

The Annual Parish Report and Meeting held at Colgate Village Hall on 9th March 2026-Looking back on 25/26.

From the Electoral Register (over 18yrs) March 2026 number of residents per community

Colgate	=	544
Faygate	=	499
Kilwood Vale	=	2148
Total	=	3191

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 Kilwood Vale development continues to grow at speed, with total number of residents exceeding the total number of residents in both Colgate and Faygate collectively. In total the number of residents has increased since the last report by 161 residents.

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

Councillors have attended Horsham District Association of Local Councils (HALC) meeting, meetings with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) 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 workshops 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 Previous Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Bev Clayden retired in June 2025, and Michaela Ainsworth started her employment as Clerk and RFO on 18th June 2025. Michaela has over nine years' experience as a Parish Clerk and over 20 years working for Local Government. Michaela's background is in law, and she is currently studying for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification.

Achievements:

- Successful completion of new Clerk recruitment process and associated handover.
- 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 grants:
£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, both Colgate and Faygate Village Halls and to the future Kilnwood Vale Community Centre Earmarked Reserve.

- The defibrillators located at four different sites in the Parish continue to be maintained by the council. There is a shortage of replacement Pads which the Parish Council are monitoring.
- Continued support and awareness of our armed forces past and present by displaying the Silent Heroes (Colgate Village Hall, Durrants Village and Kilnwood Vale School) in partnership with The Royal British Legion during the month of November.



- 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). One fingerpost successfully restored utilising 'Men in Sheds' and looking to use this wonderful group again to refurbish some arms of another of the posts.
- Bus stop volunteer - Andrew Finnegan has continued to volunteer to take care of the litter levels in both bus stops located on the A264.. 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. After considering the installation of bins – HDC have agreed to also clear litter at both the A264 bus stops and monitor the situation.

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 September 2025.

The precept 25/26- £36,039.80

Council Infrastructure Levy

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

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.

14 Planning meetings were held during 25/26 (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.

Action plan and development into 26-27

West Sussex County Council (WSSC) is currently undergoing a significant transformation with the **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** process. The Clerk and the Parish Council are keeping engaged with the process. Key points include:
Devolution: WSSC is part of the government's priority programme for devolution, aiming to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) with the first mayor election scheduled for May 2028.

Local Government Reorganisation: The council is restructuring local authorities to move over to a single tier of councils, which will replace the two tier system currently in place.

Public Involvement: The government has launched a public consultation on local government reorganisation, engaging with residents and stakeholders to gather feedback on the proposed changes.

Further Information can be found here:

[Future of local government in Sussex - West Sussex County Council](#)

The Parish Council Continue to maintain and repair the four fingerposts.

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 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.

Thank you.

The Clerk and Councillors value the support and guidance of Cllr Raby, Cllr Butler and Cllr Hogben over the last year.

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 Parish Council are grateful that HDC are assisting with litter clearance along the A264 and will monitor this closely.

A chance again to say thanks to Mrs Bev Clayden.

The Litter Warden, Mr McGill continues to provide excellent service to the residents and is appreciated by the Council.

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 posting the agenda. Thanks to Deborah also for assisting with the salt bin audits. Thanks to Charlene McAuliffe 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, the Parochial Church Council, and the Kilnwood Vale Community Hall Earmarked Reserve.

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 2026.