



KINGSTON NEWS

"Looking After Your Interests"

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 41, Autumn 2026

Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter that has been issued earlier than usual as I have 2 vacancies to draw to your attention:

- a casual vacancy for a councillor, and
- a vacancy for a new Parish Clerk

You can find out more about these vacancies in this newsletter.

You are very welcome to attend this year's **Remembrance Sunday Service at Kingston War Memorial that will begin at 11.45 am on 8 November** - full timings are shown in the next column.

We are setting our Budget for 2027/28 at the January meeting of Council and would be interested to hear your ideas for any potential projects to consider for inclusion in the Budget. Please send your ideas to the Clerk by 6th January 2027.

As this is probably our last newsletter for 2026, I take this very early opportunity to send our best wishes to you for a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Cllr Roger Wetherell

Chairman Kingston Parish Council

School Admissions 2027

County have advised that the application process for children to start in reception at primary and infant schools in September 2027, ends on 15 January 2027. Children currently in Year 2 at infant school will also need to apply for a place to start at junior school. For more information go to: www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Date of next Council Meetings

Meetings of Full Council, the Planning Committee and Finance Committee will be held on Thursday, 19th November, 2026 commencing at 7.30 pm in the hall of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Vermont Drive, East Preston, BN16 1JU. Please visit our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/> to see the agenda (available 3 days prior to the meetings).

Remembrance Sunday



8 NOVEMBER 2026

**Information from the Royal British Legion
Arrangements for this year are:**

- 9.45 am** Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church
- 10.15 am** Church Service ends and Remembrance Parade forms up outside of the Church
- 10.40 am** (at the latest) Parade leaves and marches to the East Preston War Memorial, The Street, East Preston
- 11.00 am** **2 Minutes Silence and Wreath laying at the East Preston War Memorial**
- 11.45 am** **Remembrance Service at the Kingston War Memorial, Sea Lane, Kingston**
- 12 noon** **2 Minutes Silence and Wreath laying at the Kingston War Memorial**

Residents and other members of the public are welcome to attend the Remembrance Service.

Please note that a section of Sea Lane will be closed between 11.30 am to 12.30 pm whilst the Kingston War Memorial service is in progress.

West Kingston Residents Association (WKRA) have kindly agreed that the gate at the east end of Coastal Road will be opened for this period to allow access to and from Kingston Gorse, on the strict understanding that the current 20mph speed limit will be observed scrupulously. This will be monitored, and in the event of any vehicles noted to be speeding, WKRA may not allow this privilege in the future.

VACANCY FOR A NEW PARISH CLERK

Val Knight, our Parish Clerk since June 2000, has decided to retire in the New Year and so we are seeking a new Clerk to take up post mid January, 2027.

The position is for 8 hours per week with an hourly rate between £15.56 - £16.61 per hour, depending on qualifications and experience. The closing date for applications is 2 November, 2026.

The recruitment is being managed for us by the West Sussex Association of Local Councils and you can find out more about the job and an application form on their website: <https://wsalc.co.uk/vacancies>

VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

A Casual vacancy has occurred due to the resignation of Dave Marr who has moved from the Parish. Council thanks Dave for his enthusiastic and hard work as a Councillor and we wish him well for the future.

The vacancy has been formally advertised and, if no poll (formal election) is called for by 2nd November, 2026, Council will move to fill the vacancy by Co-option when it meets on the 19th November.

If you would like to help the community, and are interested in joining the Parish Council please do contact the Clerk for more information by the 10th November, 2026. email: clerk@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk

Note: The term of office for this Co-option would be until normal elections take place in May 2027.

ELECTIONS MAY 2027

If you do not want to apply for Co-option to Council at this time, perhaps you could become a Parish Councillor in the future?

Parish Council elections are held every 4 years and the next elections will be held on 6 May, 2027 so look out for information on the nomination process to stand as a candidate that Arun District Council will publish early in 2027. Questions you may have:

What is involved in being a Kingston parish Councillor?

You would attend full Council meetings which are held every 2 months and additional meetings may be held as required. You would be issued with a Council email to use for correspondence on Council business, and Agenda and papers for meetings are delivered by email.

Whilst there is a natural focus on parish issues and needs, it is also important to look at wider issues and policies which will impact on the parish e.g. policies of the Government or other organisations. There would be opportunities to sit on working groups, represent Council on specific issues such as planning, policing, highways, and resilience planning, and to attend occasional external meetings in connection with this.

Am I eligible?

In order to be a Parish Councillor, you must:

- be aged 18 years or over and be a qualifying British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights.
- be registered to vote in the parish or worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months or live in or within a 3 mile radius of the parish.

You do not have to belong to a political party.

Am I disqualified from being a Parish Councillor?

Under s.80 of the 1972 Act, a person is disqualified from being a Parish Councillor if they:

- hold any paid office or employment with the Parish Council; **or**
- is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order, an interim restrictions order, a debt relief restrictions order, or interim order; **or**
- have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months, without the option of a fine during the preceding five years; **or**
- have been disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal electoral practices.

Contact the Clerk or visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england for more information.

If you have any questions arising from the above, please do contact the Clerk.

