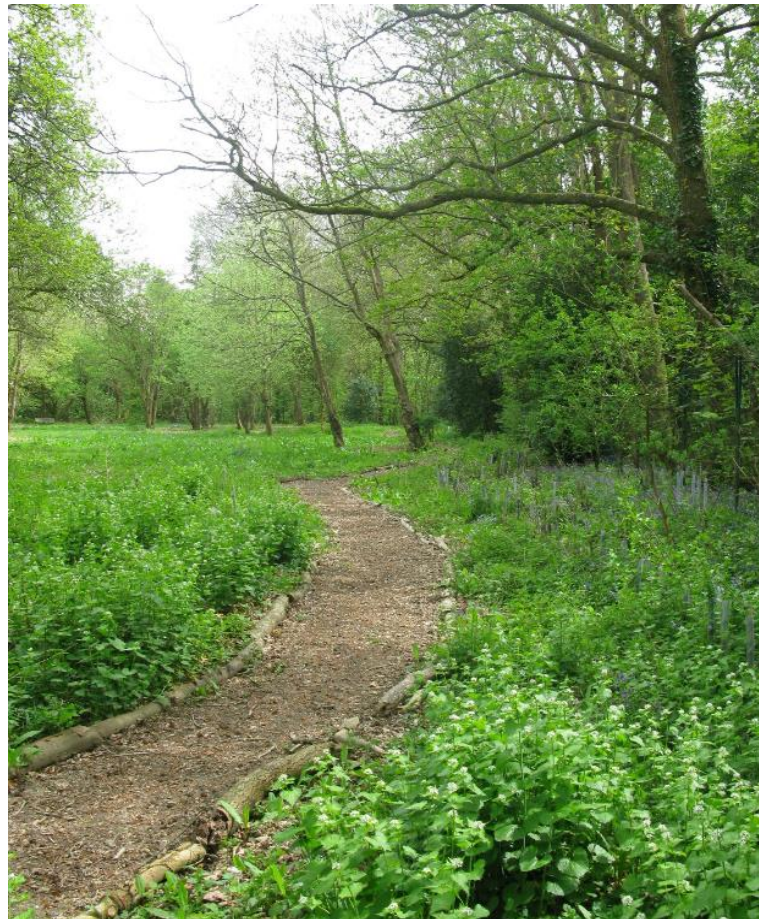


BROADBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



Broadbridge Heath Top Common Nature Area

Contact email: clerk@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As Chairman of Broadbridge Heath Parish Council I am very pleased to introduce the new style Annual Report for 2017/18.

The past year has been one of several changes for the Parish Council in terms of staff and councillors. However, all seems to have settled down and we now have an excellent team working on behalf of our community. Jo Ball joined us in October as our new Clerk and in February Lucinda Edwards was appointed as the Assistant Clerk. They both bring a wealth of valuable experience from their previous roles and are full of enthusiasm and ideas to improve the village.

We also have two new councillors, Ian Blunnie and Philip Turner who joined us following the resignations of Jonathan England and Matthew Gaffer last summer.

Broadbridge Heath continues to change, with the new dwellings and care home north of old Guildford Road and the flats and houses on the site of former garages at Swann Way and Sleets Road.

These have all brought their own challenges which councillors have tried to address, working in conjunction with developers, statutory authorities and local residents.

The initial stages of the long-awaited traffic calming (necessary because of the impact of the new developments on our local roads) have been installed and it is hoped that when all the changes are in place it will deter the village being used as a rat run in the future.

We are currently working with the Village Centre Management Trustees on the project to improve the Village Centre in Wickhurst Lane in order to provide a building that is more suited to the expanding village. We are hoping to link this in with improvements to the recreation area behind the Centre and have some exciting plans for rejuvenating the play area.

