



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022-23



VIEW ACROSS THE PROPOSED CUCKSTYE SITE TO CUCKFIELD FROM ANSTY, BRAD WILLIAMS 2022

Andy Burton
Chairman, 2022-23
Cuckfield Parish Council

Introduction – Chairman Andy Burton

Welcome to the Parish Council's review of 2022-23.

Looking back at reports from the previous years, Covid has been the obvious focus. Whilst it hasn't gone away and the political, social and economic impacts will be felt for generations, it has been remarkable how cultural amnesia has rapidly taken hold and life, for most, has returned to 'normal' - overtaken by other pressing issues. For Cuckfield this year, the biggest of these has been Mid Sussex District Council's (MSDC) 'Cuckstye' proposal, which aimed to double the size of the village in just a few years and obliterate its current character and distinctiveness. We have therefore learnt valuable lessons in the last few years about community resilience in adversity and how Cuckfield Parish Council (CPC) has been able to play leading roles in the swift and significant responses, whatever they were.

As we reach the end of our four-year period, with Councillor elections due in May, it's a good time to reflect on whether we have achieved what we set out in the business plan back in 2019 (www.cuckfield.gov.uk/administration/business-plan). I am pleased to report that, despite the disruption, most of our ambitions have been met or are well underway, alongside the additional activities not considered or required at that time. Further details are outlined below.

As the first tier of local government, our primary focus remains to serve the interests of the Cuckfield area and community and, as ever, we are keen to receive feedback on anything the council does. See www.cuckfield.gov.uk for contact details.

Our Annual Roadshow provides an opportunity to discuss all of our activities and we welcomed the community to join us from Thursday 16th March at the Queen's Hall. Our theme this year was 'A Fairer and Sustainable Cuckfield' and we outlined plans for the Council to become Fairtrade accredited as well as highlighting collaborations to become more sustainable. We had representatives and displays from many of the village organisations and community groups where you could find out more and discuss with members. It's these groups that make Cuckfield such a special place to live and work so if you missed this year's meeting, look out for next year's. It's always an interesting community focused evening and I now know far more about worms than I dreamed was possible.

2022-23 Council Highlights

Particular events and highlights from the past year include:

- Working closely with Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council in the inauguration and support for the Stop Cuckstye Action Group (SCAG - www.saynotocuckstye.co.uk). From a standing start after plans were announced, the new group quickly established overwhelming community support against the proposals. CPC has provided considerable financial assistance for professional landscape reports and for website development, alongside strong political support. The Queen's Hall hosted the successful and well-attended public 'Question Time' with council leaders and Mims Davies MP attending. Announcements were made at that event that MSDC were having a rethink, and the proposal was not included in the draft District Plan which has recently completed its public consultation phase. CPC engaged a professional planner to assist with the preparation of our detailed and insightful submission, to help MSDC with their next steps. There will be a Public Examination of the proposals in due course (timing somewhat dependent on national housing-target politics), where it is expected the developer Fairfax will argue strongly to HM Planning Inspectorate that the plans must be reinstated. So, there can be

no complacency from recent positive events and we are aware SCAG has a number of proposals for 2023.

- Other planning issues continue to take up considerable CPC efforts, and we have seen recently the commencement of building work on the old school site next to Horsgate House in the north of the village – a site which we allocated in the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately, the adjacent field to the west on Hanlye Lane was allocated by MSDC for approximately 55 houses in a previous revision of the District Plan, despite numerous CPC objections, and we are seeing the developer Glenbeigh undertaking site investigations at the moment ahead of the inevitable planning application. We are currently trying to engage with them to influence the design (and at least retain the long-reaching views from the road to the Downs) should they be successful. CPC remains committed to preserving the village distinctiveness through implementation of our Neighbourhood Plan policies in the face of extreme on-going pressure from developers, who see Cuckfield as prime real estate but without any interest in its longer term evolution (after almost a decade, we have still not been successful in acquiring the Buttinghill development public open space, which Taylor Wimpey are contractually obliged to transfer).
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee street party was an amazing success in June, as part of the national celebrations, with 1,200 residents sitting down to sandwiches and cake, and a fizzy-pop-fuelled community sing-along towards the end. All captured live by local BBC News and some great drone footage (see vimeo.com/726766597). You may have seen the two new Jubilee benches installed in the High Street and at Whitemans Green and remembrance plaque on the front of the Queen's Hall. Of course, this was tempered by the sad news of the death of Elizabeth II just a few months later, and CPC led village tributes to her lifelong service and commitment. The Parish Council is currently planning another substantial community event on Sunday 7th May to mark the coronation of King Charles III. Watch out for announcements which will be made very soon.



