



What can we do for the village?

On Thursday, 4th May, East Preston elected its full compliment of thirteen councillors, uncontested. The council takes this as a vote of confidence in what it has achieved over the past four years as 12 of the 13 councillors elected have been in post for at least three-and-a-half years.

The council goes into the new four-years council term in a great position – there is a lot of continuity from the existing council, meaning projects already underway can continue without the need to go back over old ground unnecessarily. The one new councillor bringing us up to full strength, Cllr Helen Hill, has been attending council meetings for some time already and will soon be up to speed.

Please get in touch, as we genuinely want to know what you would like to see change or stay the same in the village over the next four years. Whilst we do not have a magic wand and do not have control over everything people would like to see change or stay the same, we do have good working relationships with other authorities such as West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council, Sussex Police, Network Rail and the National Health Service.

Together we can all work together to make East Preston a village for the second half of the 2020s without losing any of its valuable history.

Here is a full list of councillors:

Christine Bowman	The Ridings
Kit Bradshaw	Parade Mansions, Sea Road
Andrea Chapman	Arlington Crescent
Lisa Duff	North Lane
Barbara Gale	Sea Road
John Gunston	The Street
Helen Hill	Willowhayne Avenue
Elizabeth Linton	Madehurst Close
Glyn Mathias	Tamarisk Way
Rick McElroy	North Lane
David Moore	Willowhayne Avenue
Steve Toney	North Lane
Steve Wilkinson	Angmering-on-Sea

Members of the public are asked to direct enquiries for individual councillors through the Council Office. All named correspondence will be passed on to the appropriate councillor(s).

In this photo:

(back row l-r) (back row l-r) Christine Bowman, Rick McElroy, Andrea Chapman, John Gunston, Steven Wilkinson, Glyn Mathias, David Moore.

(front row l-r) Barbara Gale, Kit Bradshaw, Steve Toney (Chairman), Elizabeth Linton (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Duff, Helen Hill. (Photograph courtesy of Bob Billinghurst)



Banner photo: the East Preston Festival 2023 (2nd to 11th June) brochure cover

East Preston Neighbourhood Plan

East Preston Parish Council is about to update our Neighbourhood Plan (EPNP) combined with a new Design Code for the village. So, what are these documents and their purpose?

The Plan gives East Preston direct power to develop a shared vision of our neighbourhood and deliver sustainable development where needed. It also enables the parish council to provide a robust set of tools to ensure that we get the right types of development in our community and to set planning policies which Arun District Council can use when determining decisions on planning applications.

EPPC is setting up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to produce an updated Plan and we would like parishioners, passionate about our lovely village, to join in with this task. We appreciate how busy everybody is, however, your commitment could be tailored to your availability. The plan is to submit our updated EPNP to Arun District Council by March 2024.

If you are interested and would like to talk to us more, please come along to East Preston Infant School at 18:30 on Monday, 5th June, or the Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event on 8th June at 10:00 at the Council Office. Alternatively, email me for more information – cllr.christine.bowman@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk.



East Preston Festival 2023

Friday 2nd June to Sunday 11th June

Come along to East Preston's annual ten-day celebration of village life with nearly 80 events and activities to enjoy. Entertainment mixes the new with the traditional and full details of them all are in the Festival programme, available from village shops and businesses. Don't miss the competitions - you could win a cash prize. Why not have a go at building a scarecrow this year?

On Saturday, 10th June, the Festival Parade leaves Vicarage Lane at 1.15pm arriving at Lashmar Recreation Ground at 2.30pm. It will be led by the Littlehampton Sea Cadets Band followed by the Festival Ambassadors and local community groups, all costumed to represent this year's theme of 'Musicals'. On Sunday 11th, the popular Festival Dog Show takes place on the village green, once again hosted by sports presenter John Inverdale. Following the dog show, at approximately 3.15pm, the Festival Grand Prize Draw will be held with fabulous prizes to be won.

Every year festival arrangements become more demanding and we are hoping to widen our team of volunteers. We especially need people with IT skills. If you want to help continue this great tradition in our village please email eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.

The Festival Committee



Come and Meet Your Local Councillors

Once again, on the Thursday morning of Festival week, the council invites you to join it for a hot drink and a piece of cake to tell us what you like and don't like about the village.

Between 10:00 and 12:00 on 8th June, councillors will be at the Council Office ready to chat with you. Specific timeslots can be booked or you can just drop in.

Funday Sunday

Thank you to everyone who attended our sold-out event on 30th April. Fifty of you enjoyed afternoon tea and live entertainment from Vintage Candy. This was the fourth Funday Sunday we have run. Here are a couple of pieces of feedback received:

"Thank you so much for all your hard work in arranging the Tea Dance on Sunday. The entertainment was first class and the tea amazing!!"

