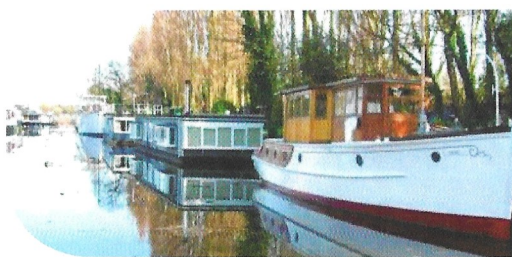


# Newsletter

Autumn 2023



## Chairman's Introduction

The Village is under increasing pressure from several different issues:

- The apparent need to build dwellings adjacent to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on grade 2 agricultural land that should be growing crops to help increase our country's self-sufficiency in food
- Year by year increasing numbers of vehicles using the roads at inappropriate speeds which particularly affects the safety of pedestrians and cyclists
- Poor surface water drainage, poorly maintained ditches and culverts in some areas, and the ongoing and well-published issues with foul water and sewage treatment capacity
- The unseen and increasing pollution of the water in Chichester Harbour which we now know, through increased data collection, is also affecting Pagham Harbour.

The Parish Council and other statutory organisations are working to reduce some of these pressures and so improve the area in which we live. Progress is variable and always there is bureaucracy to encounter and rules and regulations to follow.

The Birdham Speed Watch group are succeeding in gathering data and pursuing the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to change the speed limits.

There is some good news for the Village and some examples are provided later in this newsletter.

**Timothy Firmston**

## Birdham Village Drop-In hosted by Birdham Parish Council – 28th October

Once a year your Parish Councillors host an event to which you are warmly invited. We provide free coffee, tea and cake together with the opportunity to find out what the Parish Council has been doing recently and possible plans for the near future.

It is an informal opportunity to meet up with local councillors and your fellow Birdham residents and talk with local folk from different organisations. There are a lot of different clubs and initiatives going on in the village, and we hope to bring many of these together in this new "one-stop shop" approach.

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## Birdham Village Drop-In – continued

**10.00am to 12.00 noon, Saturday 28th October 2023 at Birdham Village Hall (next to the playground)**

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US**, even just for ten minutes!

Everyone is welcome to drop in when they can.

County and District Councillors will join the Parish Councillors to answer your questions on current local issues, such as:

- planning applications
- the CDC Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan (what these are and why they matter)
- speed limits and controls on local roads
- what the Parish Council can – and cannot – do

Additional subjects for discussion and chat might include:

- Local groups and clubs (many will be present on the day)
- Activities/facilities for children and young people
- Ideas for new community uses for the Village Hall, e.g. Repair Café, Internet Café, *Tea and Tech* (help with technology glitches), a Table Tennis club
- Local transport
- Green initiatives such as recycling, rewilding, improving footpaths and cycling routes...

... and any other topics you wish to raise.

We'd love to hear your ideas and concerns, as well as giving you the chance to meet your local Councillors, learn about local volunteering opportunities, and generally talk with people in your community.

**Get Involved** – If you think you might like to get involved helping with this meeting, please call either [Catherine \(07900 255822\)](tel:07900255822) or [Jan \(07771 872787\)](tel:07771872787).

## Birdham Speed Watch and Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

Birdham Community Speed Watch (CSW) continues to monitor the speed of vehicles. The data is being used to support the application for a 20mph TRO in the village. Birdham Parish Council has funded a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which will be located at one of three village sites. The SID will record speeds on Crooked Lane, Church Lane and Bell Lane. A more complete explanation and map of the proposed SID locations will be found on the Birdham Parish Council website.

Please note that more volunteers are required and will be warmly welcomed.

Please contact either Mike Evans on 01243 514095 or David Thompson on 01243 514349, who are the Birdham CSW coordinators.

The TRO will hopefully succeed in changing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph on some of the busier internal village roads such as Crooked Lane, Church Lane, Westlands Lane and Martins Lane. Discussions have started and are continuing with West Sussex County Council Highways who are the authority that finally decides these proposals.

