



Trotton with Chithurst parish council

Serving the people of Trotton and Chithurst

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ANNUAL REPORT TO RESIDENTS

FROM YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL



It's your community . . .

How many of us reflect on how lucky we are to live in such a lovely area, where (most of) the locals welcome incomers for the energy and spending they bring into the community, the new residents are (mostly) willing to put something back into their new community, and (most of the time) we all rub along pretty well together.

That's easy for me to say, though - I've retired this year, own my own house, and can afford to live fairly well.

It's not so easy for the younger generations: there are fewer local jobs than there were in my youth; they can't afford to buy (or even rent) a home to bring up a family of their own; we tend

to miss out on government, county and district initiatives to create new jobs and the modern facilities like ultrafast broadband, the latest-G mobile services, etc that could bring work back out of the towns. And the National Park might protect our environment, but it arguably stifles housebuilding and economic development.

Some consider rural communities like ours to be endangered species, with shops and pubs closing, church congregations so low, and schools starved of cash by governments who judge education by statistics and look for test results ahead of happiness and readiness for an unpredictable life.

. . . help us to look after it

We can just accept this decline. Or we can do our best to stop it and keep a vibrant community in this beautiful place for those, like us, who don't want to move to the towns and cities. We can see if we can build houses for just local people, make more use of our church to help keep it going and provide a hub for more community events, bring in our own broadband, help our village schools to provide a better start in life for our children and grandchildren.

We only have about 125 households and 325 people, so we need to join up with others sometimes to get things done or get what we want. Our civil parish is Trotton with Chithurst; our churches are part of the joint benefice of Rogate and Trotton; our catchment school is Stedham Primary, and we use

the Elsted Inn for our monthly informal suppers—"First Friday".

We are still developing new links with surrounding communities and trying to come up with new joint initiatives to help our own community not just survive but prosper.

We have tried to summarise these efforts in this report. We have also tried to give an idea of where we need more help. I hope it will inspire you to volunteer to help with the Trotton fete, to sign up for a share and a vote in the Rogate & Trotton Community Land Trust and the Trotton Community Fund, to find out more about the proposed ultrafast broadband scheme—and to come up with more ideas of your own.

*Carola Brown,
Chairman, Trotton with Chithurst parish council*

DO YOU VALUE YOUR PRIVACY? - WE DO!

Under the new general data protection regulations, we need to publish a new "privacy policy" explaining what information we hold about you, who has access to it and what we do with it. We will do this on our website for all to see but the basics are:

- ◆ We keep the electoral register, including your name and address
- ◆ We keep contact details only if you agree to join one of our mailing lists for First Friday and other activities—and we will need to ask for your permission to add you to these

- ◆ We keep other information only if you send it to us as part of our normal work

Our clerk is the only person who has access to the data and it is kept on a secure "cloud" service, not on his -or any other—PC or device.



We use the information only for its stated purpose and will not add details you give us for one activity to use in another.

We will never give or share this information with anyone else without your consent.

Trotton Fete 1st September 2018

We still need help with setting up and / or manning some of the stands at this year's fete and we are always open to new ideas.

If you can help in any way, before or on the day, please call Di Hodgson on 01730 816689 or email her at:

dianeundertheoak@gmail.com

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WHO PAYS?

We have to work out a budget for the year ahead and tell our local district council (Chichester) how much we need (the "precept"). They divide this by the number of residents in our parish (currently around 270) and charge the appropriate amount as part of the rates they collect. Our precept for the current year is £3,000—the same as for the previous year — so we are charging each ratepayer about £11 per year to cover our costs.

Last year, we also managed to get £1,277 as a grant from SSE (see "Amenity project", this page) and £500 from NatWest as compensation for a serious account mistake they made. With £162 reclaimed VAT, our total income was £4,939, so over a third of our income came from outside sources.

OUR BUDGET FOR THIS YEAR

For the third year running, we have held our precept to £3,000, so we will be seeking external funding to help us to pay for the community projects covered on the facing page.

WHAT DO WE SPEND IT ON?

Our expenditure last year was:

Day to day costs

* Payroll *	£622 *
* Website	£352
* Insurance	£283
* Midhurst community bus	£250
* Professional bodies	£235
* Closed graveyard	£208
* Clerk training	£58
	£2,008

Optional spending **

* Amenity project	£2,943
* TOTAL SPENDING	£4,951

As our spending exceeded our income by just £12, our reserves remain at a healthy £4,784.

* As our clerk is voluntary, he has agreed to have his "salary" used to cover grass cutting at Trotton church, but we still keep this in the budget as "payroll" to allow for it in future.