"Just to say, my husband, friends and I had a great time on Sunday at the Funday. We'd like to thank all involved for making it such a success."

We look forward to running similar events in the future.

East Preston Village Bus

Residents will be delighted to hear that the village bus will be starting on Tuesday, 30th May.



The service will run hourly in both directions on a daily basis, Monday to Friday. The route will be from Littlehampton Tesco, along the coast road past the Wave leisure centre, through Rustington, and into East Preston via Vicarage Lane. The service will pass close to the North and South shops in East Preston, before turning around Willowhayne Crescent and onto Rustington Sainsbury's. There will be numerous bus stops on all roads along the route, bus passes will be honoured.

Unfortunately, the delayed start was due to circumstances beyond our control. Hopefully, your regular use of this service will ensure its continuation after the initial trial period is over and, hopefully, with your help the service will become permanent.

**** Please note, as 30th May falls in the middle of the distribution period for this newsletter, it is possible you have only received this newsletter after the service has started.**

On the Verge

According to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, we've lost 97% of UK wildflower meadows since the 1930s. We are all being encouraged to grow more wildflowers to help support insects vital for pollination and as a food source for other animals, as well as having a beneficial effect on our wellbeing. With this in mind I decided to have a go at planting wildflowers on the verge outside my house.

West Sussex County Council will grant a free licence to plant shrubs, flowers or grass on highway land and they were very quick to respond to and approve my request for a Licence to Plant (www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-licences/planting-licence/). In the autumn of 2021, following the advice given on the Kew website, I purchased my native wildflower seeds from one of their suggested suppliers, stripped off the turf and sowed the seeds.

Some plants have tried to take over - creeping buttercup in the first year and dandelions this year. Although both are native and provide a splash of colour I have cleared some from the patch to encourage other varieties to grow. When wildflowers appear in the garden or start to spread too vigorously I use these to top up any bare areas in the patch on the verge. Apart from this the area does not need much maintenance. Wildflowers do not need any feeding or watering and I only mow the area in the autumn after the flowers have set seed.

I am enjoying watching the wildflower patch develop and grow, and would encourage anybody to give it a go, not necessarily on a verge - why not try a patch of your garden or even a windowbox to encourage more of those beneficial insects into the village?

Cllr John Gunston



Chairman's Annual Report for 2022-23

Cllr Steve Toney, Chairman of the Council, presented his annual report to the village's Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May.

"After the national challenges for 2020 and 2021, it was much easier in 2022 for the council to concentrate on local matters. Hopefully you have all read the Looking Back article we published in the Winter 2023 Newsletter a couple of months ago. In that article, you will have seen what my colleagues and I have found most rewarding about being a parish councillor in the past four years.

"On the whole, the past year has been another successful one for the council. Not only did we run a successful Food & Drink Festival, two successful half-day playschemes for local children, and a successful Christmas Celebrations event, we worked with the East Preston Festival Committee to host an enjoyable Big Jubilee Lunch on the Village Green, marking the 70th Year of Her Majesty the Queen's reign.

"We marked the jubilee in other ways too. All primary school age children in the village were given an embellished plastic drinks beaker; a Field Maple was planted to honour the Queen's reign; and, above all, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Clock was installed in the centre of the village, much-admired by almost everyone.

"On the day of that Big Jubilee Lunch in June, few of us imagined we would be mourning the passing of Her Majesty so soon. In addition to a small floral tribute hub on the Village Green, the council provided two condolence books. One was taken into two of the village's care homes, where residents shared memories of the Queen with Cllrs Gunston and Linton. One lady even remembered dancing on Brighton beach with the young Princess Elizabeth at the end of the Second World War.

"Elsewhere over the past year, in no particular order, the council has installed four new play panels on the Warren Recreation Ground. These are designed to be played by people of any age and any ability. To make these more accessible, we have doubled the width of the footpath that runs from the car-park to the northern side of the field. We hope you will all find some time to

enjoy them with your friends. New trees have been planted on both the Warren Recreation Ground and Two Acres.

"The Sea Road toilets were awarded Platinum Plus status in the Loo of the Year Awards. Thank you to anyone who uses the toilets responsibly.

"Following an illegal encampment on Langmeads Field, the council temporarily installed a concrete barrier at the vehicular entrance to the Warren Recreation Ground for the rest of the summer. The council is currently planning on installing some heavy duty, but attractive, gates to protect the Warren Recreation Ground more permanently, although it is probably impossible to make the ground 100% secure.

