



CATSFIELD PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CATSFIELD HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Have your say about the future housing needs
of our community.



Catsfield Parish Council has commissioned **Action in Rural Sussex** to carry out an independent Housing Needs Survey.



Your views are extremely important and will help us understand the current and future housing needs of local residents.



The survey is confidential.



Every household is encouraged to take part.



Please complete and return your survey.



THE SURVEY WILL BE
DELIVERED TO EVERY
HOUSEHOLD IN THE PARISH

— from around —

7 SEPTEMBER

*Your
voice
shapes our
community
future*

Thank you for helping to shape the *future* of Catsfield.



CATSFIELD
PARISH COUNCIL



Action in
Rural Sussex

COMMUNITIES | LAND | BUSINESS

WHAT IS A HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY?

You would have seen our recent announcement about the Catsfield Housing Needs Survey, which will be delivered to households in the parish from around the 7th September 2026.

Catsfield Parish Council has commissioned Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) to carry out the survey on our behalf. But what exactly is a Housing Needs Survey?

A Housing Needs Survey helps us to understand what types of homes are needed by people who live in, or have a connection with, Catsfield. It looks at things such as whether local people are able to find suitable and affordable housing, and whether there may be a need for different types or sizes of homes in the future.

The information gathered will give the Parish Council a better understanding of local housing needs and can help inform future discussions and planning decisions.

It is important that as many households as possible complete the survey, even if you are currently happy with your housing situation. Every response helps to build a more accurate picture of the needs of our community.

The survey is confidential and will be delivered to every household in the parish from around the 7th September 2026.

Please take a few minutes to complete it when it arrives. Your views really do matter and will help us understand the future housing needs of Catsfield.

Thank you for taking part and helping to shape the future of our community.



Community Speedwatch. During July and August, we held 4 speedwatch sessions each of 1 hour on The Green. 3 of these were also attended by Police officers or Police staff. 100 vehicles were reported speeding. The registered owners of the vehicles will receive a letter from the Police. The fastest speed recorded was 47mph. If a safe site can be identified at the Stream we will start Speedwatch sessions there too.

Speed limit changes from Horns Corner into Powdermill lane. The project to move the 30mph speed limit back from the recreation ground entrance to the woodyard on Powdermill Lane is progressing. The work and funding have been approved. Design work is almost completed. We hope to have the limit moved by the end of the financial year.

Speeding at the Stream. A fatal crash and a near miss that destroyed property at a house in The Stream again highlighted the danger of speeding vehicles. The last time speeds were measured here was in 2017 when the average speed was 37.5mph, in the 40mph limit. That will mask any recordings of higher speeds. We have asked ESCC Highways to measure speeds again so that we can see not just the average but the actual speeds and when they occur. This will help to build a case for action.

Speeding by the School & safe crossing. A new crossing control is due to start in September 2026. Speeding has been reported at this site, but we have no data to work with. Speedwatch sessions in the past have found no vehicles speeding. We have asked ESCC Highways to measure the speeds past the school. It may be possible to get a 20mph zone while the school is active but in any case, we will need speed data first.

Potholes in Church Lane. This lane often resembles a moonscape with huge potholes. They get patched and are back in a few weeks or months. There are natural springs in that area which suggests a different engineering system is needed rather than continually patching. ESCC have agreed to re-visit and assess what alternative solutions may be possible.

Pedestrian Crossing near the White Hart. It is never certain that vehicles will stop where people are using the crossing. There appears to be a lack of awareness among drivers that there is a crossing there. We have asked ESCC to repaint the crossing and the poles, clean up the flashing lights (to make them brighter) and to consider options for more road markings leading up to the crossing. If anyone does experience vehicles not stopping, please record the time and date and let us know. Again, data is key to making a case for change.

Pavements through the S bends. We hoped to get the speed limit through the S bends down from 60mph to 30mph but that was rejected by ESCC. We will try to get ESCC Highways to make this area of the village as safe as possible for residents that need to use the pavement. We are aware that the pavements north of the village are not in good condition and need to be cleared back to the correct width. We also know that there are stretches of road with no pavement, and that there is a risk when walking from crashing cars. Fortunately, the number of vehicles crashing on the S bends has reduced this year, but the risk is still there.