Throughout this period of change it is important that the village works together and retains its identity. It is hoped that the opening of the Neighbourhood Centre and the downgrading of the current bypass, scheduled for early next year will help with this process.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, in particular Geoff Clark - Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Planning Committee, David Trangmar - Chairman of the Finance and Establishment Committee and Terry Oliver, Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

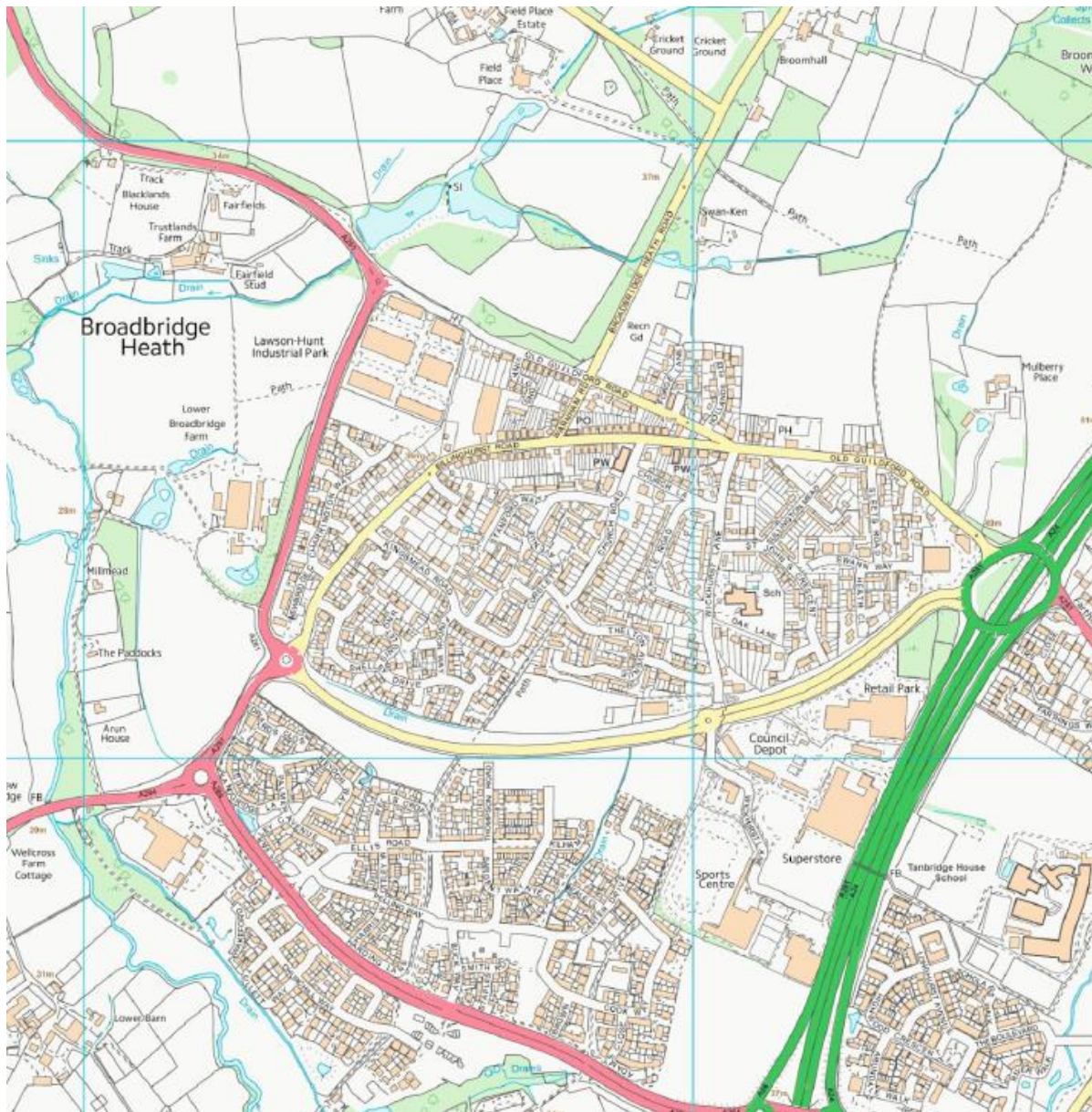
I must also mention John Pilkington our Environment Officer for his contribution in keeping the village and its amenities clean and safe.