FIGURE 1 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE REMEMBRANCE PLAQUE, PAUL STEVENS, 2022

- Other CPC events have also been very successful and well attended this year, including the Christmas in Cuckfield street festival, two 'skate jams' at our skateboard bowl (another planned for 16th August) and Silver Sunday cheese and wine events. Look out for the Nuclear Bunker open days over the summer and another Rain or Shine theatre company production, A Comedy of Errors on 4th August. We are interested in developing additional community events if anyone has ideas they'd like to share?
- Our new "What's on Cuckfield" on-line tool and calendar, for the promotion of village events, is available [Upcoming Events – What's on in Cuckfield \(whatsoncuckfield.co.uk\)](https://whatsoncuckfield.co.uk). This provides a handy central site for everyone to review activities and allow organisers to publicise them. We also launched the Visit Cuckfield website (<https://visitcuckfield.co.uk/>) which provides lots of handy information about what is going on around and about, as well as interesting historical facts about our local community. Check it out, you may learn something new.
- We have been developing our two community centres – the Queen's and Village Halls. You may have seen the new on-site parking arrangements at the latter on London Lane, whilst the former now has a new toilet which is accessible directly from the garden, and progress is being made slowly on developing the Angela Fox Memorial Garden further. Unfortunately, vandalism of our village centre toilets has caused unnecessary expense and effort.
- Further development of the Horsefield Village Green. We have a new information board, and we await the first crop of fruit from the orchard.
- Organising food hampers for approx. 40 families in the village most in need. We worked with the Holy Trinity Primary School, Baptist Church and Medical Practice for their distribution. As the current cost-of-living issues continue to bite, we will be looking further at this in the coming year.
- We reorganised the maintenance arrangement for the church burial ground last year, with positive feedback on how tidy and well-ordered it looked.
- We have been reviewing traffic speed data obtained from our two mobile radar Speed Information Devices (which we named Sid and Nancy) that you may have seen in various locations. Whilst the vast majority keep within the 30mph speed limit, a significant minority do not, with some records of over 60mph! We are reviewing what measures we can take to address this issue, working within West Sussex Highway constraints.
- We have welcomed Noemi Ripert to the parish office team as our new Communications and Admin Officer, as part of our strategy to increase community engagement.
- We have worked hard this year to apply for numerous external grants to help fund our activities and balance our budget, and we recognise the difficult times for residents, but the inflationary pressures we are all experiencing means we've needed to raise the council tax precept by £10.75 a year for a Band D property.

The above successes would not be possible without the great work undertaken by the Parish Council team, led by our Clerk, Sam Heynes.

If the above activities interest you, you'd like to contribute more and would consider becoming a councillor, elections for the next four-year term are scheduled to be held on 4th May. More information can be found at www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/upcoming-elections or talk to Sam in the parish office.

More details of our activities can be found in the various committee reports below.

Committee Activities

In 2022-23 the Parish Council ran committees for Assets, Community & Environment, Community Buildings, Roads & Traffic, Planning, and Finance & General Purposes Reports on their activities are outlined below.

Assets, Community and Environment Committee – Cllr Andrew Symonds

This has been another busy year for the ACE Committee.

Assets

Horsefield Green has seen an orchard planted, the eventual fruit of which is for the benefit of every resident in Cuckfield. An information board has been erected by the pond to explain what has been done.



FIGURE 2 HORSEFIELD GREEN INTERPRETATION BOARD, NOEMI RIPERT 2022

The cemetery has been maintained to a high standard. A natural burial area is set aside for those who wish to choose this option. It is at the far end of the Newbury Lane extension.

A number of new memorial benches have been installed in the cemetery where old ones have become dangerous or rotten. In addition, three Queen's Jubilee memorial benches have been positioned; one in the High Street, one at Whitemans Green with another to follow.



FIGURE 3 MEMORIAL BENCH, CEMETERY, SHAYNE HILBOURNE 2022

The allotments still prove to be on high demand and the waiting list is slowly reducing. There are 39 at Whitemans Green and 36 in Courtmead Road.

Community

We were able to distribute 36 Christmas hampers to local residents serving 133 people in total. These were well received, and much gratitude was expressed.

The skate park has seen some popular and successful Skate Jam sessions.

