PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

After many years of discussions and site meetings to establish any substantial improvement on the children's play area, we were delighted to have received the news in December last year that an upgraded plan that had been put forward by Mid Sussex District Council, was given approval for a grant from Veolia.

I know how much effort the council has put into pushing for this, as well as current and former parish and district councillors, and also our MP, on our behalf. Finally, a play area for children of varying ages in our rural village location, somewhere that parents and grandparents can safely accompany their children.

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

The A23 dual carriageway recently received National Highways resurfacing which included the Pyecombe area, however the same cannot be said of the state of the surrounding roads.

Speed reduction was introduced to the A273 in the Pyecombe area last year, and despite efforts in install a speed indicator sign (SID) in the area near the South Downs Way crossing, no suitable place was the advice deemed possible by West Sussex Highways. And so, our efforts to improve safety at this crossing, continues through discussions with West Sussex Highways, with a scheme to be introduced in the coming year.

Speeding traffic is a concern within the village, despite the 20mph speed limit, and a recent casualty makes this an issue to be addressed in the future, to make drivers more aware of walkers, horse riders and animals in the roads that have no pavements.

Recent county council elections meant that Joy Dennis stepped down from her role as our representative, and my thanks to her for the assistance with the parish council, after many years.

Flooding in two areas within the village continue to frustrate the parish council, and residents alike. The area at the bottom of Pyecombe Street did at least receive a thorough gully clearance in the past year, but clearly, that action needs to occur more frequently, whilst the area adjacent to the bus shelter, opposite the BP garage, is currently being put forward as a possible scheme under Operation Watershed. Both areas will be monitored closely by the parish council in the months ahead.

A litter pick was arranged by the parish council recently, when several residents joined us on the day, although I am aware that there are more residents who continue with this task, voluntarily, throughout the year. My thanks to you all, for taking time to care about our village.

Although Ken Grocott stood down from being a parish councillor earlier this year, he has continued to help the parish council with his tireless voluntary contributions, which I know is greatly appreciated by the 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 the 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 public meeting open to all.

David Wilson
Chair Pyecombe Parish Council
12th May 2026