Finally, thank you to Jo and Lucinda for all their hard work and commitment over the last few months and for putting together this Annual Report which I hope you find interesting.

Viv Edwards
Chairman Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

BROADBRIDGE HEATH

The parish covers approximately 216 hectares and in 2011, at the time of the last Census, had a population of 3,112. Since then there has been significant property development of the village, increasing the population considerably. The number of households in the village has almost doubled over the last 5 years, with 1,153 households in 2013 and over 2000 households now in 2018.



General Community Facilities

Broadbridge Heath has a primary school, two nursery schools, a post office and convenience store and a pub, and will soon have a newly built Neighbourhood Centre and Parish Office. The Village Centre currently provides space for many clubs, including the Broadbridge Heath Social Club, as well as meetings of many community groups and private functions. The

Village Centre is soon to be transformed to provide additional space for the whole village to utilise.

Toasties youth club, which is funded by the Parish Council, meets regularly at St John's Community Hall and is well attended with approximately 40 young people attending each week. The Scouts and Brownies are also very well established in the village.

The village has good bus links to Horsham and the surrounding villages.

Recreation and sports

Broadbridge Heath has a wealth of green recreation areas, four existing play areas, and two new play areas anticipated to be completed this summer. Two new allotments sites are currently being created, one in the Solomon's Seal development and one in the Wickhurst Green development, these will be a very welcome addition to the village.

The Bridge, the large new leisure centre owned by Horsham District Council, is currently under construction and will provide brand new all weather pitches and a skate park. The new Football Club Pavilion is almost complete and together with the adjacent football pitches this will provide a new home for the successful village football club.

Broadbridge Heath also has well established Tennis, Cricket, Stoolball and Football Clubs, who are very welcoming to new members.

PARISH COUNCIL

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council is a civil local authority and is the first tier of local government. It is an elected body with tax raising powers representing over 2,000 households in the parish. Civil parish councils should not be confused with Parochial church councils which administer parishes of the Church of England. Parish Councils are sometimes known as community, neighbourhood, village or town councils but all have the same powers and duties.

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council continuously works towards improving the local area by providing services at a local level. Through an extensive range of discretionary powers we provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including open spaces, play parks and equipment, benches, bus shelters, and litter bins.

The Parish Council as a corporate body meets at St John's Community Hall monthly (apart from August) and there are regular scheduled meetings of the Parish Council's Committees – Finance and Establishment, Planning and Recreation.

Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees usually start at 7.45pm, are held in public and everyone is welcome to attend. There is fifteen minutes set aside at the beginning of all Council and Committee meetings for residents of the parish to ask questions or express a view about matters on the agenda.

Details of meetings, including a calendar of meetings can be found on the Parish Council's notice boards which are situated across the parish and on the Parish Council's website www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Council consists of 13 Councillors. The Parish Council is a corporate body and no one councillor can work or make decisions in isolation. All Councillors carry out their duties voluntarily and although the Council has the power to pay allowances Broadbridge Heath Councillors have decided not to claim theirs.

Councillors do much more than just attend the monthly meetings and committee groups where policies, procedures and practices are constantly reviewed, they are also involved in projects for really improving the village; their work involves taking part in many parish activities; dealing with varying residents issues and representing Broadbridge Heath Parish Council on many outside bodies.

Parish Councillors are active in the community, working together to bring local issues to the attention of the District and County councils and making decisions on behalf of the local community.

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council employs three part-time members of staff. Parish Clerk (including the role of Responsible Financial Officer), Assistant Clerk and an Environmental Officer. The Council is committed to developing and nurturing its staff through training and opportunities for growth and all staff are given the opportunity to attend relevant short courses to improve their skill base.

FINANCE

The Parish Council is funded by the Precept and an Environmental Cleansing Grant. Other income is from rental of other assets. The table below shows actual income and expenditure for 2017/18 (VAT paid / reclaimed is not included).

