

# Upper Beeding Parish Council

## Spring 2024 Newsletter

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In this edition we give an overview of the Riverside Walk project, the Skatepark and the White Bridge Link.

Please note the new address and phone for all Parish Council communications; our office is now at the Sports Hall.

### FINANCE

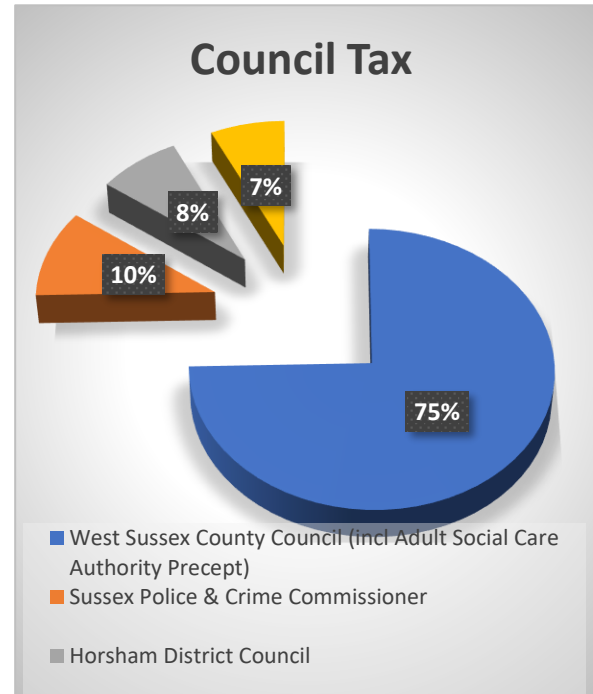
Parish Councils are responsible for managing their own budgets and are mainly funded by an annual payment, or precept, collected by the District Council. This forms part of your Council Tax.

West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Upper Beeding Parish Council all produce budgets detailing the amount of money needed to run services for local people.

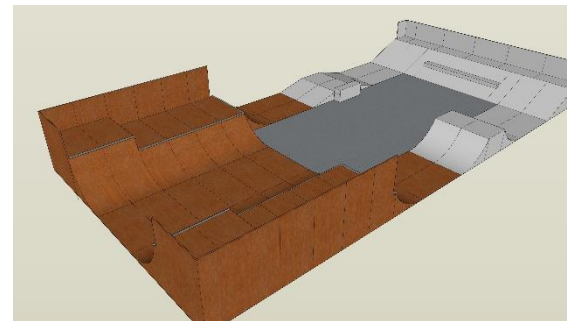
The chart shows that the major share goes to West Sussex County Council. Upper Beeding Parish Council receives 7% or 7 pence in every £1 of your overall Council Tax.

Each Autumn, Upper Beeding Parish Council plans its spending – its Budget - for the financial year which begins on 1 April. Our Budget for 2024/25 has been kept below the rate of inflation at that time. We have worked very hard to keep spending as low as possible. The amount residents have been asked to pay is slightly higher than last year, about 15p a week for a Band D property.

If you would like further information the detailed budget is on our Parish Council website.



### SKATE PARK UPGRADE



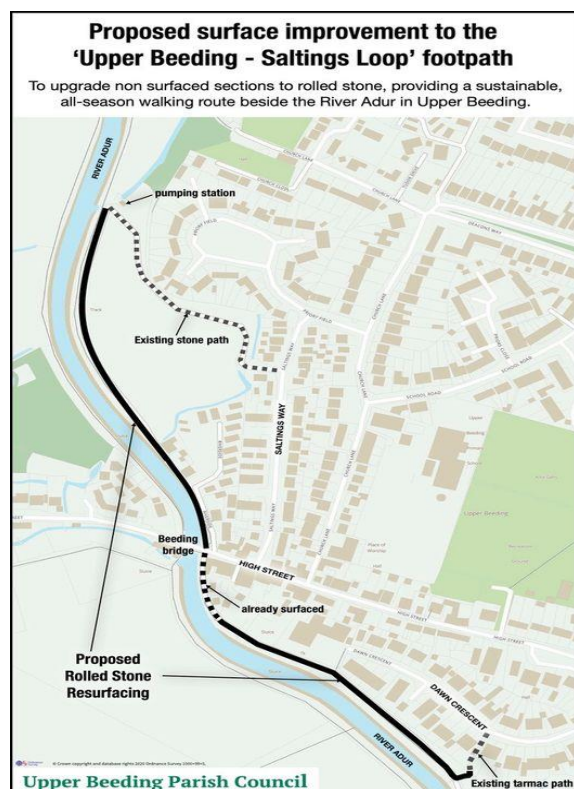
UBPC and the Friends of Small Dole Skate Park have been working together for several years striving to find a way to upgrade the skate park, which is near the Mackley Estate.