The Silver Sunday event has grown in attendance, and another is planned for 25 April 2023. If you are feeling lonely or would like some company, perhaps make some new friends, please come along. All are made to feel welcome, see our poster for more details.

Both the Christmas Scarecrow Competition and Christmas Street Festival were back this year and we were delighted to see such wonderful scarecrows from residents and an excellent turnout at the Street Festival which has now become an established occasion in the village.



FIGURE 4 CHRISTMAS SCARECROW COMPETITION, MARTIN SHELDON 2022

The Queen's jubilee street party was a big success in which the Parish was an active participant and was able to secure grants towards the costs.



FIGURE 5 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BENCH WHITEMANS GREEN, PAUL STEVENS 2022

This year we are planning a follow-up event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III with a family and friends bring your own picnic at Whitemans Green. Be sure to be there on Sunday afternoon 7th May 2023, there will be live music, activities to join in and much fun to be had. The skate jam will be present, as well as a beer festival and food stalls for those who'd rather buy something than bring their own picnics. Entry and activities are all completely free, we look forward to seeing you there.

Environment

The Parish is always looking to expand its wildflower planting programme. We have allocated further areas in the cemetery. It is hoped to enhance the village generally by planting some roadside verges. Residents may wish to "adopt" a nearby verge and take on its regular upkeep! Contact the parish office if you are interested in taking over the care and maintenance of a verge local to you.

Community Buildings Committee – Cllr Andrea King

Both halls are busy with a variety of bookings and the Parish Council staff must be thanked for their dedication and working so hard to make sure there are no problems and those that do arise are sorted out quickly.

Cuckfield Pre-School continues to use the Village Hall and the future plans for the long-term improvement of the building are still being considered, with architects being asked to tender for a possible rebuild at some point in the future.

The parking layby for three cars to enable staff to park within the hall curtilage whilst still ensuring the safety of the children with new fencing has now been built and is proving very useful. We continue to meet termly with regular hirers to discuss their needs and listen to any concerns.



FIGURE 6 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK, PAUL STEVENS 2022

One new initiative in the Queen's Hall is a partnership with Age UK which means that on Monday afternoons we have been offering a chance for people over 50 to meet up for tea and a chat in the Council Chamber. This has proved to be very successful, and we are now also offering a "Community Space" on Tuesdays during the winter months for all age groups. While this does restrict the availability for other hirers the Council felt it was an important initiative in the present difficult circumstances and we may well extend it to other days. Silver Sunday lunches are now happening twice a year and are well attended. We are grateful to the volunteers who have offered to host these events.



FIGURE 7 COUNCIL CHAMBER WARM SPACE, NOEMI RIPERT 2023

The annual Bookfest took place in October and was very well supported, with Richard Osman proving to be a major draw!

Cuckfield Museum is housed in the Queen's Hall and is currently open four mornings a week. We are delighted that it has recently had its Accredited Museum status renewed. A real bonus for the village to have such a museum and a tribute to the dedicated team of volunteers who run it.

Our plans to convert a storage area on the side of the Queen's Hall into additional toilet facilities which will be directly accessible from the garden, using in part S106 funds from MSDC, have now come to fruition and we are delighted with the new loo with disabled access which will prove its worth as more people use the Angela Fox Nature Garden. We hope to move to Phase 3 of that project soon. The lawn is doing well and wildflowers and trees are establishing themselves though it obviously all takes time and the weather has not always been helpful.



FIGURE 8 EXTERNAL TOILET, QUEEN'S HALL GARDEN, SAM HEYNES, 2022

The Angela Fox Nature Garden proved to be a wonderful venue for the Rain or Shine Theatre performance in August and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We were able to serve interval refreshments from the gazebo – they proved popular too! Their recent show in January drew a larger audience than ever before and we look forward to seeing them again later in the year. “A Comedy of Errors” promises to be a treat we can all look forward to.



FIGURE 9 RAIN OR SHINE PERFORMANCE, ANGELA FOX NATURE GARDEN, SAM HEYNES 2022

Roads & Traffic Committee – Cllr Jill White

As a Council we have reviewed a number of suggestions from the public to address road safety, traffic density, congestion, pedestrian safety, parking and traffic speed concerns. We are now working through a plan that will address these issues in full or in part, but many will be longer term as the solutions require expense, time and the assistance of WSCC or MSDC.

