

THE GORING & ILEX CONSERVATION GROUP

Conserving the beauty and present character of Ilex Avenue,
the trees in Sea Lane and the Goring Gap



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.15pm for 7.30pm Thursday 7th June 2018 at
Methodist Church Hall, Bury Drive, Goring

Members and Non-Members are cordially invited to attend.

Following the AGM there will be a talk by noted Worthing historian
Chris Hare

“The Secret Shore” - Smuggling History & Smuggling Myths
Chris will also bring a selection of his books for sale and signing

Review of the year

Planning

In last year's newsletter, we noted that a new Local Plan for Worthing was being compiled. We commented on the first stage proposals and awaited the next stage – consultation on the Draft Local Plan. This stage has been delayed from early this year, then late spring and now this summer to enable the Transport Study to be properly undertaken and no doubt, to also include the ever-changing Government planning requirements. We await the consultation dates and will continue to be involved in the Local Plan consultation to try to ensure the best interests of the Goring and wider areas.

Recent Government announcements on planning and housebuilding have reinforced the measures in last year's White Paper, following consultation, and now back the creation of a new generation of town houses, initially in major cities, which could see building heights being raised to match the rooflines of other buildings in the area.

We have continued to monitor local planning applications and since last year's newsletter have reviewed 75 applications for the Goring area and commented on 12 of these. We have noticed that more work is being undertaken through the relaxed “Permitted Development” rules which allow some works such as single storey and roof extensions (within set limits) to be carried out without gaining planning permission.

We have been in consultation with the Council regarding littering on the Greensward and we will continue to monitor this.

Flint Walls

We have also, with our comments to the planners, been able secure the reinstatement of at least one local flint wall, a characteristic of Goring and older parts of Worthing, albeit at a lower height than desirable but which otherwise would have been lost. This particular flint wall delineates the ancient historic boundary of Sea Place Manor.

Group Constitution & Name Change

Following our change of name, agreed at our Annual General Meeting held on the 4th May 2017, it was necessary to update our Constitution accordingly. So the opportunity was taken to update the various procedural matters and, more importantly, restate our objectives which “ shall be to secure the conservation and preservation of the beauty and present character of the Ilex Avenue and Sea Lane (Goring), the area known as the Goring Gap, the Plantation, and the Greensward. The Group may pursue other Objectives which the Committee may determine are appropriate for the conservation of Goring and significant developments elsewhere “.

The proposed revised constitution will be available at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting for all members to view.

Goring Gap

There has been no news recently regarding Persimmon and any plans to build on the Goring Gap, or, indeed, for the increased protection of the Gap. In 2014 we applied to the Council to designate the Goring Gap as a Local Green Space. If approved, this would provide protection similar to 'Green Belt'.

As a result, we have been monitoring the progress of the Worthing Draft Local Plan which, after public consultation, will determine the location of local green spaces which are of particular importance to local communities, across Worthing. We are continuing to be vigilant and liaise closely with the Ferring Conservation Group and the Goring Residents' Association.

Natural England Coastal Footpath

Natural England are establishing a coastal footpath, which is being created for walkers, around the whole of England to enable access to the coast. We responded to the recent consultation by Natural England regarding our sections of the coastal path from Patterson's Walk in Ferring to George V Avenue, Goring and were able to confirm that the Greensward section has Village Green status.

Annual Accounts - Year Ended 31/12/17

Subscriptions and donations from our members remained relatively constant at £1,660. And, whilst our costs rose slightly, overall a surplus of £483 was achieved in the year. Our bank balance at 31/12/17 stood at £6,367 of which £5,500 has been set aside as our "Conservation Fund" which was initially created to enable us to take whatever professional advice is considered necessary.

News from the Plantation

Over the last year our work has gathered apace with more recognition from the public walking through and praising our work.

Meeting once a month for 2 hours on a Saturday we have achieved at least 500 hours work equivalent in value to £4000

We also planted native Bluebells that will become an annual task. We have planted 250 young trees that slowly establish under the canopy of the larger trees. Establishing trees is not easy when you consider the high winds that constantly batter the Plantation from the sea. Vandalism, by removing canes or knocking trees over, is an issue mainly to our young trees.

We continue to cut down brambles and vegetation together with spreading woodchip along the inner paths during the summer.

Last autumn we were given a notice board by Worthing Borough Council that is erected on the south side of Amberley Drive where you can read information about our work and occasionally news from the group committee.

We give a brief report each month in the Goring Guide of our progress. This work is completely carried out by volunteers. If you are fit and able do come along and join us to help improve the Plantation even if it's only once a year.

Special thanks to David Phipp for providing refreshments and his famous cupcakes.

We are applying for a grant from the Rampion Project to purchase a steel container to store our tools and materials to save storing elsewhere and bringing them in a car each month. We understand they have £4 million to give to local causes.

The Goring Ilex Conservation Group 2018 Subscription

If you were unable to pay your subscription when the newsletter was delivered, could please bring the completed 'tear off' slip to the AGM or alternatively drop it through the letter box of one of the following collectors. A membership card will then be issued.

John Daley

48 Aldsworth Avenue

Bob Niall

34 Marine Crescent

Name.....Address.....Tel.....

Amount Enclosed £.....(Membership £1 per household but additional donations welcome)