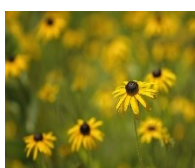




Save the date!

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on **Tuesday 6th May at 6.30pm** – this is a meeting facilitated by the council for residents, not a council meeting, and a chance for you to meet your councillors, ask any questions. As well as reports from the council there's a short presentation from Arun Community Transport about the organisation, and we are also lining up a talk from the County Council about the new grass cutting regime they're trialling. Got something to say? The floor is yours and we look forward to welcoming you. It's helpful to have written questions in advance if possible, the better to answer them.



Floral planting and grounds maintenance

Following a gap in service, we've recently appointed a new grounds maintenance contractor: You'll soon see new seasonal planting in the railing planters and post top planters around Rose Green, as well as the beds at the Millennium Garden. The maintenance contract includes grass cutting and care of the Millennium Garden and the roundabouts at Barrack Lane/Gossamer Lane, B2166 Lower Bognor Road, and B2166 Hewarts Lane/Chalcraft Lane.

We've recently arranged graffiti removal and sprucing up of the bus stop near Aldwick Farm, and have our sights on public seating that needs attention. Top of the list currently is the one at the beach entrance at the end of Barrack Lane, so we're checking out potentially repairing that.

Lieutenant Prior Memorial Plaque

Lots of residents have asked when the 'missing' plaque will be restored to its position on the wall at Dark Lane beach entrance. At the time of going to press, it's with our contractor for the necessary work to safely reposition it, and we're hopeful that it will be back on the wall by end of March. We're working with the Royal Naval Association who will be holding a Rededication Service to mark the occasion – details are being finalised and as soon as we know the arrangements we'll post details on our website. The RNA is also planning to hold a further service on the 22nd December 2025, the 80th anniversary of Lt Prior's death.



Spruce Tree pest alert



The Forestry Commission is alerting everyone to the spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*), a serious pest they need help dealing with. Found in the UK in 2018 with further outbreaks since, if it becomes established it will have a major impact on our environment and wood-based industries. Recently windblown, snapped, stressed, dying and sawn trees are particularly susceptible to infestation and DEFRA and the Forestry Commission encourage proactive management of spruce to reduce the risk of beetle establishment. Guidance and information can be found on the Gov.UK *Ips typographus* webpage, or you can email ips.t@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

Council Meeting dates

Public are always welcome to attend meetings and can ask questions on agenda items during a short adjournment item. Agendas are published on our website / notice boards around a week in advance. **Please check our website for agenda details in case of time/date changes:**
Planning Committee - Tuesday 8th April, 7pm, Tuesday 22nd April, 7pm ('short' meeting), Tuesday 6th May, 7.30pm and Tuesday 20th May, 7pm ('short' meeting). The 'short' meetings precede Full Council meetings. Full Council meetings therefore start at approximately 7.15pm, earlier if there is no Planning Committee. **Full Council** - Tuesday 22nd April, Tuesday 20th May (Annual Council Meeting).