Using our Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), we have been recording traffic flows and speeds through the village and will continue to do so, as this helps us evidence hot spots and also any increases from the new 'Brookleigh' Burgess Hill Northern Arc development. We are not confident this traffic will route out to the A23 as expected by the planners and so are considering actions that could make it more inconvenient for those who want to use Cuckfield as a short cut to the M23. Actions considered include a pinch point or a chicane opposite the entrance to Church Platt, but if we can persuade people to park there, it will have the same effect for zero cost.

Other main concerns are Broad Street congestion caused by parked cars between High Street and London Lane and this could be reduced by restricting HGVs (except for access and delivery) and removal of a parking space by the chemist (with additional yellow lines).

Further along Broad Street (London Lane to the bypass), congestion could be eased if more children walked or cycled to school. We will explore how we can encourage the schools in this respect. In the reverse direction, traffic from the bypass to London Lane often exceeds the speed limit and we are supporting a reduction to 30mph immediately after the end of the bypass.

Hanlye Lane continues to see cars going off road in slippery conditions and a number of these could be attributed to potholes or the avoidance thereof. It is also unsafe for cyclists, especially in the dark. We would like to encourage everyone to regularly report potholes even though the repair doesn't last long!

Reducing speed to 20mph along the lower High Street, London Lane and South Street could help with safety. We all recognise these areas are not safe for pedestrians crossing the road so we will also be seeking an additional crossing in South Street, if possible.

We realise that not all solutions will suit everyone, depending on where they live. Therefore, we commissioned a traffic consultant to review our ideas for traffic calming measures and have taken on board his thoughts. A number require obtaining Traffic Regulation Orders which are expensive or speed limit reductions which are difficult to obtain and divisive among residents.

We will continue to discuss ideas and progress costings and will discuss further at the Parish Annual Meeting on 16th March.

Planning Committee – Cllr Steve Oversby-Powell

The primary role of the Planning Committee is to fulfil the Parish Council's obligation as a body with a statutory right of consultation on all planning applications received by the Local Authority i.e. MSDC. However, we also make submissions on larger issues and consultations well before many proposals become formal applications. The work that is done by the planning committee is also, in every year, reflective of decisions made at much higher levels of government.

Let's take the most common type of application that we review: planning applications for extensions/home improvements, the majority coming from families looking to improve the homes they already have. The alternative would of course be to move to a property that already more closely matches their needs, but even if such a property is available and at an acceptable price, government policy (in the form of Stamp Duty Land Tax) discourages this.

Of course, the unfortunate unintended consequence of this is there are fewer and fewer smaller properties affordable for those wanting to purchase either their first home or downsize.

We then have the other end of the scale, the wildly over the top proposals to turn swathes of our countryside into colossal housing estates. And yes, I am referring directly to the Fairfax Homes proposal to double the size of Cuckfield, conjoining it with Ansty to form the mighty 'Cuck-Stye'.

These types of applications, whilst put forward by developers, are driven by government 'top down' housing allocation targets. Opaque devices that seem to endlessly push additional housing to the very parts of the country with the least capacity to responsibly deliver it. A cynic might say that it is more about delivering votes than delivering housing, but as an apolitical body we do need to point out that every political party is guilty of this, and MSDC do their best based upon the dictates from government (of whichever flavour) and the topography with which they have to work - much of the overall land mass within MSDC falling within the constraints of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the South Downs National Park. Consequently, areas outside of these zones are at risk of rapid urbanisation.

This can be well demonstrated by the diagram below, taken from MSDC's current District Plan (P37). The areas in green or hatched are limited in their scope for development forcing sites for development to be found within the smaller unrestricted area.

The keen-eyed observer will note that Burgess Hill is showing on the map as having had its North Western boundary extended already (sustainable community 1) this is because this development is already under way.

If you want to envisage the effect of the other two 'sustainable communities' shown on the diagram, it is pretty easy; just mentally pick up Cuckfield and pop it down on the relevant pink star. The Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common proposal (which will conjoin those 2 villages) representing approximately 2,000 homes and the Worth proposal (shown as '3' at the top of the diagram) equating to some 1,500 homes. When viewed on a map like this it's pretty simple to see why the proposed inclusion in the District Plan for some 1,600 homes immediately to the south of Cuckfield failed to strike a chord with the majority of parishioners. Key to delivering needed housing, MSDC have a district plan vision which is set out in their 'adopted District Plan'. It states that MSDC looks to achieve: *"A thriving, attractive and resilient District, which is a highly sustainable and desirable place to live, work and visit."*

