

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE



A Red Admiral butterfly enjoys the sun on the new Barnham village sign.

## A year of opportunity

Thank you, firstly, to our many local volunteers who have donated their time, energy, and expertise to the community, helping with everything from litter picking to planting flowers, fixing Remembrance Day poppies to lampposts, to distributing food to the local community. The Parish Council has many ventures, with dedicated groups that oversee green spaces in the village, evaluate local planning applications, plan for local emergencies, and communicate with residents via our monthly newsletters and your help and support as residents is vital to this work.



Meanwhile, your parish councillors, all of whom are also local volunteers, continue to advocate for our villages. With floods having forced some residents from their homes, we continue work to ensure that housing development is kept at levels appropriate to the local situation, and to hold the agencies and companies responsible for water drainage, sewerage, and road surfacing to account. We are also committed to working to ensure environmental harm is minimised in the area. We maintain close links to the local police especially as they seek to reduce crime in the local area.

In 2025, we hope to expand our initiatives further with plans to introduce many new community projects. Volunteering is a wonderful way to give back to the community, make new connections, and gain a sense of personal fulfilment. By dedicating even a small amount of time, you can make a lasting impact, whether through joining a working group, helping with events, or lending a hand with ongoing projects. After many years of neighbourhood planning and lobbying, we are now expecting substantial funding toward community infrastructure investments from housing developers. We have an ambitious project list covering both small and major investments and to make these ambitions a reality, we, and the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust need your help.

Together, we can ensure Barnham and Eastergate continue to thrive as a vibrant, caring, and resilient community giving support to vulnerable residents and investing in maintaining and improving the parish's community facilities and environment.

*Chris Allington*

Chris Allington, Chair of BEPC



Volunteer flower planting by a 'green angel' around the Eastergate village sign.



Newly planted raised bed at the border of Barnham's new village garden.

Our Parish's *People, Places and Spaces* working group was established to help enhance the overall appearance and liveability of Barnham and Eastergate, fostering a sense of community and creating inviting spaces for residents and visitors alike. The group aims to enhance Barnham and Eastergate villages, to create a beautiful, well-maintained, and welcoming environment where individuals can connect, find friendship, and enjoy a sense of belonging.

### The Village Garden

In 2024 the *People, Places and Spaces* group began work on a new village garden, situated on Murrells Field. The garden features a 78-foot-long raised bed that separates walkers and cars. We planted thirty shrubs, and infilled them with a "wave" of purple and golden yellow crocuses, smaller shrubs and stonecrop, mostly donated by two local nurseries, Binsted and Greenwood.

Alongside the raised bed we have planted a wildflower area. The raised bed edge is a suitable height to perch on to admire the area as it grows, and to start conversations. We hope the village garden will be the start of a new social area in the community. In the coming year we will continue to develop the area to create a place of well-being, using a



Freshly painted wall beside Barnham Railway station bench on main village high street.

variety of sensory plants. We plan to ensure the garden is interesting during every season, while remaining easy-to-maintain, and child and dog friendly.

### Signs and Wonders

Since 2023 the *People, Places and Spaces* group has overseen planting around the village signs at the entrances to Barnham and Eastergate. Our 'Green Angel' volunteers plant and maintain these areas. Each site is unique because the conditions at each vary from sunny and fertile to dry and shaded. Our Green Angels are similarly varied—some have no garden experience; others have more than half a century's practice. Throughout 2025 we expect the sign sites to adapt via the lessons we have learned during the past year.



Residents are encouraged to plant wildflowers on the verges beside their homes.

## Hangings baskets

The *People, Places and Spaces* group continues to organise seasonal hanging baskets on lamp posts throughout the villages. This work is conducted in partnership with the Aldingbourne Trust. In 2024 the initiative was expanded with seasonal wreaths, containers and two large planting pots now permanently situated in the centre of Barnham. All these arrangements were made by our volunteer 'Green Angels'.

## Wildflowering

The Parish Council supports planting on public areas with wildflower and wildlife supporting seeds and plants. If you are interested in planting on the public verge beside your house, you can apply for a licence to do so. We can provide assistance with this process.

## PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

Our Parish Resilience Team provides a back-stop and immediate source of local help in the event of some wide-spread emergency where the conventional emergency services and utilities are overwhelmed. This could be anything from extreme weather events or flooding, to a major power outage.

The team brings together trained and equipped volunteers to assist across the Parish with flooded or damaged property, to use our village halls as emergency refuges, and to assist vulnerable individuals or families in the face of power failures or damaged homes. The team will also help the emergency services to support our local residents with accommodation, local knowledge, and whatever equipment and volunteer efforts we can provide.

Our Resilience Team is not an emergency service or substitute for the proper authorities and utilities; it is there only for when there is no other help available. In the past we have provided assistance for flooded residents, and we regularly provide First Aid courses and emergency training to our local volunteers. We are at present building up our equipment for emergency use: generators and lighting, heaters and blankets, sandbags, radios, tools and torches. **Contact [nina@eastergatehall.org.uk](mailto:nina@eastergatehall.org.uk) for more information.**



Our Resilience Team provides assistance, guidance and support in the event of emergencies in the area.

## FREE EMERGENCY FIRST AID TRAINING COURSES

- Recognise a stroke or heart attack
- Learn how to administer CPR
- Defibrillator training

Contact [nina@eastergatehall.org.uk](mailto:nina@eastergatehall.org.uk) to sign up

In 2024 BEPC continued to support the monthly volunteer litter pick with equipment and facilities, and by hosting special catered events.

### Winter

Our picking year began in December 2023 with the Christmas "Dash for Trash" followed by festive mince pies and mulled wine. While we had decided to take a short break in January, our volunteers, however, demanded the 'right to pick' and equipment was duly distributed. February's pick took place in terrible weather but still netted a respectable 30 kg of litter, while Arun District Council provided support removing fly-tipping.

### Summer

In June, we officially showed the red card to litter with a 'viral' social media invite. Arun District Council donated some hi-tech litter-picking carts which, despite some initial driving mishaps, transported much of the 32 kg of rubbish collected. July saw a fabulously attended special event pick for which two volunteers prepared an amazing lunch spread at Barnham Hall, with support and seasonal Pimms. 26 volunteers covered every single route in both Barnham and Eastergate to collect 30kg of litter. The August pick removed a fantastic 37kg and was followed by an even larger 40kg the following month.

### Autumn

September's 'picking special' saw a joint event with the 'Green Angels' planting the community garden running alongside the Barnham Hall Art Fair. 28 picking volunteers were rewarded with a voucher for food and drink. Rounding up the picking year, we collected 25 kg in October and 52kg in November.

### Spring

In March 2024, 17 volunteers turned out on the Bank Holiday weekend to collect a massive 37 kg of rubbish. April's pick saw the first outing of the Cube-O-Caps art installation created from littered plastic tops. The artist was told to improve the design by a number of the 21 volunteers (everyone's a critic!) who beat the previous month's record to collect 43 kg of litter. At the final whistle in May (yes, a whistle was found) Barnham's 'first 18 team' scored a respectable 27 kg in a friendly, sunny litter pick. Our homemade 2.4m 'mega-picker' tool was unveiled, and has subsequently been used to collect rubbish from deeper ditches.

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped keep our villages free of litter. 2025 will feature littery specials, technical firsts and artistic silliness, and further efforts to broadcast our anti-littering message.



A selection of the items collected by our litter-picking volunteers.

BARNHAM & EASTERGATE COMMUNITY LITTER PICK							
2024 Running Totals							
Weight of Litter Picked at Each Event							
Feb	30 kg	Mar	37 kg	Apr	43 kg	May	27 kg
Jun	32 kg	Jul	31 kg	Aug	37 kg	Sep	40 kg
Oct	33 kg	Nov	52 kg	Dec	25 kg	TOTAL	388 kg
NOTE: TOTALS INCLUDE RECYCLABLES							
Last Saturday of every month From Barnham Hall 10am to 12pm							

A monthly breakdown of how many kilos of litter our volunteers collected between December 2023 and November 2024.

Below: The 'Cube-O-Caps' art installation created from littered plastic tops.



