

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2024



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### SPEEDWATCH CAMPAIGN

The previously defunct Cocking Speedwatch Campaign has recently been reinstated.

Following police training of the new team along with the supply of safety equipment and a speed gun we started roadside sessions in December 2023.

To date we have checked the speed of 1,667 vehicles (all travelling along the A286 in a southerly direction i.e. towards Chichester). Of these only 5 were travelling above the allowable speed limit and they will have received written warnings from the police.

As the days get longer and the size of our team grows (we are currently 8 with 3 others being trained) we plan to increase the number of roadside sessions we run. We will hold sessions on different days of the week and at different times, so that people who regularly drive through the village know that they might be checked but cannot be sure when.

We are also currently awaiting police approval for a second location in the village which will enable us to check the speed of traffic heading north along the A286 towards Midhurst.



Whilst the number of speeding tickets issued to date is very small, the team does believe it is providing a valuable service to the village by convincing drivers to obey the 30mph speed limit or run the risk of being caught.

If anyone else can spare a couple of hours each month and would like to join in with this initiative then they would be most welcome. In the first instance please send an email expressing your interest to [Tim.Carter@Cocking.org](mailto:Tim.Carter@Cocking.org)

Thank you and please drive safely.

***It will be interesting to measure what the effect will be on the Breakfast Meetings at Goodwood which are due to start shortly followed by the Festival of Speed and the Revival Meetings.***

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our 2024 annual report. The Parish Council continues to meet monthly with our main areas of activity falling into three categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well being. Over the past twelve months our meetings have been occupied with commenting on planning applications, dealing with the impact of vandalism, particularly in the children's playground, and working with other village organisations to ensure Cocking remains a good place to live. We meet regularly with both our West Sussex County Councillor and Chichester District Councillor to ensure the village's voice is heard.

I would like to thank our Parish Councillors for all the time they give to the Parish Council and the local community.

Frances Russell, Chair Cocking Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Greg Burt T: 07739 506 275 or Email: [parishclerk@cocking.org](mailto:parishclerk@cocking.org)



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## A NEW NOTICE BOARD

A new board has been erected on the green at The Croft. This is aimed at improving advice of village activities.



## IMPROVING FOOTPATHS

A big thanks to our West Sussex Councillor Tom Richardson who arranged for the West Sussex Council to clear the path alongside the A286 from The Croft bus shelter to the Heyshot turning.

It was a fantastic improvement as in places you could not see the tarmac and it was not safe to walk on.



## VILLAGE HALL

A big thank you to Peter Craig and the village hall committee for continuing to manage the hall so successfully. We really appreciate the work done by the committee and in particular by Kate Pudlo who looks after the bookings. Thank you also to David Imlach who retired after serving 15 years on the committee.

## THE VILLAGE GREEN

The undergrowth by the Playground has been cleared to enlarge the grass area and this area is now how it was some years ago. This improves the area around the Boules Pitch.

Thanks to the Friends of The Blue Bell who funded the new Boules Pitch.

## VILLAGE SHOP

We say farewell to Evie and Travis who are leaving the village shop after running it over the last couple of years. We thank them for providing such a valuable service to the village and wish them well.

## PLAYGROUND

This last year saw several items damaged by sheer vandalism and the main area to suffer was the ramp going up to the climbing frame with a chunk of wood being kicked out. The damage meant that the total ramp had to be replaced with a quote from the suppliers of nearly £1,000 which included a new seat at the picnic table. Luckily we have used local craftsmen who quoted a reasonable price and thanks go to Jack Knight and his team. If you should see anyone messing around with the equipment please report to the Parish Clerk.

## ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

This will take place on Saturday 20th April. Please if you can participate meet outside The Blue Bell at 10.00am. Safety equipment will be supplied.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This will take place on Wednesday 16th April at 7.00pm in the village hall. Our guest speaker this year is Mike Bennett from Tangmere Military Aviation Museum. Refreshments will be provided.

**Parish Clerk: Greg Burt T: 07739 506 275 or Email: [parishclerk@cocking.org](mailto:parishclerk@cocking.org)**

