

The Annual Parish Report and Meeting held at Colgate Village Hall on 10th March 2025-Looking back on 24/25.

BRIEF REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS FOR 2024/24

From the Electoral Register (over 18yrs) October 2024 number of residents per community

Colgate	-543
Faygate	-510
Kilnwood Vale-	1977
Total	- 3030

Census data

The 2011 census confirms that there are 1087 residents (male-541 and female 546). There are 398 households in total. The 2011 figures have been put in brackets for comparison.

The 2021 census provided the following information:

- **Number of households**

-1534(398)

- **Sex**

Female	1,881 (546)
Male	1,844(541)
Total	3725(1087)

The Kilnwood Vale development continues to grow at speed, with total number of residents exceeding the total number of residents in both Colgate and Faygate collectively.

The Council, Councillors and Employees

Councillors (who are all volunteers).

CLlr Marley (Chair)
CLlr Calvert
CLlr Crosdil (Vice)
CLlr Finnegan
CLlr Davies
CLlr Garley

Cllr Faith*
Cllr Staff
Cllr Humphrey
*Co-opted 23

With over 75% of the Councillors being voted into post, and with the Clerk holding the CILCA qualification, the Parish Council have the General Powers of Competency (May 2024)

Councillors have attended Horsham District Association of Local Councils (HALC) meeting, meetings with West Sussex County Council (WSSC) and Horsham District Council (HDC), and stakeholder meeting with Kilnwood Vale and HDC Green Team. The Clerk and Councillors will continue to attend courses and workshop to ensure the Council is up to date on all new regulations.

Employees

Mr McGill joined the Council in 2021 as the Litter Warden and remains in post. Mr McGill works 4.25 hours per week. The Parish Council will continue to meet the increased costs of Mr McGill's salary from the precept since the HDC grant could not be increased. Mr McGill is also collecting litter at the three park areas in Kilnwood Vale at the request of the residents.

The Clerk has been employed by Colgate PC since 2012. The Clerk is employed to work 12 hours per week. The Clerk will be leaving the council on 25th April after 13 years' service. The recruitment process has begun.

Achievements:

- Installing a memorial bench in memory of John Sired in St Saviours graveyard. John Sired was not only a councillor since the 1970's but a caretaker and church warden. He was a well-loved community figure in the village.



Davis Stillwell's bench required maintenance this year which has been completed.

- Continued the use of Facebook as another way of engaging with the residents of the parish. There are eighty-five members to date.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263093597685939>
- The website has been updated and continues to be a useful source of information. WWW.colgatefaygate.com
- Grant Application- Colgate Parish Council awarded the following:
£1000 awarded to St Catherine
£350 -Air Ambulance
£130- 4sight
£600 Colgate School
£1000 – Colgate VH Play equipment (earmarked)

In addition, the annual grants of £1000 were awarded to St Saviours church and both Colgate and Faygate Village Halls.

- The defibrillators located at four different sites in the parish continue to be maintained by the council. Two older defibrillator units were decommissioned this year and replaced with two new unit that can be used on adults and children. The alarm had to be replaced on the Faygate cabinet.
- Online banking has been a success, and it was agreed to open a reserve account (Liquidity Management Reserve Account 95-day notice) and a general reserve account . On average £50 interest is being generated by the two accounts.
- Continued support and awareness of our armed forces past and present by displaying the Silent Heroes (Colgate Village Hall, Durrants Village and Kilwood Vale School) in partnership with The Royal British Legion during the month of November.



- A recycling site at Colgate Village Hall has been set up and piloted. The Colgate recycling initiative has been a great success. A core of over a dozen villagers meet every month to recycle materials which Sussex Green Living then uses to generate income for the Sussex Air Ambulance and the Springboard Project that supports young children and families. Colgate Preschool now recycles through this village initiative. The council hope to find champions in Faygate and KVV to expand this project.
- Fingerposts-WSCC no longer maintain the village style fingerposts and the responsibility now lies with the PC. There are four fingerposts within the Parishes boundary, all in Colgate. The locations are Forest Road/Blackhouse road junction, Blackhouse Road/ Grouse Road junction, Grouse Road / Forest Road junction and Grouse Road (Buck Barn). The Parish is currently reviewing the cost of repairs and maintenance .All shrubbery has been cleared from all four sites with thanks to Cllr Faith and Cllr Crosdil.



- Bus stop improvements -The PC have been in liaising with WSCC about improving the safety of the bus stop by the BP garage. Fencing now surrounds the area to prevent passengers falling down the steep bank. In addition, CPC financed the repairs to the bench in the Colgate bus shelter. (Photo below)



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- Bus stop volunteer - Andrew Finnegan has volunteered to be take care of the litter levels in both bus stops located on the A264 for which the PC are grateful. There has been an increase in litter as a result of more people using the facility due to the monthly car boot sales in Spring/Summer and the opening of the BP garage shop.
- Working with District and County Councillors and the police to improve the lives of residents in the parish particularly the racing events along A264 over several years.

Finance

The accounts remain in a healthy state and both the internal auditor, Mark Mulberry and external auditor, Moores signed the accounts off with no recommendation in May 2024.