The Parish Council works in conjunction with the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust to run the two halls in our locality, with the aim of providing social, recreational, environmental and health benefits to the community. Between them, the two halls host thousands of visitors across hundreds of events each year. In 2024 these included: more than a hundred coffee mornings, more than fifty parties (some for children, some for adults), twenty-four craft workshops, twenty-three book clubs, fifteen quizzes, ten weddings, six line-dance evenings, five afternoon teas, two dog shows, and a murder mystery evening.



Barnham Hall dressed for a wedding reception.



## AT A GLANCE

Throughout 2024, our team of smiley staff and volunteers at Eastergate Village Hall (pictured left) served:

- 6,160 cups of tea and coffee
- 2,500 cheese and fruit scones
- 1,400 sausage rolls
- 1,040 macaroons
- 450 slices of bread pudding
- 55 coffee and walnut cakes
- 55 Victoria Sponges

## UK HARVEST PROJECT

Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust partners with UK Harvest, a charity dedicated to preventing food waste and food insecurity. By enriching and educating our communities they help nurture those most food insecure, to live well, age well and to help combat social isolation. We hold two food rescue drop ins on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at the Eastergate Village Hall. One staff member and 12 volunteers collect and distribute food that would otherwise have been thrown away/gone to landfill in our community.

## MADNESS IN MURRELL'S FIELD

MAMF - or 'Music at Murrell's Field' - is the biggest community run, family music event in West Sussex. Sponsored and supported by the local businesses and musicians of Barnham and Eastergate and planned by a dedicated team of volunteers. We are excited to reveal that this year's headline act will be a tribute to one of the most prominent London ska and pop bands of the 80's: Madness. Join us from 5pm on Saturday 14th June 2025 and enjoy a relaxed summer evening of music and dancing. Bring your own picnic or treat yourself from one of the many mouth-watering food vendors on site. Alongside 'Complete Madness' are many other fabulous acts - it will be a night to remember!



Crowds pile in for a relaxed summer evening of music and dancing.

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT FORTHCOMING EVENTS EMAIL:**

NINA-MARIA MCMASTER AT [NINA@EASTERGATEHALL.ORG.UK](mailto:NINA@EASTERGATEHALL.ORG.UK) OR ALI TARBARD AT [ALI@BARNHAMCOMMUNITYHALL.ORG.UK](mailto:ALI@BARNHAMCOMMUNITYHALL.ORG.UK)

The Planning Committee receives planning applications in our parish from the responsible planning authority – in our case, Arun District Council – and discusses these on behalf of the full parish council. We consider planning applications and measure these against our neighbourhood plan – which was approved in a referendum of Barnham and Eastergate residents, and which is available to view on the BEPC website. While we cannot approve or refuse any applications, we can raise an objection or voice our support.

On average we consider about half-a-dozen applications per month during each year. Most applications come from residents wishing to modify or extend their homes, or to prune or fell trees. Business applications are split between commercial businesses in the villages, and larger developers who wish to build houses.

Our Planning Committee meets in Barnham Community Hall at approximately six weekly intervals. All are welcome.

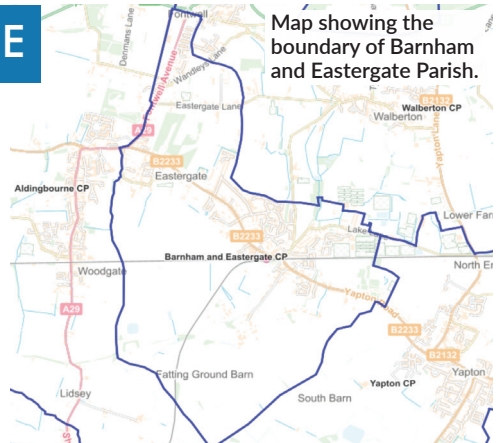
## PLANNING AT A GLANCE

**50 Planning applications received from ADC so far in 2024 of which:**

- 24 Homeowner changes and improvements.
- 9 tree and conservation area works.
- 6 relate to business use.
- 4 relate to major development.
- 3 relate to minor development.

**BEPC planning committee responded with:**

- 23 no objection responses with comments.
- 5 no objection responses.
- 8 objections.
- 2 applications supported.
- 5 applications referred to the ADC tree officer.
- 7 applications yet to be considered at the next planning meeting.