In 2022 an application for £10,000 was agreed with the South Downs National Park.

A lottery grant was also received in May 2023 for £10,000 and the FoSDSP had raised £10,000 themselves through events and Christmas raffles etc.

Recently a kind benefactor has pledged the final £17,000 to allow the project to move to phase one, which is to replace the oldest section of the skate park. Work should commence in June.

## RIVERSIDE PATHWAY UPGRADE



Steyning & District Community Partnership exists to provide activities and facilities which the three local Parish Councils, Bramber, Steyning and Upper Beeding, may struggle to fund through their own resources or by grant funding.

The current project, while the White Bridge is being replaced, is to upgrade the footpath from the Saltings Way pumping station through to Dawn Crescent.

The pathway will ensure a safe surface all year round and the Parish Council will be involved, where they can, to maintain the grass and hedges.

With the help of the residents who filled in the short online survey, the Parish Council has been awarded a £59,000 grant which, along with other secured funds, will allow the project to start in 2024.

## BEEDING IN BLOOM

Now being well into spring, thoughts go to the summer hanging baskets that are always welcomed around the Parish.

The floral displays cost £5,000 each year, with the Parish Council contributing £3,500.



To keep the costs down, the Parish Council works alongside the volunteers of Beeding in Bloom, who do much of the planting and maintenance as possible. The volunteers have raised funds at cake/plant sales at coffee mornings, sponsored a hanging basket and sold plants at garden gates for the remaining £1,500.

Beeding in Bloom needs volunteers/members, so if you are able spare a little time to help make the Parish a friendly, pleasant place to live, please contact Mary Levett on 01903 815137 or Colette Harber on 01903 814586.

Everyone will be very welcome.

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY VILLAGE



Upper Beeding Parish Council is working with Horsham District Council, our Community Wardens, Carers Support, other local Parish Councils and Steyning Health Centre PPG. The aim is to set up a local WhatsApp group to help communicate to People Living with Dementia and their Carers. Data protection may affect the success of this group and therefore it is dependent on carers contacting the Council rather than UBPC contacting carers. Contact us via the UBPC website.

Other organisations:

The HUB at Upper Beeding Baptist Church.  
<https://www.thehubbeeding.org/contact/>

Community Wardens.  
[SBUB.Wardens@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:SBUB.Wardens@horsham.gov.uk)

Melody for the Mind at Steyning Library  
[steyning.library@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:steyning.library@westsussex.gov.uk)

Carers Support  
[www.carerssupport.org.uk/](http://www.carerssupport.org.uk/)

Love to Move:  
[worthing.shoreham@rightathome.co.uk](mailto:worthing.shoreham@rightathome.co.uk)

West Sussex Dementia:  
[www.westsussexdementia.org.uk/](http://www.westsussexdementia.org.uk/)

Dementia Friendly Village:  
[www.upperbeeding-pc.gov.uk/community/](http://www.upperbeeding-pc.gov.uk/community/)

## NEW ROAD CROSSINGS

The Parish Council continue to look at ways to make the Village safe, the roads in particular. The Parish Council applied for three crossings which have been recently installed by WSCC.