We don't have a solution to create pavements where there are none at the moment. We have asked ESCC Highways to:

- Re assess the condition of the pavements, re-widen where needed and cut back hedges that are overhanging pavements.
- Confirm they will not remove the red SLOW signs (These appear to be helping but were not installed by Highways).
- Consider installing bollards/barriers that would at least give some protection from anyone waking on the bend where so many cars have crashed and left the road in the past.



Many thanks to those who attended the Fete and Barn Dance on Saturday 1st August. It was the busiest fete and barn dance that I can remember, with lots of fun being had, but of course these two events would not have happened without the following people:

- The fantastic volunteers who helped set up, man stalls and put away everything at the end.
- To our MC, Mr Peter Josling
- The Wacky Band the Acromax Gymnastics Club and Performance Group for the great music and displays.
- To the village clubs and societies who contributed... The WI, Cricket Club, Stoolball Club, Preschool and CADS.
- To the Horticultural Society for letting up use their fete equipment and to the Parish Council for letting us use the recreation ground on the day
- To James Parker of Parker & Son for being our headline sponsor and to Charlie and Danny at The White Hart for their generous donation as well. Also to Booker & Best, JT Embroidery Ltd, Castle Estates and Battle Oaks Boarding Cattery
- To everyone in the village who kindly donated bottles for the Bottle Tombola.
- To all the participants of the Children's Boat Races and for the effort put in to decorating the Boats. I always wanted to bring the Boat Race back to the Village in some way so well done to all involved.
- To Rachel and Tim Gowland for letting us use Great Park Farm for the Barn Dance for the 2nd year running. It was once again a fun-filled evening.
- To Ben White of Meridian Marquees for kindly proving the carpets and lighting for the barn dance and giving up his time to help set up. Thanks Ben.
- To the Catsfield Steamers for an amazing Barn Dance... it's so good to have you back in Catsfield again.
- And last but not least the amazing team of people who put the fete and barn dance on. They are Megan Gowland, Laura Hoy, Carol Hodgson, Ali Cowlen, but my special thanks to Mr Tim Pitman and Katy and Nick Rance, who went over and above with all they did to help organise, set up, clear away and deliver these 2 successful community events. The Fete and Barn Dance would not have happened without this group of hard working and dedicated people.

We have organised the fete and Barn Dance this year to again support our village hall and the clubs and societies who helped on the day. We have raised an incredible £5,100 to support our village groups.

We would appreciate any feedback from both the Fete and Barn Dance.

Many thanks,

Scott Lavocah

On behalf of the 2025 & 2026 Fete and Barn Dance Organising Group





UPDATE FROM CATSFIELD CRICKET CLUB

No holidaying for the author in this period so a full report follows for the period 19 July to 9 August.

Ashburnham at The Field on 19 July. Catsfield CC lost by 96 runs after an early 13:00 start in order that people could get home or to a pub in time to watch the football World Cup Final on the television, although heaven knows why one would want to do that. A splendid between innings 'cricket tea' much enjoyed by both teams was provided by club HVP and WI President, Anne Davey, to whom the club offers a vote of thanks.

Catsfield CC bowling highlights comprised David Taylor's 3 wickets for 24 runs from 6 overs plus two wickets each for Julian Buss and S. Ashby. On the batting front, top scorers were C. Ferguson and Derrick Fuller with 26 and 27 respectively.

A Bexhill CC Development XI were entertained at The Field on 26 July. Catsfield CC lost once more, this time by 32 runs. Between innings 'cricket tea', much enjoyed by both teams, was this time provided by Kathryn Taylor, wife of club Secretary and Treasurer, David Taylor and ably assisted by family members, to whom the club offers a combined vote of thanks.

Ali Waqar, guesting from Ashburnham CC, led the bowling figures with 2 for 53 from 7 overs. The remaining five bowlers shared the remaining five wickets evenly. Unusually, of the 8 Bexhill wickets taken, 7 were bowled and 1 was run out – a great throw from Julian Buss scoring a direct hit on the stumps – no catches! Harry Strugnell led the batting with 58 with only three of the remaining batsmen getting into double figures.