Map showing the boundary of Barnham and Eastergate Parish.

**Arun District Council decisions made:**

- 25 applications approved with conditions.
- 16 decisions still to be made.
- 5 applications refused.
- 2 applications withdrawn.
- 2 applications not objected to.

## HOW FAST IS TOO FAST?

Road users will have noticed the two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) that we have been sitting at locations of high traffic flow. These signs remind drivers of their speeds and prompt those who are speeding to slow down for the safety of all road users and pedestrians. In March 2024 the daily average traffic was 5,300 vehicles on Barnham Road. Of those, around a quarter were logged as exceeding the speed limit – more than 30,000 in total. If you have any views on the SIDs or traffic speed through our village, please get in touch.



**13 councillors and 3 part-time members of staff supporting the parish**



**350+ kg of litter picked by volunteers throughout 2024**



**£2,500 in grant funding awarded to local charities**



**5,000+ seeds, flowers and shrubs planted in local green spaces**



**67 local people attended BEPC-funded First Aid courses**



**8 monthly email newsletters distributed since launch**



**165 volunteers, supporting a variety of community initiatives**



**7 committees and working groups**

# DIRECTORY

Organisation/Group/Facility	Contact
<b>Parish Council</b>	
<b>Clerk</b>	Alison Crabb clerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk
<b>Assistant Clerk (Community)</b>	Nina-Maria McMaster assistantclerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk
<b>Assistant Clerk (Planning)</b>	Gemma Hindson planning@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk
<b>County Councillor</b>	Trevor Bence – trevor.bence@westsussex.gov.uk
<b>District Councillors</b>	Sue Wallsgrove – cllr.sue.wallsgrove@arun.gov.uk Paul Ayling – cllr.paul.ayling@arun.gov.uk Anita Lawrence – cllr.anita.lawrence@arun.gov.uk
<b>Police Community Support Officer</b>	Caroline Wilson – caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk
<b>Barnham Community Hall</b> Yapton Road, Barnham, PO22 0AY <a href="http://www.barnhamcommunityhall.org">www.barnhamcommunityhall.org</a>	Facilities Manager – Ali Tarbard – 01243 278110 bookings@barnhamcommunityhall.org
<b>Eastergate Village Hall, Barnham Road, Eastergate, PO20 3RP</b> <a href="http://www.eastergatehall.org">www.eastergatehall.org</a>	Facilities Manager – Nina-Maria McMaster 07849 356097 nina@eastergatehall.org.uk
<b>Eastergate Sports Pavilion (by War Memorial roundabout) Barnham Road, Eastergate, PO20 3RP</b> <a href="http://www.eastergatehall.org">www.eastergatehall.org</a>	Assistant Clerk – Nina-Maria McMaster assistantclerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk
<b>Village Friends (friendship partnering for the elderly)</b>	Meg Brackley – 07925 217843 villagefriends6@gmail.com
<b>Coffee Mornings</b> – no booking required Eastergate Village Hall / Barnham Community Hall	(especially great if you are new the area for meeting people) Tuesday 10.30am – 12 noon and Wednesday 10.15am– 12 noon
<b>Other useful reporting points for issues include:</b>	
<b>Non-emergency Police Matters</b>	Tel: 101 Emergency matters dial 999
<b>Arun District Council – Community Wardens</b> find out more at <a href="http://www.arun.gov.uk/community-wardens">www.arun.gov.uk/community-wardens</a>	community.wardens@arun.gov.uk
<b>National Health</b> urgent, but not emergency, medical advice	Tel: 111 Emergency matters dial 999
<b>Operation Crackdown</b> – <a href="http://www.operationcrackdown.org">www.operationcrackdown.org</a>	Report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicle
<b>Environment Health Matters</b> – Arun District Council	Email: <a href="mailto:environmentalhealth@arun.gov.uk">environmentalhealth@arun.gov.uk</a>
<b>West Sussex County Council</b> – report all highway related issues such as potholes, footway problems etc.	<a href="http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pave-ment/">www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pave-ment/</a>
<b>Vulnerable Persons Register in event of a power cut</b>	Scottish and Southern: 0800 294 3259



Sign-up for the BEPC  
Email newsletter