"The council dedicated a Warren Recreation Ground bench to the memory of our former colleague, Steve Rolph, and added a plaque to the memorial bench outside the Council Office, this in memory of former councillor, Mervyn Howdle.

"Towards the end of the council year, we started to run weekly Warm Space sessions, designed to provide a warm space for residents to spend some time without needing to have their home heating on. The sessions very soon acquired a core following, who would attend each week for a light lunch, lots of chat and, sometimes, some live music. Thank you to everyone who supported these sessions, especially the Royal British Legion, without whose support the sessions could not have been as successful.

"The council ran a successful Funday Sunday in April but, unexpectedly, the one scheduled for October was cancelled for poor ticket sales. At the end of the year, also being the end of the council's four-year term, the council hosted a party to thank many of the residents who voluntarily contribute to the village in so many ways.

"The council was very happy to take part in another successful Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary the Virgin Church, raising much-needed funds to guarantee the future of the only Grade I-Listed building in the village. Not only did we sponsor and decorate a tree, I'm proud to say several councillors and officers also baked cakes for sale in the event café.



Pictured left: Presenting flowers to Cllr Patricia Gander to thank her for eight years' service to the village.

"As always, the council awarded a number of grants to local and national organisations which work to improve life within the village. The council also underwrote the Festival Committee's insurance for the year. During the Festival, in addition to the popular annual Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event, the council hosted The Bell Orchestra. Although poor weather in the run up to the event kept numbers down, those who attended enjoyed their time in this interactive orchestra.

"The council commissioned a fourth blue plaque for the village. This honours the artist, Heywood Hardy, and will soon form part of the forthcoming East Preston heritage map we are producing.

"The Village Bus is still coming, it's just running a bit late. We had believed everything was in place with West Sussex County Council Highways, just waiting for us to say Go, but when we did say Go, we were unexpectedly sent back to square one pretty much, and this has delayed the bus service starting.

"As you will have seen in council newsletters, we have continued to support the new East Preston in Bloom and East Preston Men in Sheds groups in the village, steering them towards autonomy. Both provide new social outlets in the village.

"Once again, the council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return was signed off by the External Auditor with nothing requiring any attention.

"Additionally, the council's Planning & Licensing Committee responded to a large number of Planning Applications and a much lower number of Licensing Applications in the village during the year, and the council's Personnel Committee ensured councillors and officers continued to act with the best interests of the village at heart. The Planning & Licensing Committee also agreed to review the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan, look out for more on this in the coming months including an opportunity to get involved. The council also supported neighbouring parish councils in their objections to proposed major developments.

"On a smaller scale, the council's Environmental Initiatives Working Party has been steadily coming up with ideas for making the village more environmentally-friendly.

"The council has set up a 20MPH Working Party, which is working alongside the village Community Speed Watch team to look at where 20MPH could be introduced as a more appropriate speed limit in the village. Public support for the first proposal – for Fairlands, Sea Road and The Street – has been overwhelmingly in favour.

"I thank all my fellow councillors and the council's officers who work almost tirelessly it seems for the benefit of the village. They are all quiet, low-profile people, but I know they like to be thanked if you see them out and about!

"I particularly want to thank Cllr Patricia Gander, now a former councillor, for her brilliant and copious contributions to the council and the village since becoming a councillor in July 2015. We will miss you but look forward to bumping into you around and about the village, lending your wide expertise to all sorts of projects.

"Most importantly though, thank you to all of you who regularly show your faith in and support for the council. We hope to serve you by continuing to improve the village where we can. Thank you."

S. P. Toney

Steve Toney
Chairman, East Preston Parish Council



Come and join our sociable group "East Preston in Bloom". We welcome residents to join our group to enjoy the benefits of working outdoors, meeting new friends, and enhancing our sense of wellbeing. We aim to make East Preston Village a more attractive place, not only to its residents, but also to visitors. This is an opportunity for you to become involved in this recently formed group and to put forth your ideas for its future direction and growth in respect of social activities etc., and to enjoy the comradeship of joint gardening projects. **If you have Green Fingers, or would like to enhance our village, or just want to meet new friends please contact: admin@epinbloom.org.uk**

Carol Longman, Chairman

Free tennis coaching

For the seventh year running, the council is working in conjunction with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club to offer some free tennis coaching on the council's tennis court on the Warren Recreation Ground.

The hour-long sessions are kept to a maximum of eight participants and are led by the club's Head Coach, Andrew Cook.



This year's sessions are taking place at 10:00 on Fridays 23rd and 30th June and 7th July. Just in time for those of you inspired by Wimbledon.

