PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Thanks to funding held by South Downs National Park, the scheme put together to improve the area behind the BP Garage was brought to a conclusion during the year, and was pleasingly appreciated by residents and the Parish Council alike, and the Council will continue with it's ongoing maintenance and additional planting.

Similar projects are currently being discussed in other areas of the village using the CIL monies being held.

The long-awaited inspection of the flooding issue at the bottom of Pyecombe Street, by a West Sussex Highways engineer resulted in no suitable solution for a possible scheme under 'Operation Watershed', however, a more regular clearance, including jettying the drains, would be carried out by contractors in future, to address the continuing flooding occurrence.

Flooding in another badly affected area next to the bus shelter on the slip road, adjacent to the BP garage, was of serious concern during the winter by freezing over, and although the affected area of road is 'dis-owned' by West Sussex Highways, they have agreed to assist in alleviating the problem.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation in the months ahead.

Joy Dennis has been our West Sussex County Council representative throughout the year and my thanks to her for the continuing assistance with the Parish Council.

It was with her help and support that we were able to push forward for a community highways scheme with West Sussex Highways to improve the SDNP crossing on the A273, which has now moved much higher up on their agenda, with the soon to be implemented, a reduction in the speed limit in this area.

Although we may not see anything substantial any improvement in safety for walkers, cyclists and equestrians alike would be very welcome.

Geoff Zeidler has been our Mid Sussex District Council representative in the past year, and my thanks to him for his assistance with the parish council.

Indeed, he has consistently together with ourselves pursued Mid Sussex District Council for an improvement plan for the children's play area, something we have persisted with for over eight years, with little success.

Despite the play area being of low priority status with Mid Sussex District Council, we were both surprised and disappointed when details of improvement plans were printed and put together by MSDC to be put forward for consultation with the village, which was not even discussed with us beforehand. Needless to say, we were not happy with the way it was handled, and now we await further details of a way forward.

County Council elections this year were cancelled for our area, following the Government decision to set up devolution, to include both East and West Sussex and Brighton, which once

approved will result in an election of a Mayor next year. For the combined area and one single unitary council, to begin in three years' time.

Whilst this may involve a lot of re-organisation for district, town and county councils, parish councils remain to continue in its current form. This could mean that any possible upgrade for our children's play area may be put into 'the long grass' for the time being.

A defibrillator was purchased during the year, and a suitable location was established, thanks to 'The Plough' to be installed and made available 24 hours to the village as well as the wider public, which, if needed, can save lives.

Additional litter bins will be in place around the village, to help keep our village tidy and I am aware that several residents still actively voluntarily give their time towards litter picking and path clearance. My thanks to them all, for taking the time to care about our village.

Both the village website and newsletter sponsored by the Parish Council, continue to keep residents informed and my thanks to Tim and Jane Cullen, as editors of the newsletter for their valued contribution.

Dawn Langston has been our Parish clerk and RFO throughout the year, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of council, and the community, to thank her for the total dedication and commitment shown to us all over the past year.

My thanks also, to my fellow councillors, in our voluntary role, for their contribution and assistance in the past year.

I take this opportunity to welcome all new residents to our village, and remind everyone that your Parish Council meets on a regular basis every other month, as a pubic meeting open to all.

David Wilson
Chairman, Pyecombe Parish Council
13th May 2025