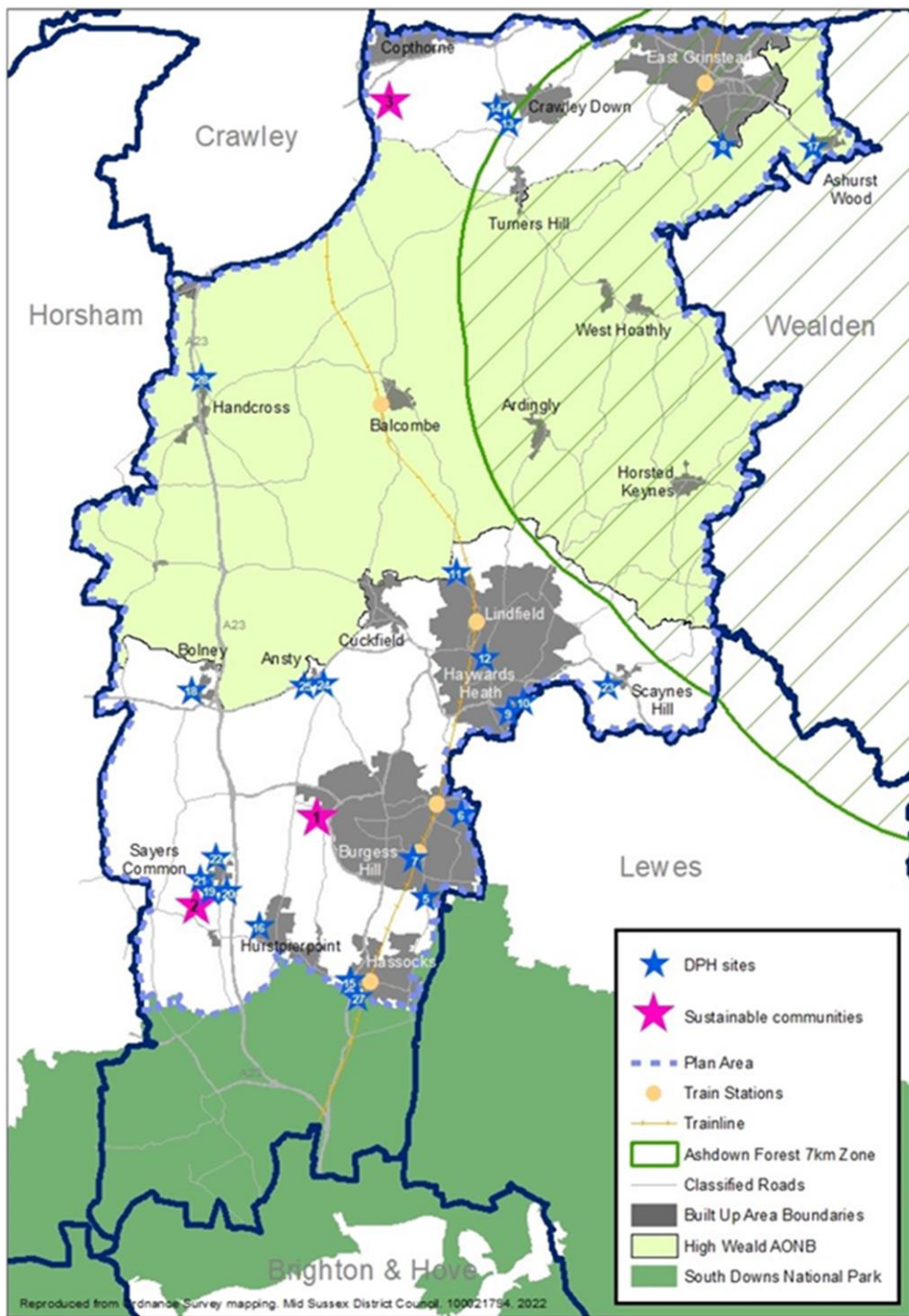


DIAGRAM 1, KEY DIAGRAM MSDC DISTRICT PLAN

Our aim is to maintain, and where possible, improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of our District and the quality of life for all, now and in the future.”

The Parish Council felt that the Cuck-Stye proposal met none of those goals and we robustly objected to it.

We also went a step further and, working with our colleagues from Ansty and Staplefield PC, provided funding for expert reports to counter what we suspected was flawed data submitted by the promoter in support of the application.