To book a space, please email andrew.cooktennis@btinternet.com or call him on 07940 419655.



Commemorating King Charles III

The council has purchased a King Charles III commemorative coin for all pupils at East Preston Infant and Junior Schools. These were presented by Cllrs Gander, Linton and Moore on 26th April.

As before there are a small number available for members of the public to purchase. These will cost £5 each and come in an attractive presentation case, as you can see in the photograph. If you would like one, please call the Council Office on (01903) 770050, first come, first served.



GOD SAVE THE KING

Warren Recreation Ground updates

Several new attractions have recently arrived on the Warren Recreation Ground.

Beside the entrance from the car-park onto the field itself, East Preston Film Society has donated an outdoors chess and draughts table to the village. Players will need to bring their own pieces with them, although in due course it will be possible to hire a set from Cooper Adams. Below, Chairman of the Film Society, Paul Amoo, challenges Chairman of the Council, Cllr Steve Toney, to a game.



Meanwhile, in the north-east corner, the council has installed a bagatelle and three play panels. Each of these items has been designed and installed to be played by pretty much anyone, any age, any ability.



Whilst we are talking about the Warren Recreation Ground, the council will soon be installing new gates between the car-park and the field, as further deterrent to unauthorized vehicles using the field. East Preston Cricket Club and East Preston Village Preschool will have keys to the gate for use in an emergency and for maintenance. The council will also be installing some lighting in the car park.

Walking around our village

In an effort to encourage more people to enjoy all that East Preston has to offer the Parish Council is in the process of producing a walking tour of the village.

The map will highlight many of the historic buildings that are scattered around the village.

We are also planning to include some QR codes to access short films giving information about some of the lost buildings such as the workhouse and The Homestead.

The walk will start and finish at St Mary's Church and go as far south as the Coastguard Cottages. We hope that the map will not only give visitors some information on the history of East Preston but also provide residents with an excuse to walk around and learn some more about the place we call home.

Pictured above: A working draft of the map cover



ANPR* comes to East Preston

* Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Residents will have noticed some cameras appearing around the Village Green car park. The council's contractor for the management of the car park is implementing ANPR at the car park. We have asked the system is not switched on until 12th June, at the earliest.

This will save the contractor the expense of sending an attendant around a couple of times a day. This will enable the council to keep the hourly rate for the car park to 50p an hour.

Please remember the first 15 minutes in the car park are free, so if you are simply popping into a business at the southern end of the village, you only need to pay if you are going to be there for longer than 15 minutes.

Owing to the current complexities of ANPR, it will no longer be possible to offer free parking for Blue Badge holders. We will continue to look into how we can address this.

Village Life

June

- 2nd East Preston Festival Starts (until 11th)
- 5th Full Council (19:00)
- 8th Come and Meet Your Local Councillors (10:00 to 12:00, Council Office)
- 12th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)

July

- 3rd Full Council (19:00)
- 10th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
- 17th Personnel Committee (18:00)
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00)
- 24th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)

August

- 7th Full Council (19:00 tbc)
- 14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Amenities Committee (19:00)
- 21st Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)
- 26th East Preston Food & Drink Festival (12:00 to 17:00, East Preston Village Green)
- 29th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

Please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda and venue.
Please note the above list may be subject to change.

Thanks to....



Everyone who, on 2nd April, participated in the biggest Beach Clean for several years. Thanks to Melanie and SALT for refreshing participants and to Arun District Council and KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy) for their additional support of the event.

.....

Thanks to East Preston in Bloom for all the work they have carried out around the village now Spring has sprung, and to the East Preston Yarnbombers for this year's Easter project, much enjoyed by children of all ages.

.....

Thanks to those behind the 2023 Fairy Doors trail, which has also been enjoyed by children of all ages.

.....

Thanks to everyone who supported and enjoyed East Preston's Big Coronation Lunch on 7th May.

Council e-news

Would you like to be kept up to date with more East Preston news?

The Council has an email circulation list which is used to keep subscribers informed of local news and events. Subscriber details are not shared with any other organisation.

Please send us an email, details below, if you would like to subscribe to our email list – over 900 households and businesses already subscribe.



Please contact the office if you would like a large print version of this newsletter.



Contact point: Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Dawn Reid
Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1NN

Telephone: (01903) 770050 E-mail: clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk

Website: <http://eastpreston-pc.gov.uk/>

Arun District Council (01903) 737500 West Sussex County Council (01243) 777100

Designed by Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton BN17 5LF

Unless otherwise noted, this issue written by Simon Cross, Dawn Reid, Elizabeth Linton and Janine Nicholson.