WINTER WEATHER – WHAT’S IN STORE?	DITCHES and HEDGES
Whilst our gardens, the countryside, reservoirs and waterways are still recovering from the summer heat, Council is receiving more and more correspondence about being prepared for Winter weather. In August, the Met Office indicated that the 2026 El Niño event could lead to wetter and stormier conditions across north-western Europe, including the UK, during autumn and early winter and that this could increase the likelihood of surface water, river, and drainage flooding, especially if heavy rain falls in a short period of time. It is important to be prepared. West Sussex County Council have produced an online flood guide to help you protect and prepare against possible winter flooding. It includes useful links e.g. to sign up for flood alerts or check whether your home is at risk of flooding. You can scan the QR code to see the guide or go to: www.westsussex.gov.uk/ and search for ‘flood guide’.  You will also find very useful information and local contacts in our Kingston Parish Emergency Plan – there is a link to it on the left-hand side of our website homepage: https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/	Following on from the section about Winter weather, it is very important that ditches are kept clear. If you are what is known as a ‘riparian owner’ – that is the person with watercourses/ ditches on, next to or under their property - you have the responsibility for maintenance of them. Blocked ditches or slow flowing silted ditches can cause flooding not just to nearby roads but perhaps more critically to homes. So, do please regularly check your ditches are clear of any obstruction. Hedges, trees and vegetation overhanging a highway may cause a hazard for people by obstructing visibility or reducing the width of the road. So, if you have any hedges etc. close to a highway, please do check and cut them back as a courtesy to others and to keep them safe.
	FIREWORKS!
	Bonfire night celebrations and the accompanying fireworks are not far away! If you are planning to set off some fireworks, please consider letting your neighbours know in advance so that they can ensure any pets are safely indoors and sleeping children are not woken by the noise. Similarly, if there is livestock in nearby fields, please consider letting their owners know.
FIND PLANNING APPLICATIONS NEAR YOU!	ROUNDSTONE CROSSING
Did you know that Arun District Council has a planning application finder service? You can use it to: • search for planning applications submitted in the last 12 months near a property in the Arun district • show the results in a list or on a map • view the plans and comment on any of the current application • sign up to receive an automatic email notification of any planning application submitted within a chosen radius of a postcode or address. To use the service or sign up to receive notifications, visit the Arun District Council website: https://www1.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-finder	A meeting with Network Rail was arranged by Beccy Cooper MP to discuss the Roundstone crossing on 10 July, 2026, but unfortunately no short-term solutions were identified. A follow up meeting with Network Rail is being arranged. This Council is very aware of how frustrating it is to be held up at the crossing gates for so long and to help you plan your journeys before you set out you could check on websites such as ‘Mind the Gates’ https://mindthegates.uk/ which gives you predictions of when the gates will be closed or open. Please note the website carries this disclaimer and important advice: ‘Informational only: always follow the signals and barriers at the crossing’
Why not Sponsor a Christmas Tree? – information from the Friends of St Mary	
Businesses and organisations can sponsor a 5ft tree at the <i>Christmas Tree Festival</i> hosted at Kingston and East Preston’s parish church, St Mary the Virgin, in Vicarage Lane, for a minimum donation of £50 and then decorate it to uniquely reflect their company or organisation. Sponsors can attend ‘The Big Switch On’ ceremony on 10th December, with the main festival open to the public on 11th-13th December. On 14th December sponsors can take their tree to display at home or business, or donate it to a local organisation. The Festival helps the Friends of St Mary’s raise funds to maintain the church - the oldest working building in East Preston. Contact Kevin Hill: kevinhill63@hotmail.co.uk, or phone 01903 783386, or 07966 118562	

POLICING		WINTER RESILIENCE PLAN	
Crime Statistics – PCSO Raju sends regular updates to our Parish Council meetings. At our September meeting he reported that crime rate continues to be low in Kingston and that in the previous 6 weeks the following incidents occurred: 2 Vehicle crimes, 1 Neighbour dispute and a few domestic related incidents. Contact details for Sussex Police for matters not requiring an urgent response are: - Report online at https://www.sussex.police.uk - Telephone: 101 (the non-emergency number) - To report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicles go to https://www.operationcrackdown.org/ In an emergency always call 999 Consider signing up to: - Receive email alerts and updates from Sussex Police go to https://www.sussexalerts.co.uk/ - Keep in touch with Neighbourhood Watch go to https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sussex		The Community Winter Resilience Plan mainly relates to Kingston Lane (the only public highway in Kingston) but has useful links to advice on snow clearance and preparing for winter. The Plan provides the self-help salt bins that are in three locations along Kingston Lane (junction with Peak Lane and the two bends south of the junction with Elm Avenue). We would appreciate volunteers coming forward to help with spreading salt when the weather is cold to pre-empt overnight ice on these sharp bends. If you can help, please contact the Clerk. Usually, there is also an arrangement with County for snow clearance to be carried out along the Lane by a contractor, when County agrees it is necessary (costs are shared), but last year’s contractor is not available so we will be looking for a new contractor to take this on. You can see the Plan on our website: https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/kingston-parish-council/policies-and-procedures/	
COUNCILLORS - Contact details as at 16 October 2026 – 6 Members (1 Vacancy)			
Cllr Roger Wetherell (Chairman)		e-mail: Cllr.Wetherell@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk Telephone: 01903 787205	
Cllr Richard Andrew (Vice-Chairman)		e-mail: Cllr.Andrew@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk Telephone: 01903 772790	
Cllr Keith Buckenham		e-mail: Cllr.Buckenham@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk Telephone: 07399194746	
Cllr David Hall		e-mail: Cllr.Hall@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Valerie Masson		e-mail : Cllr.Masson@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Stephen Randall		e-mail: Cllr.Randall@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	
One Vacancy		Currently being advertised	
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS			
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. VENUE - 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. DATES – Here are the meeting dates for the next 6 months: 19 November, 2026, 21 January, 2027 and 18 March, 2027			
CONTACT the COUNCIL			
Clerk to the Council: Mrs Val Knight, 33 The Ridings, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2TW e-mail: clerk@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01903 771922 Website: https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/ Sign up to receive our information e-mails by e-mailing the Clerk. See our noticeboards located in Gorse Avenue and Coastal Road.			