in China. Well, we all know what happened next, so it meant that my first real introduction into the village was at a 2m distance. Seeing all those smiling, friendly faces, hearing how people were looking after each other, I knew that I had found a good place to live.

Then the suggestion was made that I put my name forward to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Not something I had thought about, but a perfect opportunity to join in, to help, be useful and be part of the community. So, I was co-opted, only a few months ago – willing, yes, but not quite sure what was entailed. What I have found is so much more than I was expecting. There are lots of busy people working quietly behind the scenes to keep this lovely village of ours a beautiful and safe place to live. Not just the visible aspects – the poppies, the wildflowers, fun fairs, or the Christmas lights but village planning and development, construction, law and order, traffic, winter weather plans, dog bins, footpaths, memorial benches, sports facilities. . . the list goes on.

I thank you for your welcome and hope to do 'my bit' helping to look after this little corner of West Sussex.

*Sarah*

## The Three Tiers of Local Government

Our local government consists of three tiers of authorities. The Parish Council is your local and lowest tier of local Government. It is formed of 13 Councillors and represents the Community of Broadbridge Heath, making decisions on its behalf.

The responsibilities of local services are divided as below:

<b>Broadbridge Heath Parish Council</b>	These responsibilities apply to Parish Council owned parks and open spaces: Open spaces, including grass-cutting; Litter bins; Benches; Recreational Areas; Play Areas; Bus Shelters; Noticeboards; Litter picking; Top Common Nature Area; War memorial <a href="http://www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk">www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Horsham District Council</b>	Refuse collection; Waste and recycling; Dog bins and dog fouling; Social Housing; Environmental Health; Business Rates; Council Tax; Open spaces (some); Tourist Information; Planning Services; Economic redevelopment; Car Parks <a href="http://www.horsham.gov.uk">www.horsham.gov.uk</a>
<b>West Sussex County Council</b>	Highways; Footpaths; Roads maintenance; Street Lighting; Education; Children's Services; Social Services; Trading Standards; Health; Libraries <a href="http://www.west sussex.gov.uk">www.west sussex.gov.uk</a>



## Clerk & RFO welcome

It feels far longer than 12 months since I wrote the update for our last newsletter— It has

been a year of change and adaptation as everyone has been learning to negotiate life alongside Covid and the many complications it has introduced to our lives.

During 2020 we adapted to running all our meetings remotely, and a scheme of delegation was introduced to ensure council activities could continue with no detriment to our community. Covid legislation, allowing remote meetings, ceased this Summer requiring us to return to face-to-face meetings from July. Details of our meetings are available on our website. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public so please do come along to find out more about our activities and projects.

Unfortunately we still await the transfer of the Parish Office. We are very much looking forward to working from the office and having a base from which to introduce drop-in sessions, face to face forums and to facilitate so much of our usual activity from a base central to the community.

During lockdown we established a monthly virtual community forum, inviting various community groups to update everyone on activities and share ideas and plans. The collaboration proved beneficial, and we plan to hold similar sessions in the new office. We also hope to offer the space to community groups where schedules allow.

With the imminent transfer of many parcels of land on the Wickhurst Green development and the Solomon's Seal allotments, comes a larger area of opportunity and responsibility. As the council evolves to meet additional resource requirements, we are currently recruiting. See our website and Facebook pages for details of 2 exciting opportunities to join our team!

Due to publication deadlines, I am writing this article on the eve of Thanksgiving, which feels poignant as this publication allows me the opportunity to offer my personal thanks to many people who contribute to and support our community.

There are many residents who offer their time to the community, whether by helping a neighbour, litter picking, volunteering or contributing to the

running of one of the many community groups in the village. Thank you for caring and helping to make Broadbridge Heath a better place.

A particular thanks to our Councillors who contribute to the works of the Parish Council, giving their time and supporting their community. We welcomed 3 new councillors in July – you can read about their experience so far on page 2. We currently have 2 vacancies for the role of councillor – if this may be of interest to you, please see page for details and get in touch.

I would like to express my special thanks to Olivia who, since joining us in September 2020, has become a valued and integral part of the team, contributing to the daily and strategic operations of the council. Olivia has a passion for the village, and her role in making Broadbridge Heath the best it can be. I look forward to working with Olivia as we move forward in this hugely evolving time for the parish council.

Please do get in touch if you have any issues with which we may be able to help, or with your ideas and suggestions. May I wish you, your families and loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

*Lucinda*

Clerk and RFO



## Message from Olivia, Assistant Clerk

Hi. I'm Olivia, Assistant Clerk, and you may recall I wrote in the last newsletter (Winter 2020) having just joined the BBHPC team in September. I can't believe how quickly the last year has gone and that I've been with the BBHPC for now 14 months!

On a personal note, initially, I felt 2021 would be easier than 2020, but it has been again challenging at times, something I'm sure we can all relate to. The role has been more varied than I first expected and challenging when projects

have become more complex than initially planned due to external factors.

It has been a real privilege to get to see how many people care about the village, and the environment where they live. I have enjoyed chatting and liaising with residents when attending some of the areas the Parish Council are responsible for. On occasions the liaison has been regarding issues in the village but it's always so apparent that people care, and a reminder that communication is very important.

The new Parish Office will be a great asset to the Community and an opportunity to allow more focussed community engagement, something I'm looking forward to supporting the delivery of for the Parish Council and its residents.

