



KINGSTON NEWS

“Looking After Your Interests”

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 40, May 2026

Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of our newsletter.

Please come along to the **Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May, 2026** when you will have an opportunity to discuss the Report and ask questions on other parish issues.

You can read more about this overleaf in the Annual Report of the Council that updates you on our work during 2025 - 26. I do hope you find the information of interest.

In April last year, we had 2 vacancies for councillors and I am delighted to let you know that David Hall and Stephen Randall were co-opted as councillors in November 2025.

You will probably have seen a lot of information in the press about Devolution and we continue to keep abreast of the latest news and respond to consultations – see the update on page 3.

My best wishes to you all for a good summer.

Cllr Roger Wetherell

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

Do join us

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 21st May 2026 at 7.30 pm in

Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, Vermont Drive, East Preston

The Annual Parish Meeting is quite distinct from a meeting of the Parish Council. It is an opportunity for all electors to come along and discuss parish issues.

Here is the Agenda:

1. To receive apologies.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May, 2025 (available on our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>)
3. To receive the Annual Report of Council 2025/26
4. Observations of District and County Councillors for the Parish
5. Resolutions of which written notice has been given
6. Public Question Time

Members of the Public are welcome to attend the meeting and the meetings of Full Council and its Committees that will follow.

Kingston Lane - Speed Limit Proposal

We have heard back from County about our application for a reduced speed limit of 30 mph along Kingston Lane. The response from County is “I have now received GPS Speed Data and I can now confirm that the average speed data is insufficient for us to proceed with the proposal for a 30mph speed limit”.

We know that some residents strongly supported the application and others were strongly opposed so this news will be met with mixed feelings across the community.

Council will be considering the response from County when it meets on 21st May, 2026. You can read more details about the response from County overleaf.

Future of the Defibrillator along Gorse Avenue – Can you help?

Kiran and Dave Marr privately arranged for the installation of the defibrillator in 2022, helped by donations made by other residents and support from Kingston Gorse Estate. Kiran and Dave are moving from the Parish and are appealing for other residents of the Kingston Gorse Estate to volunteer to take over their agreement with the Community Heartbeat Trust and submit weekly monitoring reports (readings taken from the defibrillator). For full details of what is involved please contact Dave Marr using his councillor email address: Cllr.Marr@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk.

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2025 - March 2026

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2025-26 which tells you about the work of the Council over the previous year. I hope you find the information of interest and if you do have any questions arising from the report, please contact myself or the Clerk – our contact details are on the back page.

I would like to thank Cllr Richard Andrew who is Vice-Chairman of Council and Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Dave Marr who is Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Cllr Valerie Masson, Cllr Keith Buckenham, Cllr David Hall and Cllr Stephen Randall and Val Knight, Clerk of the Council, for their continuing hard work on Council matters and support during the year.

Finally, I also thank County Cllr Roger Elkins and Arun District Councillors Ricky Bower, Philippa Bower and Paul Kelly for their advice and support on local issues.

Roger Wetherell

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

HIGHWAYS 2025-26

Community Winter Resilience Plan – This is in place with County Highways and is effective for Kingston Lane – the only public highway in Kingston. Last winter we did not have enough snow to need to call out the snow plough clearance contractor, but there were a few cold nights when volunteers spread grit at 3 of the corners along the Lane (Peak Lane junction, Newcote Farm junction and just south of the Elm Avenue junction). We would appreciate volunteers coming forward to help spread salt to pre-empt overnight ice on these sharp bends. Please contact the Clerk if you can help or would like more information.

Gateway Sign (located on the verge south of the junction of Elm Avenue/Kingston Lane) – Council is arranging for the gateway sign to be cleaned at least twice a year and also for the area of verge around its base to be trimmed and tidied so that overgrown grasses and foliage do not obscure it.