There is increasing activity in other parts of the United Kingdom in changing the speed limit in residential areas to 20mph.



## Playground and Playing Field Additions

To commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, a new bench has been installed on the playing field together with an inscribed plaque.



An all-weather footpath has been laid along the north side of the playing field to ensure better and drier access from the small wooden footbridge by the A286 to the side of the Village Hall and thence to Crooked Lane. We hope dog-walkers and those walking to and from the primary school in particular will benefit during wet weather. The soil which was removed to lay the footpath has been formed into a bund in the corner of the field to be sown with a grass mixture during the autumn. The mixture to be used should help the biodiversity and wildlife of this area.



A second set of football goals has been erected with the intention of providing sufficient ground space to offer 7-a-side football. We hope the area will once again be used as a *playing* field by young and older folk alike.

In the playground, recent additions are a wooden see-saw and a set of monkey bars. The old suspension bridge has been replaced with a new one.



The Parish Council is seeking ideas from residents and their children/ grandchildren on additional items they think would enhance the playground and/or the playing field. Please email [clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk) or telephone 01243 575094.

## Birdham's Community Resilience Plan

Although there are no statutory responsibilities for communities to plan for, respond to, or recover from emergencies, it is good practice to identify hazards and make simple plans on how they could respond to them.

### Aim

To increase resilience within the local community through developing a robust co-ordinated approach that complements the plans of responding agencies.

### Objectives

- Identify the risks to the community and relevant response actions
- Identify vulnerable people/groups in the community
- Identify capacity and resources in the community available to assist during an emergency
- Provide key contact details for the Community Team, Key Community Resources, the Emergency Services and Local Authorities

### Scope

The Plan covers the Parish of Birdham and is intended to complement the existing emergency services' provision and will operate if the need arises with a major emergency and should the normal external responses not be available or curtailed in their ability to reach or support Birdham.

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# Birdham's Community Resilience Plan – continued

## Response

In normal circumstances the response to a major emergency would come from the inter-agency arrangements formalised between the Emergency Services, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council. Sussex Police would probably take the initial lead in co-ordinating the operation.

It is therefore important that the Parish's Community Resilience Plan, a copy of which has been lodged with CDC and West Sussex County Council, fits with the inter-agency arrangements.

## Parish Councillors, Clerk and Parish Meetings

The Parish has an allocation of nine councillors, and there are currently seven in post. Each can be contacted by their parish council email address.

### Councillors

Gordon Churchill	<a href="mailto:gordonchurchill@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">gordonchurchill@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Jan Devos	<a href="mailto:j.devos@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">j.devos@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Timothy Firmston	<a href="mailto:timothyfirmston@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">timothyfirmston@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Chairman	
Elizabeth Hamilton	<a href="mailto:e.hamilton@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">e.hamilton@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Stephen Hastings	<a href="mailto:s.hastings@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">s.hastings@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Catherine Salamons	<a href="mailto:c.salamons@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">c.salamons@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Vice Chair	
Susan Taylor	<a href="mailto:s.taylor@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">s.taylor@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	
Imogen Whitaker	<a href="mailto:clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

## Postal Address

**Birdham Parish Council, Birdham Village Hall, Crooked Lane, Birdham PO20 7HA.**

If you would like to be part of the Parish Council and are considering applying, then please contact the Parish Clerk, Chairman or Vice-Chair for some information on what is involved. Their contact information is provided above.

## Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (apart from August) commencing at 7.00pm in the Village Hall in Crooked Lane. Meetings are open to members of the public and at the start of each meeting there is the opportunity for any person to ask a question with no prior notice.

Residents are encouraged to attend.

If you wish to have regular agendas, minutes of council meetings and other parish council information sent to you by email please contact the Parish Clerk as listed above and pass on your request.

11th October	10th January 2024	10th April
8th November	14th February	8th May
13th December	13th March	12th June