The final match in this run of seven consecutive fixtures at The Field should have been played versus Brightling Park CC on 2 August last. I say should as BPCC had to forfeit the fixture at the last minute as five of its team were stranded in France after a catastrophic failure of their transport on the way back from holiday (dad and four sons) to the UK on the Friday. Despite BPCC's Ricci Kent's best efforts to raise five replacement players he was unsuccessful in doing so at such short notice, so the match was cancelled on the preceding Friday night. Such are the vagaries and uncertainties of village cricket nowadays.

At last, an away match to give the square at The Field a rest. This time at Crowhurst CC on 9 August. A Five Village Tournament match versus the club's nearest neighbours. This time there was something special to celebrate with the match being the 1000th match played by stalwart Kevin Cornwell for Crowhurst CC. Impossible you say. But I'm pretty sure that Kevin 'KC' Cornwell is a 'one-club' player who probably started playing men's cricket for Crowhurst CC when he was in his very early 'teens. Given that he's probably the wrong side of 65 and probably plays 20 matches per season, then 1000 matches are certainly within reach of someone with his commitment to his club and to local club cricket.

Before the start of the match KC was presented with a commemorative Crowhurst CC cap, having walked through a raised bat guard of honour on his return from the square having tossed up with Catsfield CC skipper for the day, evergreen Julian Buss. Catsfield CC's vice chair, Keith Cook, said a few well-chosen words in recognition of KC's achievement and presented him with a gift on behalf of the club.

Then a cricket match broke out! Catsfield CC batted first and scored 149 all out in 32 overs – a modest total against a strong team, as it proved with Crowhurst CC knocking off the runs in just 29 overs of the 43 available to them for the loss of only four wickets. Catsfield CC lost by 6 wickets. The outstanding batting highlight for Catsfield was Charlie Francis with 68 supported by two or three others reaching double figures. As for bowling, the four wickets were spread evenly between Owen Cullip, Andrew Jay Charlie Haffenden with one run out, ironically that was of the '1000' man for four runs.

UPDATE FROM CATSFIELD CRICKET CLUB CONTINUED.....

One non-cricketing matter was the Village Fete at The Field held on 1 August last. The cricket club has for many years been responsible for car parking management at the fete, in its various forms, and 2026 was no exception. In the last couple of years, the club's role has expanded to include taking entrance money at the gate and handing out 'programmes', this applying to people in cars and those on foot. This has put a strain on the club's resources, but the author and his six volunteers managed admirably, this year seeing nigh on 300 cars and countless pedestrians through the gate in very challenging weather conditions for four hours or so. An operation said to be running like a well-oiled military campaign.

Do try and pop along to The Field for a while for the remaining home matches in September and enjoy social cricket being played in a most picturesque setting.

The June and July heatwaves have made the preparation of acceptable playing surfaces very difficult with no amount of water, pre hosepipe restrictions, being able to keep up with the heat and warm winds. However, we do our best and thanks must go to Junior Grounds People Mitch Mattocks and Barbara Cook for their invaluable assistance, particularly in preparing pitches for the run of seven home matches between late June and early August.

The recruitment posters at and the banner outside the ground prompt me to remind readers to remember a continuing series of pieces throughout 2025 to date about the Club and that only a couple of people from the village played in any match during the 2025 season.

It still begs the obvious question, if no one from the village plays for the village cricket club, then why have a village cricket club at all?

It would be wonderful to welcome people from the village to play and enjoy a game of 'social' cricket on a Sunday afternoon. People of any ability, age and experience would be most welcome. Rest assured that you would not be expected to play week-in, week-out, but on a 'when available' basis. Very few people do play every week, and the club can usually cope with that, but it would be nice to have a bit of 'headroom' in that respect.

Match fees are modest, ten pounds for adults and five for juniors covers playing expenses, in play and tea-time refreshments. There is no annual subscription.

Disappointingly, since these pieces have been appearing in the PN over the past few years or so, no one has expressed an interest in playing via this outlet. But it's never too late, so if you are interested, then please contact club vice chair, Keith Cook, via mobile 07916 717870 or email keith.cook@btinternet.com.

The Club looks forward to hearing from you in time for the remainder of the matches of the 2026 season. A full fixture list of home fixtures is available on request to Keith Cook (details above) and has been posted on the Parish Notice Board and at strategic places around the village.