The precept 24/25- £34160

Council Infrastructure Levy

<i>CIL end of 21/22</i>	
<i>Total received since 19/20</i>	<i>£14711</i>
<i>Total spent end of 21/22</i>	<i>£8962</i>
<i>Carries forward 22/23</i>	<i>£5749</i>
<i>Spent 22/23</i>	<i>£2690</i>
<i>B/f 23/24</i>	<i>£3059 to spend by 2026.</i>
<i>Spent Dec23 hedge cut</i>	<i>£671</i>
<i>Balance</i>	<i>£2388 CARRIED FORWARD TO 24/25</i>
<i>X2 defibs Aug 24</i>	<i>£1328- It was agreed that this expenditure would come from CIL(Sept 24).</i>
<i>Bal</i>	<i>£1060 to be spent by 2026.</i>

Planning

HDC has a duty to refer all planning applications relating to the Parish to the Council to give the opportunity for comments in the light of local knowledge, but the Parish Council take no part in the granting or refusal of permission.

17 Planning meetings were held during 24/25 (February to beginning March)

Potential new development in the Parish - Land West of Ifield is still being considered and comments to HDC have been made via the local Plan consultation.

Development of Land North of Horsham continues.

The Kilnwood Vale development continues to grow.

Water Neutrality Policy has impacted on the approval of all planning applications within the district.

Horsham District Council Local Plan has been presented to the Planning Inspector who has stopped the consultation process which means it is still pending.

Action plan and development into 25-26

With the change of Government came a new vision of devolution and unitary councils which WSCC is pursuing. There are discussions on how this might impact the Parish council, but there is little information at the moment on the effects on PCs. The PC will be keeping abreast of any developments. A Governance review is due in 2025.

Continue to investigate maintenance and repairs on the four fingerposts, a newly acquired additions to the Parishes assets.

The Council continues to promote community cohesion between all the communities within the parish. The Parish will remain stakeholders in the development of the new community hall in Kilnwood Vale and will work towards making closer ties with the Kilnwood Vale community.

Speed /parking/traffic remain a concern to the residents and the Council will strive to improve traffic issues. The racing along the A264 will continue to be monitored.

The Council will continue to support Community Speed Watch and the use of the speed gun.

Colgate Parish Council will continue to offer their Grant Applications Scheme and CIL Application scheme where charities and groups that enhance the wellbeing of the local community within the Parish can apply for a grant up to £1000.

The Council will strive to ensure the Winter Maintenance Plan is fit for purpose and ensure the salt bins are ready for use.

The Council intends to ensure that Councillors and the Clerk are fully up to date on legal and Council matters by ensuring Councillors and Clerk are offered a wide range of training and personal development. Councillors will continue to attend various meetings of local associations.

Colgate Parish Council will continue to work closely with WSCC and HDC and share minutes and newsletters with Colgate and Kilnwood Vale Schools and Kilnwood Vale Community Group and Durrant Retirement Village.

Expand community cohesions especially within the developing areas of the Parish.

Councillors will continue to perform risk assessments of the Councils' ever-increasing assets.

The Council will review existing policies and develop new policies where appropriate.

The Parish Council will look at ways in which they can implement the Climate Change policy.

The Council will develop the website and other social media platforms to ensure it is accessible for all and continue to monitor the success of the Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263093597685939>

<http://www.colgatefaygate.com/>

Continue to investigate ways in which a bus service in Faygate can be developed.

Continue to liaise with WSCC over the accessibility of the bus stops on the A264.

Continue with the everyday business of a Parish Council in an effective manner.

Welcome and integrate a new Clerk.

Thank you.

The Clerk and Councillors value the support and guidance of Cllr Nagel, Cllr Kitchen, and Cllr Hogben over the last year. Sadly, Cllr kitchen passed away in February and she will be missed.

A big thank you to both Colgate Village Hall and Durrants Village for allowing the Council to hold meetings at their respective venues. Thank you to Dennis Cooper at Durrants village for organising the meeting room.

The Council have collaborated closely with several teams within WSCC and HDC this year and are grateful for their support. HDC Cleansing team provide excellent support to Colgate Parish Council with the fly tipping issues which are unfortunately

ongoing. The cleansing team deal swiftly with any reports of fly tipping for which we are grateful.

The Litter Warden, Mr McGill continues to provide good service to the residents and is appreciated by the Council. He has been invaluable in highlighting the increased fly tipping in the parish and assisting with leaf clearance.

The Councillors are also grateful to all those residents who attend and support the Council meetings.

The Councillors also want to thank Deborah Luxford for volunteering to coordinate the Winter Maintenance Plan and posting the agenda. Thanks to Charlene Cauliffe for assisting with the noticeboard at Kilwood Vale. In addition, a thank you to Andrew Finnegan for volunteering to oversee the two bus stops on the A264 to ensure they are clear of rubbish and graffiti.

Thank you to all the Community Speed Watch Volunteers who are making a difference in decreasing the speed of the traffic on Forest Road.

Support for Local Organisations

During the year, the Council made grants to Colgate Memorial Hall, Faygate Village Hall, and the Parochial Church Council and paid £10 for newsletters from the Gatwick Conservation Group and £50 to AIRS.

The Parish remains members of the following institutions:

- Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS)
- National Ass. Of Local Councils (NALC)
- Horsham Ass of Local Councils (HALC)
- Society of local Councils and Clerks (SLCC)
- West Sussex Ass. Of Local Councils (WSALC)

Prepared for the Chair by the Clerk 1st March 2025.