It is worth stressing that we do not commit parish funds in this way lightly, but we will where we deem there to be a significant risk of harm to our community.

We are delighted that MSDC have chosen to shelve this proposed site from their District Plan for now, however, the site promoter is tenacious and we fully expect to see derivatives of this scheme put forward for many years to come. We would like to express our thanks to Cllr Pete Bradbury and Mims Davies MP for their support in reaching this interim outcome..

Looking at some of the smaller proposed developments in and around Cuckfield, some are appropriate and some not. We are exceedingly lucky in Cuckfield in that we have distinctive character areas which enhance the village that we can look to preserve. A great example of this a few years ago was the significant reduction in scope of the Horsefield Green development, which has maintained an open feel to that part of the village and maintained the far-reaching views to the south.

Most recently an application (and subsequent appeal) to build 8 houses on Hatchgate Lane was rejected, the planning inspector's decision weighing heavily on the proposals capacity to "cause harm to the rural character of the countryside".

That we can expect many more developments in coming years is apparent from the sheer number of entries that were to be found in MSDC's **Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment** (or **SHELAA** for short).

The SHELAA (2022) sets out the long list of sites which were nominated to MSDC, usually by landowners. These sites do not have any planning status, and many of them are no more than pipe dreams, but the SHELAA does give us a feel for who would like to put what where, and a brief assessment is done on each and every one of the sites' potential and suitability. (see example in diagram 3 below)

I always encourage people to look at the SHELAA list, particularly if they are considering buying a new build property, and especially if the sales brochure or the developer wax lyrical about the 'tranquillity', 'privacy' or 'countryside views' that you might enjoy.

The table below shows the majority of such sites within the Parish. Those marked in blue have been reviewed, but there are no immediate plans to support them, whilst the sites in red have been committed by MSDC as sites that will be built on. Probably best to note at outset (before you look at the map below) that the numbers are plot references and not the number of houses the developer/landowner wants to put on the site.

As you can see, approximately three quarters of the circumference of the village has been put forward for potential development, and without proper planning constraints one might as well be living in Milton Keynes. I've noted on previous reports that a particular bugbear of mine is that developers simultaneously exalt Cuckfield as a wonderful, distinctive place to live whilst at the same time attempting to erode that character, with proposals for rows of identikit houses that you might find anywhere in the country.

In other matters, we are also concerned with the preservation of trees where possible (however Ash Dieback is having a significant impact across the parish), and we have had 22 applications (relating to 52 trees) to either fell, or structurally prune major trees in the village. In any case where a mature tree is to be felled, we make a point of requesting the arborist report on why this is necessary.