The main purpose of the crossings is to improve conditions for walkers and other non-motorised users. These will make the roads safer to cross and moderate traffic speeds.

Soon the WSCC works will be completed, including further signage and illuminated bollards.

There will also be additional road markings at the crossings to warn drivers of each crossing.

Residents of Dacre Gardens and South Downs Way users are also benefitting from our successful application to have the speed limit on the A283 reduced to 40mph.

## LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Over the last few years, a whole range of 'active travel' initiatives have been suggested for the Steyning, Bramber & Beeding area to encourage people to leave their cars at home and walk and cycle more.

These include extending current 20mph zones to Steyning and the rest of Bramber, installing improved bike racks in Steyning High Street, creating zebra crossings near schools, reducing speed limits on the bypass, and upgrading the White Bridge Link across the river.

So far, and for a variety of different reasons, progress has been slow.

But there is no doubt that many residents would welcome a shift in this direction; particularly parents with young children who need to get safely to and from school and walkers and others of all ages who wish for better facilities to improve their mobility and independence.

## VOLUNTEERS

Your local village council is ambitious to improve our environment, greenery, and pathways.

Increasingly, hard-hit County and District councils are able only to finance essential services.

So, we are going to need your help.

You may have read how volunteers helped establish the Community Orchard at Hyde Street Green and the Litter Volunteers who regularly clear the roads.

Can you help us to further improve the Green by joining in clearing unsightly shrubs and brambles?

We also have other projects too!

We have many similar projects, but we don't have the resources to achieve these without your help. We really do need you!

### Volunteers for Litter Picking:

Would you like to help keep our villages litter free? The Bin Brigade group, supported by UBPC, meet once a month to pick up litter from our roads and pavements. The group was started by Neil Laughton and helped by Hilary Snowdon.

Get in touch with the Clerk: 01903 896988 or [clerk@upperbeeding-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@upperbeeding-pc.gov.uk)

## UPDATES

### Parish Council Office

As there were no suitable locations in the villages, the first floor of the Sports Hall has become the Clerk's office. We are currently planning the works to convert the area.

## Bramber Brooks/Saltings Field

Horsham District Council have completed the purchase of Bramber Brooks and will commence work to enhance the area through the summer.

There is also a plan to take the Saltings Field back into District Council management. but it will be some time before any restoration work begins.

## Youth Service

A Youth Club is coming .....

Although the old service ended over a year ago, the three parishes (Steyning, Upper Beeding and Bramber) are working to restart the service.

It is hoped that there will be a service in the Parishes very soon.

We are recruiting new staff who will bring this fresh and exciting service to the residents.

The schedule is that the service can be back in time for the summer holidays and then into the new school year.

Look out for details through the summer months.

## ALAN CHILVER RIP

Alan Chilver served as an Upper Beeding Parish Councillor for 9 years.

He was involved in our community in many ways and, despite his age, was very keen to support the Youth Service and to understand the needs of the young people of the villages.

He was also active at the Hub at Upper Beeding Baptist Church, Steyning Good Health and Neighbourhood Watch.

He will be sadly missed by the Council and the community.

## COUNCILLORS

There are ten active Councillors currently in place. This means that there are 5 vacancies.

Ian Ivatt from Small Dole has retired to further his local history studies and Alan Chilver sadly passed away in November 2023.

SMALL DOLE
BULL Peter
WARREN Chris
Vacant

UPPER BEEDING
BIRNSTINGL Simon
BULL Frank
CANNON Jill
DEADMAN Chris
HARBER Bob
HEAVER Fred
KARDOS Tom
TEATUM Sean
4 Vacancies.

If you are interested in becoming a local Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk for details of how to be co-opted.

## MEETING DATES

2024 - 2025	Full Council
June	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>
July	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>
September	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>
October	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
November	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>
December	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>
January	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>
February	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>
March	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>
April	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
May	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>

Additionally, there are Community, Facilities, Planning, Finance and Staffing Committee meetings at intervals through the year. Details of all meetings are on the website.