Proposed 30 mph limit, Kingston Lane – Following a survey of residents an application for the introduction of a 30 mph speed was submitted County for assessment. Here are extracts from the response from County: “data is captured across 12-month period from January to December. The speed data comes from connected vehicles that have GPS devices installed such as vehicle trackers and sat nav devices. The speed values are also based on vehicles speeds along an entire link, rather than at a specific spot along a link, so shouldn’t be impacted by traffic volumes. With this said, the Speed Data Assessment shows insufficient average vehicle speeds for the implementation of a 30mph speed limit, with the average speeds much below this at around **21.6mph**. Given the road is currently national speed limit, this would appear that vehicles are travelling at relatively safe speeds for the nature of the road. and suggest that any unlawful driving behaviour or general driving concerns are reported directly to Sussex Police (via Operation Crackdown)”

Council will be considering this response when it meets on 21 May, 2026

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2025-26

Council was represented at meetings of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, the Arun District Association of Local Councils, the South Strand Community Toilets Group, and meetings with the Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector. Members have had 2 meetings with Dr Becky Cooper MP to discuss parish matters and further meetings are planned. Wreaths were laid at the Kingston War Memorial and the East Preston War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

FRAUD PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

Message from Dax O’Connor, Community Safety Officer for Arun District Council:

Fraud is now the most prevalent crime type in England and Wales. Latest figures Estimate that 41% of all recorded crimes are fraud related. I would like to share with you details of West Sussex County Council’s digital safety and fraud prevention monthly eNewsletter. This is publicly available for regular advice on staying safe, where to access support, awareness of the latest fraud types, and training events.

You can subscribe by using the QR code or by using the following link bit.ly/3wyQhJW



<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE 2025-6</p>	<p>DEVOLUTION 2025-6</p>
<p>The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2025/26 was set at £18,000. Council also received bank interest £ 400 and VAT reclaimed £ 2,705.</p> <p>Reserves - It is considered prudent to hold reserves so that funds are available for larger projects when needed.</p> <p>Costs during the year totalled £11,862 and were met from the Precept and reserves where appropriate. As well as administrative expenses, expenditure included: Replacement office equipment £858, Flagpole Maintenance £353 (3 yearly) and grants for the South Strand Community Toilets £300, St Marys Churchyard Maintenance £350, KSS Air Ambulance £100, and the Poppy Appeal (including 2 wreaths) £120.</p> <p>Balances at 31 March 2026 include reserves for: Environmental projects £1,346, Community newsletters £876, Elections £2,486, 30-year celebration of Council £892, Winter Management Plan £519, Planning matters £6,300, Neighbourhood Plan £4,788, IT/ website £592, Community Infrastructure Levy receipts (ring-fenced for infrastructure projects) £3755 and General Fund £11,484. TOTAL funds £33,038 <i>(Note: VAT refund due to Council is £374)</i></p> <p>The Precept for 2026/27 is set at £18,000 – no change from last year.</p> <p>All information above is subject to Audit. The accounts will be audited by our internal auditor and after formal consideration by the Council will be reported to the external Auditor. If you have any questions on the above please email: clerk@kingston-wsk-pc.gov.</p>	<p>This year, Council has received updates on this throughout the year. Devolution will create a mayoral authority for Sussex and the first mayoral election has been postponed until May 2028 from 2026. Exact details for the boundaries of unitary authorities in Sussex are still being considered. The Government is consulting on a modification to proposals put forward to them by the authorities in Sussex. There is a news item on our website to take you to background information and the consultation https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/</p>
	<p>POLICING 2025-6</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP</p> <p>The Environmental Working Group meets on an ‘ad hoc’ basis and makes recommendations to Council. During the year the following were agreed by Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 signs warning that dogs should be under control and that dog poo should be picked up and put in a dog bin, to be obtained from District and be used by Kingston Gorse Estate and West Kingston Residents Association along the greenswards. • District to be asked for the latest report on the condition of Sea Defences along Kingston beach - so far an up to date report has not been available. • District has been asked to take action to deal with a hazard to the public from remains of old groynes protruding from the sand along the beach to the west of the Bluebird Café. These are visible at low tide but are hidden when the tide is in. District said they were unable to remove the old groynes, and we are waiting for a response to a request for warning signage. • Plus, Cllr Marr regularly reported on the condition of Ferring Rife and whether it was flowing freely. 	<p>Crime Statistics - PCSO Raj Raju says these continue to be low when compared to nearby villages. Recorded crimes for the year 1 April 2025 – 31 March, 2026 were: Anti-Social Behaviour – 9 Criminal damage – 2 Other -16 (e.g. domestic, hoax)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Policing Team – Council is invited to attend online meetings with the NPT.</p> <p>Contact details for Sussex Police are: Report online at https://www.sussex.police.uk Telephone: call 101 or if an emergency call 999. Report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicles online: http://www.operationcrackdown.org/</p> <p>Local Neighbourhood Watch - We encourage all residents to sign up to the NHW email Alert Scheme - email kingstonsxnhw@outlook.com.</p> <p>PLANNING COMMITTEE 2025-6</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan (NP) - We are considering whether it is practical to review our NP at a time when the government is revising the National Planning Policy Framework and District have curtailed work on a new Local Plan due to Devolution proposals.</p> <p>Planning Applications: 16 planning applications were considered during the year. Council made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No objection to 8 applications – all approved by District. - Objection to 8 applications for reasons such as out of character to the area/intrusive to privacy/in the Strategic Gap. 4 of these were approved, 2 were Refused and 2 withdrawn. K/17/25/AOO was one of the approved applications and this related to a previous approval for 47 residential dwellings and allows the developer to pay the affordable housing commuted sum in lieu of provision on site.