Keith Cook
August 2026

Why Dark Skies Matter

We are so fortunate to live in an area where we can still enjoy dark skies. Many of us have enjoyed visits to nearby Herstmonceux Observatory for their star gazing nights. Did you know that stargazing actually lowers our cortisol levels and helps reduce stress?

The stars have helped humans to navigate the earth and looking up at the night sky for many still brings a sense of awe and wonder.



Responses from our recent survey demonstrate how much we in Catsfield value our dark skies and want to protect them.

There are many reasons why dark skies matter.

- Dark skies are beneficial to us when we sleep as the hormone melatonin is released which regulates our body clocks and helps us sleep.
- Natural darkness has been shown to boost our creativity.
- Many species rely on natural cycles of light and darkness for all aspects of their existence. In our last newsletter we cited how important night pollinators are. Bright artificial light threatens biodiversity and natural habitats.
- Light pollution adds heat into the air thereby contributing to climate change.

We have ensured that the lights we are responsible for in Catsfield all meet Dark Skies standards but there are ways each of us as residents can help reduce light pollution and save money at the same time.

Ways we can each reduce light pollution

- Switch off unnecessary lights at night and close windows and blinds
- Avoid lighting dark spaces – just light the area you need
- Use lights that shield and point them down
- Choose less bright bulbs such as warm white
- Set up timers and sensors so lights are only on when they are needed

Most of us have experienced the glare of LED lights when driving at night. Bright light shining in our eyes makes it more difficult for our eyes to adjust to low-light conditions which can actually decrease our safety.

Red light torches rather than white light are better as they help our eyes adapt to see in the dark.

Cllr Diane Wilson

Catsfield Archive Group

The group have recently had a new laptop purchased for them by the Parish Council to aid IT support and to help assist them digitalise their files. The group can now also be contacted on email via archive@catsfield-pc.gov.uk

The group shared the information below on Catsfield Village Hall

The Hall was built as a gift by Lord Brassey in 1902/1903 and originally comprised of a ground floor Hall with Stores and a Committee Room and Billiards Room on the first floor (the billiards table and fittings were also provided by Lord Brassey). Part of the Hall formed a Reading Room (which was also equipped by Lord Brassey) and the Workman's Institute. (The Reading Room now houses the Village Archive.)

The Hall was not the first building on the site; a smaller single storey building called the Unity Hall Reding Room had been built by William Weller sometime before Lord Brassey gave the building and grounds to the Parish Council in 1895.

During World War II a London Girls School was evacuated to Catsfield and whilst the girls were billeted in local houses, the Billiards Room became their classroom.

Herman Cottage was purchased by the Parish Council in 1950 to facilitate an extension to the Hall. Over the years there have been many changes and improvements including an extension to the rear of the building, the addition of a rear porch and toilet facilities and the rebuilding of the kitchen. These days, the Hall is used by many of Catsfield clubs and societies.



DANCE CLASSES

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS IN CATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK IN FOR A FREE TASTER CLASS PLEASE EMAIL-

JCSDANCING@GMAIL.COM



MONDAYS

4:00-4:45PM - JUNIOR 1 MODERN & TAP
4:45-5:15PM - FREESTYLE DANCING
5:15-6:00PM - JUNIOR 2 MODERN & TAP
6:15-7:15PM - ADULT BALLET FITNESS & STRETCH

WEDNESDAYS

3:45-4:30PM - PREPARATORY BALLET & CHARACTER DANCE
4:30-5:15PM - PRIMARY BALLET & CHARACTER DANCE
5:15-6:00PM - GRADE 2 BALLET & CHARACTER DANCE



NEW CLASS
**PREPARATORY
BALLET &
CHARACTER DANCE**

**For children aged 4-5 years.
Wednesdays at 3:45-4:30pm in
Catsfield Village Hall**



Other dance classes are running too!

For more information & to book in for a free taster, please email- jcsdancing@gmail.com

Dyslexia East Sussex: A Year of Growth, Community and New Beginnings

With dyslexia affecting an estimated 5–10% of the population, many families across East Sussex and beyond are seeking clear, strengths-based support. Dyslexia East Sussex is responding to that need with a growing range of services, a redesigned website and the launch of The Learning Loft on Battle High Street.