Income

Precept	£98,548.00
Rent/Insurance	£290.00
EC Grant 2015/6	£7,377.00
Funfair	£315.00
Interest on all bank accounts	£1,298.31
HDC S106 Village Centre Project (some relates to previous year)	£24,451.07

Expenditure

Staff costs	£30,689.19
Administration	£10,672.37
Open spaces	£22,580.66
Youth worker	£11,449.42
Village Centre Project (paid by s106 funds)	£14,866.89
Community grants	£2,022.50

The Parish Council started the financial year with cash Reserves of £144,213. At 31st March 2018 these had risen to £189,636, the increase is largely due to VAT rebates and s106 money from previous years being paid to the Parish Council.

Within the Reserves, the Parish Council holds funds earmarked for identified purposes such as renewal of play equipment and other assets owned by the Parish Council.

Grants

The Parish Council is pleased to have supported activities which benefited the local community during 2017/18. Details of grants made during 2017/18 are shown below -

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT £
St John's Church	Summer camp	£500
Broadbridge Heath Football Club	General	£750
The Royal British Legion	Wreath for 11/11	£17
Green Gym	Thanks for the work completed at the Top Common	£100
BBH Community Publications	Contribution to 6 months publication of the village magazine.	£655.50

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES DURING 2017/18

This year the Parish Council showed its respects for long serving and dedicated Broadbridge Heath Parish Councillor Malcolm Curnock, by installing a Memorial Bench in the triangle between Old Guildford Road and Billingshurst Road, providing a place for Malcolm's friends and family to sit and remember him.

The nature conservation work on the Top Common continues, and this is having a very positive effect on the wildlife in the area, with several sightings of rare butterflies. This is now a lovely place to take a walk and enjoy the flowers, butterflies and birds.

The Parish Council joined residents for a spring clean and litter picking afternoon and our environment officer continues to focus on keeping the village tidy.

The Parish Council has had some input into the Traffic Calming scheme and we await its full completion to measure the impact on the village.

Horsham District Council have the overall responsibility for planning, however all planning applications made that relate to the village have been reviewed and commented on by the Planning Committee, and changes have been made as a result of this feedback and involvement.

Councillors have also worked hard on a variety of other issues such as looking after our recreation and play areas and improving the street scene with hanging baskets, bulbs and the soon to be erected flag pole.

In conjunction with the Village Centre Management Trustees, councillors have been involved with the project to renovate the Village Centre which is almost ready to move into the delivery phase. With a significant upgrade planned, this will see additional community space available and an overall much improved facility for the village. This is being funded by s106 money from the housing development and could be supplemented by a loan made by the Parish Council.

The Environment Officer carries out weekly litter picking and ensures the playparks are in good working order, carrying out maintenance as required.

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES...who does what?

Municipal services within Broadbridge Heath are provided by three tiers of Local Government – West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council and Broadbridge Heath Parish Council. All Councils work together, but each authority has its own areas of responsibility and service delivery. Below is an overview of which authority provides each service.

BROADBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL	Singleton Road play area Charrington Way play area The Ducky play area	The Common recreation ground Seats Litter bins
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	The Village Centre play area Bus shelters Notice Boards Litter Picking	Dog bins Open spaces including grass cutting
HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL	Refuse collections Waste and Recycling collection Dog fouling Social Housing Environmental Health Business Rates Council Tax	Open spaces (some) Tourist Information Planning Services Economic Redevelopment Car Parks For more details on HDC visit their website www.horsham.gov.uk
WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL	Libraries Highways Footpaths Roads maintenance Street Lighting Education Children's Services	Social Services Trading Standards Health For more details on WSCC visit their website www.westsussex.gov.uk

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS AT MAY 2018

Viv Edwards (Chairman)
Geoff Clark (Vice Chairman)
Ian Blunnie
Philip Turner
Penny Hayles
Philip Hobgen
Christine Knight
David Milbank
Roy Neilson
John Newton
Terry Oliver
David Trangmar
Jeanne Coker