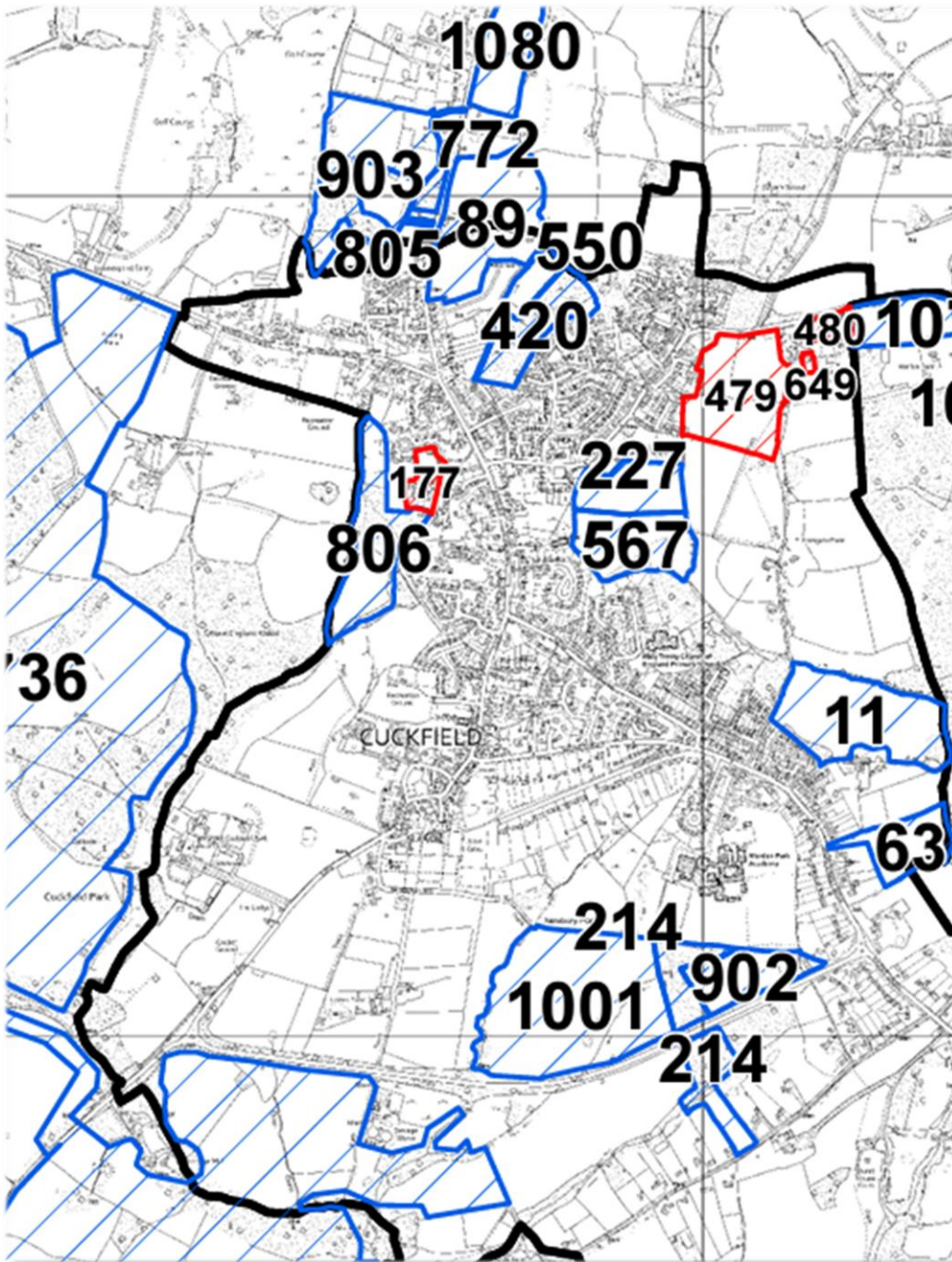


DIAGRAM 2, SHELAA (2022)

As in previous years, where the council have felt that applicants' plans were slightly ill considered the committee have returned suggestions for how the plans might be improved rather than object to an application outright, we have found this approach to be effective, with applicants often making amendments to their plans before the determination deadline.

Other Projects of Local Significance

Burgess Hill Northern Arc

This development thunders along and will (along with a number of smaller sites) deliver approximately 5,600 homes between now and 2039.


SHELAA Ref	63	Parish	Cuckfield
Site Location	Land north of Riseholme, Broad Street, Cuckfield		
			
Site uses	Agriculture		
Gross Site Area (ha)	2.40		
Potential Yield	72		
Site History			
Absolute Constraint	Flood Zone 2 or 3	x	
	Site of Special Scientific Interest	x	
Other Constraints	Ancient Woodland	✓	
	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	x	
	Local Nature Reserve	x	
	Conservation Area	Development would not have a negative impact on Areas of Townscape Character	
	Scheduled Monument	x	
	Listed Buildings	Development will not affect listed building/s	
	Access	Safe access to site already exists	
Suitable	Relatively unconstrained - assessed as Suitable at Stage 1, progress to Stage 2 assessment		
Availability	Site submitted by site proponent to the SHELAA for assessment - considered available		
Achievability	There is a reasonable prospect that site could be developed within the Plan period		
Timescale	Medium-Long Term		

DIAGRAM 3, TYPICAL SHELAA OVERVIEW ASSESSMENT

Ansty & Staplefield and Bolney

Multiple smaller sites within these 2 parishes are earmarked for a total of 491 (228 and 263 respectively before 2039).

Penland Farm

This development by Redrow Homes of 210 properties on the North-Western boundary of Haywards Heath continues and is largely complete. It was not a development that we welcomed, and we objected at the time believing that it would increase the danger on what we already considered a dangerous stretch of road. A prophecy that looks to have been correct. We note that a site immediately to the east of this development 'Land East of Borde Hill Lane' (SHELAA Ref 556) has found its way onto the MSDC district plan for a further 60 houses.

We noted in our last report that with any large development it is essential that MSDC insist that crucial infrastructure works (i.e. roads and roundabouts) are constructed as a condition of planning prior to the houses being built – not as an afterthought which then causes avoidable disruption to thousands of people for months on end.