I've primarily been involved in Recreation Committee actions and progressing these projects, but it was

great to be able to see the return to face-to-face meetings when I attended my first in-person Parish Council Meeting in July.

Green Gym and other local volunteers have again been invaluable this year to support with planting and maintenance projects and I would really like to build on Volunteering initiatives with Parish Council projects next year, particularly as we move into our new office.

We have a new Interpretation Board which will soon be finalised for the Top Common Nature Area and progression of the play area at the Village Centre to look forward to. There are many other ongoing projects to pursue, whilst ensuring the day-to-day responsibilities and activities of the Parish Council continue.

With kind regards and best wishes this Winter.

*Olivia*

# Parish projects

## Wildflower area

After the sowing of seed last Autumn, this year saw the first growth of wildflowers in the two wildflower areas at the downgraded bypass.



With consent from WSCC, our Grass Contractor regularly maintained a margin around the perimeter of the area and cut a winding path through the wildflowers. We know the path and flowers were enjoyed by residents with many butterflies and other insects, birds and even a slow worm spotted!

In early October the area had a hard cut and the vegetation was removed. The cut vegetation is removed to avoid a build-up of nutrients in the soil as wildflowers grow best in poor soil and without the competition from rank grasses.

The sowing of wildflower seeds in this area was a first for BBHPC; thank you to David Bridges for his continued support and to the Wilder Horsham District Project for their advice.

The Parish Council is looking forward to seeing what grows back next year and will closely monitor to consider the appropriate maintenance needs for the area.

## Other work and progressions in the village this year include:

- A new picnic bench installed at Charrington Way Recreation area
- Top Common improvements including annual maintenance and the development of an Interpretation Board to be installed soon!
- Spring bulb planting at the Common
- A Throwline, new fence, and Duck sign at the Ducky, also an ecological survey of the pond for future discussion by the Council
- 2 new Dog-Bag dispensers installed at the Common and the one at Charrington Way moved nearer to the path
- Hanging Baskets
- Street Poppies
- HDC have been contracted to empty the village bins since the Summer and a deep clean of the Ducky play equipment and benches was carried out
- Tree works in the village were completed as identified in the Tree Survey
- General maintenance of PC assets and Grass Cutting



This list isn't conclusive but is a snippet of work and ongoing projects for the village.

## The Triangle Area Landscaping Project

The Triangle landscaping project (pictured left) commenced late November and we hope the first couple of phases may be complete as this Newsletter reaches your home. This is the area that corners Billingshurst Road and Old Guildford Road.

This project was delayed from last year but has been funded by CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds linked to the new developments in the village.

Updates have been previously shared on our Facebook page and nearby homes informed.

The project will see a new Wildflower seeded area, but with the seed to be sown next year. The hedge to the rear of the area has unfortunately died and will be removed but replaced with some Photinia Red Robin hedge plants that will grow over time. Overhanging vegetation will be cut back to ensure full access to the adjacent footpaths.



Green Gym Volunteers bulb planting



Councillors Christine Knight and Sarah Chandler supporting the planting



# Your Parish Council

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council aims to represent the interests of the residents of the parish as a whole and to preserve the environment for the enjoyment of villagers, visitors, and future generations. The Council is responsible for a range of services, and works in partnership with other organisations in the locality.

For further information visit [www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk](http://www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk)

**Parish Clerk & RFO:**

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**Assistant Parish Clerk:**

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## Parish Councillors

**Chair: Terry Oliver**

[oliver.t@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.t@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk)

**Sarah Chandler**

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**Debbie Lambert**

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## District Councillors

**Matt Allen**

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**Louise Potter**

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## County Councillor

**Christian Mitchell**

07710 402115

[christian.mitchell@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:christian.mitchell@westsussex.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month. They are open to the public and are preceded by a session for public comments. Council meetings take place in the St. John's Community Hall (until the new Parish Office is up and running). All agendas and minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website [www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk](http://www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk). Agendas are also published on the notice board at the One Stop Shop, Billingshurst Road.



## Essential Services

### Horsham District Council

Abandoned cars, dog fouling, fly tipping, or litter and graffiti, you can report it online. Find the problem you need to report on this link: [www.horsham.gov.uk/report](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/report)

**Love West Sussex** a cloud-based service for reporting environmental crime such as graffiti, or potholes in the road through their mobile phones.

[love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home](http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home)

### PCSO Michael Gamble – Police Community Support Officer for Broadbridge Heath

We will continue to liaise with PCSO Gamble and Sussex Police to ensure the village is best supported in any Police matters.

PCSO Gamble can be contact at [michael.gamble@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:michael.gamble@sussex.pnn.police.uk)



**Operation Crackdown** is a joint initiative run by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police which gives the Sussex community an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving/riding as well as any abandoned vehicles left on the roads. [www.operationcrackdown.org/](http://www.operationcrackdown.org/)

### How to contact Sussex Police:

For emergencies always call 999.

For non-emergency matters report online through the Sussex Police website [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) or call 101.

## Vacancy in the office of Councillor for BBHPC

People often feel very strongly about what's going on around them but are not sure how to influence matters. You can make a difference by becoming a Parish Councillor. Broadbridge Heath Parish Council has 13 seats but currently only 11 are filled and therefore there are 2 seats vacant for Co-Option.

Being a councillor can be a very rewarding way of contributing to your community. It need not involve a huge commitment although it will require a certain amount of time.