** Optional spending was the cost of our "Amenity and resiliency project" (see article on this page).

THE YEAR IN TROTTON: 1 April 2017—31 March 2018

We ran or helped with a number of events in the parish, including:

- ◆ The Trotton bonfire and fireworks
- ◆ Saving St Mary's - Tobiah in concert
- ◆ Ragwort clearance day
- ◆ Cream teas at Trotton church



at Chithurst

- ◆ Parish clean-up
- ◆ Presentation by Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust
- ◆ Memorial corner work party
- ◆ Illustrated talk: the 11th century church



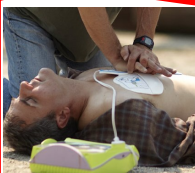
- ◆ Trotton church fete and duck race
- ◆ Tobiah: Are We Angels? concert

We handled 14 planning applications during the year. We only objected to one but the SDNPA planning team refused three of them. We also

PLANNING



met the SDNPA team to raise concerns about their communication, after collecting views from our neighbouring councils.

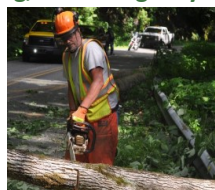


It saved a life in 2017 — would you know where it is, how to use it?

Charles Homan, other villagers and paramedics saved a cyclist's life in 2017 using the defibrillator we keep in the telephone box in Mill Lane.

Have a chain saw / 4WD, 1st aid training, for emergency?

If you're prepared to be called for help if we have a local emergency, join our community emergency register: fill in the attached form or go to "Sign on" on the "Community" menu on our website. **Vulnerable neighbours?**



We're also planning to set up a register of residents who might need help in an emergency. Did you know older people and those with young children) can register in advance with power supply companies for free "priority service" in an emergency? Search for "Priority" on the Ofgem website.

Amenity project

As we have no village hall in the parish, we have started working with the rector and churchwardens at Saint George's church to provide facilities in the church for community events and emergencies. Over the last year, we have improved the paths, provided some portable gas heaters and, with help from SSE funds, a storage shed. See opposite for our plans for the current year.

REPRESENTING YOUR INTERESTS

We may be a small community but we still want to make our views known . .

Whether it's maintaining rights of way or trying to reduce the delay on the traffic lights at Trotton bridge (still not right!) or it's hedges obstructing the roads and noisy late-night parties, the complaints come in and it's our job to see if we can put things right with the minimum fuss.

Sometimes we can help:

- reducing advertising outside Aylings
- getting the county council to allow signs to the Southdowns Manor
- delaying the expansion of Easebourne school until the risk to our local primaries is properly assessed

Sometimes we can't:

- stopping overflights by executive jets bound for Farnborough
- getting an independent enquiry into the fire on Trotton Common (not yet anyway!)

Either way, we put a lot of effort into trying to protect our residents from neglect, abuse or oversight.

Still on our radar: rural bus services. school funding, neighbourhood plans for the villages on both sides of us, South Downs national park local plan, statues on the common . . . life goes on!



THE YEAR AHEAD: BIG PLANS

In common with many other parts of the South Downs, we have a worsening shortage of low cost / low rent homes, with housing stocks already reduced by right-to-buy policies and stricter planning rules in the National Park cutting house—builders but attracting incomers—both pushing prices out of the reach of local first-time-buyers. The risk is that local people are — or will be — pushed out of the area altogether. As a parish of only ~125 households and 325 people, we don't have the resources to do much

about it. The team up with Rogate, who are in the process of forming a **Community land trust**. These are a form of community-led housing, set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes (and potentially other local facilities). Unlike housing associations and other low-cost home providers, they are not subject to the right-to-buy, so they can retain the right to sell or rent the homes only to local people for ever (see <http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk>). The Rogate & Trotton CLT is currently in the process of setting up and applying for grants, but will be offering shares to local residents later this year, giving us all a right to vote on future community housing for the area.



COMMUNITY SPACE ... COMMUNITY USE

We don't have many public buildings in Trotton-with-Chithurst but we do have two under-used churches which are expensive to maintain. Like most problems, we decided this could be an



opportunity and, for the last year and a half, we've been working with the rector and churchwardens to improve the ability of St. George's church to act as an emergency centre and as a community hall (see "Amenity project" opposite). Now we have some heaters and storage, we have plenty of other plans, including modest catering facilities in the tower and improving the space and facilities for concerts, presentations, meetings, exhibitions, etc. Rosie Hodgson (above) has agreed to work with the church to coordinate a series of community events, possibly including folk and other concerts, films etc. As we did with the storage shed, though, we need to use outside funding to supplement our own meagre funds. As many funding providers don't make grants to public bodies or churches and as this amenity project is more about community than local government, we have decided to set up a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" (CIO) - the **Trotton community fund**— to take over the project and apply for outside funding. We aim to have trustees from the parish council, the church and the rest of the community. We'll be inviting all residents to buy a share and have a vote in what it does for us all, so watch this space—and do let us know if you'd like to be involved right from the start—ie now!



We have applied for funding from WSCC Operation Watershed to put a stop to the flooding on the A272 down to Trotton bridge.

ultrafast broadband?