Planning Enforcement and Issues

The Buttinghill drainage pond has been the subject of ongoing conversations between the parish council and Taylor Wimpey. We remain optimistic that this may be the year we take ownership of the site, pending the completion of some final maintenance issues by Taylor Wimpey.

We are dismayed at the status of the ongoing delayed enforcement actions combined with the submission of more retrospective applications taking place at Cuckfield Golf Club – much the same state of affairs as last year.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – Sam Heynes (Clerk)

2022-23 has seen the parish council's finances return to almost normal, although we are suffering from a reduction in income caused by the loss of a couple of our regular hirers – sadly these were COVID casualties. It's clear that people's new normal is slightly different when it comes to attending classes and using the halls, although we are seeing an increase in the number of children's birthday parties being booked more recently. Expenditure has increased due to the cost of living rises, and this will likely become worse in 2023-24 when utility bill caps will be removed for businesses; the rises have already been beyond the forecast increases made last year.

Key points of interest for 2022-23 are detailed below:

- Roads & Traffic – conversations were held with a traffic consultant at a high level to establish potential traffic calming measures suitable for Cuckfield, further exploration of this to take place in 2023-24.
- Finance & General Purposes – income above forecast due to VAT returns higher than forecast, as a result of the improvements done at the Village Hall (new parking spaces) and Queen's Hall (external toilet). Expenditure is on track.
- Environment – income was higher than forecast at the cemetery with more burials taking place. Expenditure was close to forecast, and savings realised as we were not charged for the additional twitten cuts scheduled in 2022.

- Queen's Hall – income is down for regular hirers compared to pre-COVID years, with expenditure higher through increased utility bills and the building of the external toilet at the Queen's Hall.
- Cuckfield Village Hall – hire income at the Village Hall is back at forecast levels, but this is also being impacted by the increased utility bills and higher expenditure than usual on the installation of the parking spaces to the front of the hall.

Looking forwards to 2023-24, further investigation into traffic calming options for the village will be considered, with the possible introduction of 20mph zones being a key area of focus. Development of the Angela Fox Nature Garden will continue.

Elections will take place in May which will likely see changes to the members of Cuckfield Parish Council. Once the newly elected officials have taken office, a business plan refresh will take place for the 2023-2027 council term. Areas of focus will likely remain on our existing assets, and during this term we will hopefully (finally!) see the transfer of the land at Buttinghill into the Parish Council's hands.

Budget data current as at 22nd February 2023

	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
Roads & Traffic			
Income	£2,000	£1,962	-£38
Expenditure	£6,938	£5,796	£1,142
	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
Planning			
Income	£0	£0	£0
Expenditure	£2,500	£4,357	-£1,857
	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
Finance & General Purposes			
Income	£271,639	£289,150	£17,511
Expenditure	£232,711	£192,682	£40,029
	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
Environment & Wellbeing			
Income	£85,329	£81,637	-£3,692
Expenditure	£81,033	£67,094	£13,939
	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
Queen's Hall			
Income	£31,000	£53,715	£22,715
Expenditure	£75,044	£68,273	£6,771
	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
Cuckfield Village Hall			
Income	£22,700	£19,986	£2,714
Expenditure	£39,168	£46,266	-£7,098
	2022-23 Budget	Actual Net	Balance

Total Income	£412,668	£446,450	£33,780
Total Expenditure	£437,394	£384,468	-£52,926

Reserve Movements	Current Value 2022-23
Memorial Repairs	£4,000
Traffic Calming (London Lane)	£25,427
Grants	£2,155
Horsefield Green Landscape & Pond	£21,273
Horsefield Green 10 Year Fund	£104,375
Allotment Deposits	£4,120
Council Elections	£1,214
Allotment Maintenance	£444
Nature Garden	£4,426
Lychgates	£1,000
Legal Fees	£3,202
Current Reserves Total	£171,636

The following grants have been received over the past year which have been used for specific initiatives in support of the community and assets of the village:

£500	<i>Independent State of Cuckfield</i> Donation towards Christmas food hampers for those in need
£1,700	<i>Mid Sussex District Council</i> Environment improvement funds
£8,651	<i>S106 funds awarded by MSDC</i> Funding towards the installation of an external toilet in the Queen's Hall grounds
£8,918	<i>S106 funds awarded by MSDC</i> Funding towards the ongoing development of the Angela Fox Nature Garden
£5,875	<i>S106 funds awarded by MSDC</i> Funding towards the ongoing development of the Angela Fox Nature Garden