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS

MEETINGS: During the year ending 31 March, 2026, there were 7 full Council meetings, 6 Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings and 6 Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Annual Assembly of the Parish.

COUNCILLORS: Council is comprised of 7 Councillors. In April 2025, Cllrs Geradine Walker and David Joyce resigned from Council and these vacancies were filled by co-opting Cllrs David Hall and Stephen Randall in November, 2025.

Here are your current Councillors:

Cllr Roger Wetherell (Chairman)	Newcote Farm, Kingston Lane BN16 1RP Email: Cllr.Wetherell@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	01903 787205
Cllr Richard Andrew (Vice-Chairman)	Kingston Manor, Kingston Lane, BN16 1RR email: Cllr.Andrew@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	01903 772790
Cllr Keith Buckenham	Wood End, Peak Lane BN16 1RN email: Cllr.Buckenham@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	07399 194746
Cllr Valerie Masson	Windy Corner, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SQ email: Cllr.Masson@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	01903 786139
Cllr David Hall	Sundowners, Gorse Avenue, BN16 1SF email: Cllr.Hall@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Dave Marr	Sandy Lodge, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SF email: Cllr.Marr@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Stephen Randall	97 Golden Avenue, BN16 1QT email: Cllr.Randall@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	

DIARY DATES FOR YOU

All residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Council when there is an opportunity to make representations and ask questions on matters relating to the Council business on the Agenda. We usually meet in the hall of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Vermont Drive, East Preston, BN16 1JU with meetings commencing at 7.30 pm. Please do check agenda to confirm the venue and times by using our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/> or viewing our noticeboards.

Here are the meeting dates for this year:

21	May	2026	Annual Parish Meeting, Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
TBC	June	2026	Meeting of Council to consider the Annual Return (re Accounts) if required
16	July	2026	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
17	September	2026	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
19	November	2026	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
21	January	2027	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
18	March	2027	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council

CONTACT the COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Val Knight, 33 The Ridings, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2TW
e-mail: clerk@kingston-wsk-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01903 771922 <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

WAYS to KEEP in TOUCH

E-mail: Sign up to **receive our information e-mails** by e-mailing the Clerk.

Online: Visit <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/> to see our Agenda, Minutes and other news.

Library: Agenda can be viewed at East Preston Library 3 days prior to the meetings.

Noticeboards: See our noticeboards located in Gorse Avenue and Coastal Road (west end).