

THE 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 5th May 2016 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

“How the Sussex landscape made the Sussex people”

Chris will also bring a selection of his books for sale and signing

Review of the year's events

Planning

Goring, and indeed the whole of the south east, remains under increasing pressure to provide both greenfield and brownfield (previously developed) sites for new housing and for alterations to existing housing stock to create more living space. There has been a relaxing of planning rules at national level to encourage this and Worthing Borough Council is in the process of creating a new Local Plan to try to meet new, aggressive, housing targets for the area. Our neighbours in Ferring were under the impression that their green spaces were “safe” under the recent Arun Local Plan. Arun, however, after submission of their Plan to the Planning Inspectorate, have been instructed to revise their Plan based on a ‘need’ to allow for an additional 265 houses per year for the next 15

years (an additional 45% provision) which may jeopardise those green spaces.

Against this background, we continue to review local planning applications and where we consider that they will adversely affect the local environment, we will comment to the local planners and present our case at the local planning committee where necessary.

During 2015, at our committee meetings, we reviewed 84 planning applications for the Goring area and commented to the planners on 14 of these. In addition, we liaised with other local groups and supported them in their comments on planning matters. We do not wish to live in a museum but we do wish to retain the special character of Goring which could be spoiled by the rush for change.

The Ilex Conservation Group 2016 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.

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

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

Goring Gap

We are continuing to monitor progress with Worthing's Local Plan Review in conjunction with other local groups. We have been encouraged that WBC has initially assessed both Goring Gap sites as unsuitable for development. However, it will be necessary to remain vigilant.

Motorhomes and campervans

The long awaited review of Traffic Regulation Order procedures by WSCC should be published shortly and it is hoped that the nuisance created by overnight and long term parking along Marine Drive and Marine Crescent will be removed.

Practical Projects

Over the last year we have made great strides in improving the Plantation. Paths have been cleared and woodchip applied to try to maintain accessibility, while removing young Sycamore saplings and clearing brambles in order to allow young planted trees to establish. Volunteers also dug a trench near the sports field to divert water away from the main drive which often becomes waterlogged. We appreciate the volunteer helpers who regularly brave inclement weather. So far, this equates to approx. 250 hours, roughly six man weeks. Worthing and Adur Councils have started a new scheme in conjunction with The Conservation Volunteers (TVC) to support groups such as The Ilex Conservation Group (ICG). The TVC have donated 100 tree

saplings this winter, while the council supplied guards and stakes so we have been able to plant these new young trees. We also have assistance from the Park Rangers (WBC) who give practical help to our volunteers in addition to their daily duties.

One new project will be to enlist volunteers to identify all the plants, birds and insects found, to provide information and add value to the Plantation. If you could help, please get in touch.

We aim to continue our work to improve the Plantation for the community. Anyone physically fit is welcome to join us in this work, even just once a year. Dates of sessions are published in the Goring Guide every month.

Annual Accounts

The accounts for the year ended the 31st December 2015 reflect that, when compared to the previous year, total income from subscriptions and donations increased by £112, to £1,747. Total expenditure decreased by £157 to £1,017. And expenditure this year did include the cost of tools, which were financed by a grant of £250 shown last year as income. Overall, a surplus arose which increased the bank balance to £4,987. Of this balance, £4,000 has been set aside as the Conservation Fund, created in previous years, to enable us to take professional advice whenever necessary, to help in the task of ensuring that Goring evolves in a manner aesthetically pleasing to residents.

Help Wanted

We have about 14 loyal collectors who deliver newsletters and collect from 1600 households in the Ilex catchment area but there are a further 400 households that we miss. We are always in need of more collectors. So, if you would like to help us with next year's collection, please let any committee member know at our A.G.M. alternatively tick below, you can be assigned a road in time for next year. It involves delivering the newsletter, issuing a membership card and collecting the subs.

I would like to help with next years newsletter delivery ☐ (tick)