Are you in a
to bring



interested
local plan
1000 Mbps

optic fibre to every house in the area that wants it ... at just £150 to connect and £30 per month?

We're looking for people to get involved - email b4rsd@outlook.com

GIVE YOUR VIEWS . .



. . to the county council

WSCC is offering a prize draw of £500 to your favourite charity if you fill in this survey about what matters most to you. Look for it at <https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/> . . along with other surveys, like:

Protect our schools

Let the county council know how important village schools are: use the site above and search for "Planning school places 2018".



Local bus services

WSCC has agreed to subsidise the thinly-used bus services in our area for just one more year. Tell them how important buses are at:



www.westsussex.gov.uk/buses

Against litter

Chichester district council has launched a new campaign To reduce litter—report a blackspot or adopt an area at: <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/againstlitter>



Neighbourhood plans

Our next-door parishes are looking for views on their plan for 2018-2033: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/community-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/>



Artwork on the common

The SDNPA-led Heathlands Re-united project plans to put a piece of artwork on our common. Find out more and give your views at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/heathland>



. . OR TELL US!

We are your local council, so give us your views at any time and we'll try to pass them on, do something about them or at least ask you to tell us more . . .



Write to us at: Steps, Trotton, West Sussex, GU31 5EP
Or email us at: clerk@trotton-with-chithurst.org.uk



WHO ARE WE?

Carola Brown: has lived in Trotton since her family moved to Gatehouse Lane in 1955. Retired this year after nearly 40 years running the local brewery.

Dave Dawtrey: has lived in Trotton all his life. He works in an engineering firm and is a volunteer at the Hollycombe steam collection.

Rosie Hodgson: has lived in Trotton all her life and is a daughter of our previous chairman. She is a musician and also does a lot of childcare in the village.

Katherine MacKellar: has lived in Chithurst since 2006 and practices hypnotherapy and 'personal and spiritual growth'.

Neil Ryder: retired to Trotton nearly 5 years ago after a career as a RAF pilot and then in marketing, strategy and investor relations. He is also a governor of 2 local schools.

Darren ("Nobby") Stiles: came to Trotton in 1993 as the local policeman and retired in 2015. He is also a volunteer driver of the Midhurst Yellow Bus and Tandem minibuses.

Keith Tregunna: semi-retired to Trotton from Camelsdale in 2006 after 50 years in the construction industry.

WHO DOES WHAT?

(All voluntary, unpaid))

Chairman: Carola

Deputy: Dave

Clerk : Neil

Amenity plans: Nobby & Neil

Churchyards: Dave

Events - bonfire: Dave

- **community:** Rosie

Finance: Carola, Keith & Neil

Emergency plans: Nobby

Memorial garden: Rosie

Planning: Keith, Carola, Dave, Katherine & Neil

Trotton common: Nobby & Neil

Website: Nobby & Neil

YOUR COUNCILLORS ARE . . .

Unpaid local



Volunteers Elected by you!

HOW ARE WE ELECTED?

Through the local government elections every 4 years — the next election will be in May 2019 - so let us know if you want to put yourself forward!

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE MEET?

Our planning committee meets whenever it has applications to consider. The full council meets every

other month (starting in January). Our website shows the full calendar for the year and we put a notice and agenda (including venue) of each meeting on the website and on our noticeboards (In Mill Lane, the bus shelter at Chithurst Lane / A272 and at the top of Gatehouse Lane), at least 3 clear days ahead of each meeting. Residents are welcome to all of our meetings.

WHAT DO PARISH COUNCILS DO?

They look after community events and services, and most have city, town or village halls—we don't, so we are working with the local church council to develop community facilities in St George's church (see pages 2 and 3).

Larger PCs look after many public buildings and land, allotments, toilets, cemeteries, etc. Ours looks after the bus shelter on the A272 at Chithurst, the defibrillator in Mill Lane, Dumpford, the closed churchyard at Chithurst and a few other things.

Like bigger councils, though, we have a wide range of information and consultation duties—our county council (West Sussex CC) and district council (Chichester DC), as well as the South Downs National Park Authority and many other bodies are legally obliged to inform and/or consult us on a wide range of issues—including planning applications, changes in school provisions, and much more— so we are an important part of your democratic representation.

The inside pages of this leaflet describe some of our recent and planned activities and there's a fuller description of the powers and duties of each tier of local government at: <https://www.gov.uk/understand-how-your-council-works>

WHAT DON'T WE DO ?

Civil parishes are sometimes confused with church parishes, but the two were separated by the Local Government Act of 1894. Church parishes are now run by parochial church councils (PCCs) while civil parishes are run by parish councils (PCs) like ours.

We also don't make road and right of way or planning decisions (although the planning authority must consult us on every application). See a fuller description of the powers and duties of each tier of local government at: <https://www.gov.uk/understand-how-your-council-works>