Dyslexia East Sussex has entered an exciting new chapter. What began as a small, specialist assessment service is steadily growing into a local organisation supporting families, schools and learners across the county. This year marks a significant milestone: the formal registration of Dyslexia East Sussex as a Community Interest Company (CIC), reinforcing our commitment to accessible, high-quality support for the community we serve.

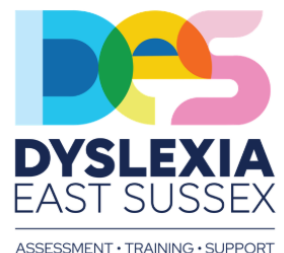
Alongside this, our digital home has undergone a complete transformation. The newly overhauled website now offers clearer pathways for parents, educators and learners, and introduces our dedicated members' area, a growing hub of resources, guidance, training videos and practical tools designed to empower families and professionals alike.

Perhaps the most exciting development is the launch of The Learning Loft, our new teaching and training space situated conveniently on Battle High Street. Thoughtfully designed to feel warm, calm and welcoming, The Learning Loft will host small-group and 1:1 specialist tuition and intervention sessions, as well as a programme of workshops for parents and educators. It's a space created with intention: somewhere learners can feel safe, supported and understood, and where families can access the trusted guidance they need without travelling far.

As Dyslexia East Sussex continues to grow, our mission remains the same; to provide clear support and guidance that helps every learner thrive. With our new CIC status, expanded digital resources and the launch of The Learning Loft, we are proud to be deepening our roots in the local community and widening the impact of the work we do.

If you know someone who may benefit from some additional support, or you have questions, please get in touch via the contact details on our website,

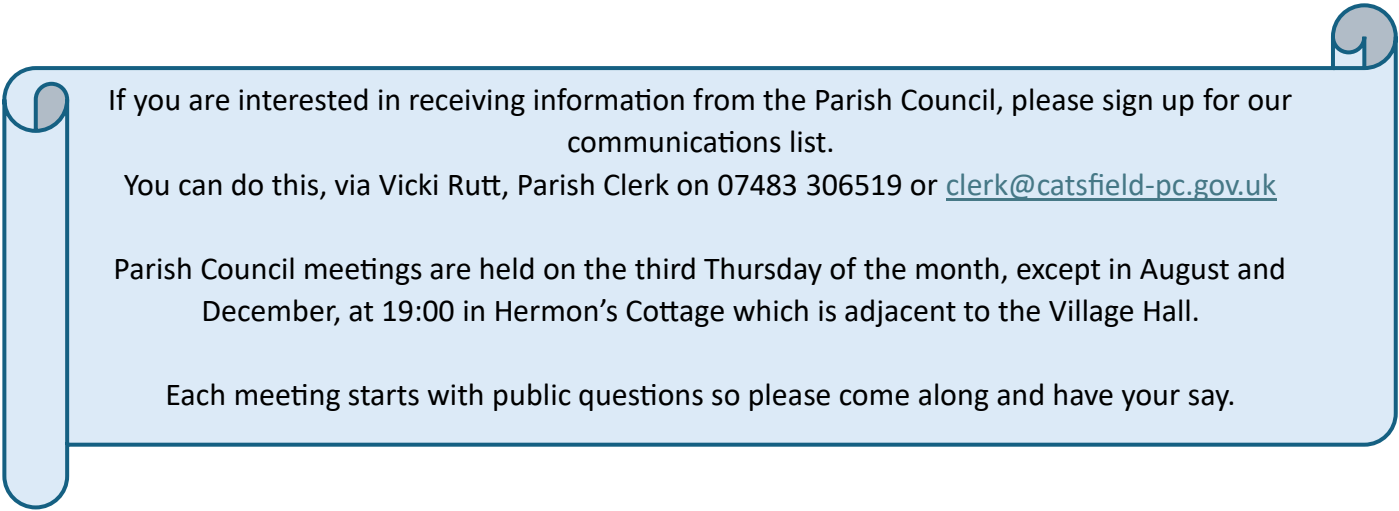
www.dyslexiaeastsussex.co.uk



PLEA FROM CATSFIELD WOMBLES

Please look out for a message to litter pick in the village in early September when the weather is a little cooler. It will be posted on the village socials, and a notice will go up on the village notice board by the bus stop.

Any new volunteers are always welcome.



If you are interested in receiving information from the Parish Council, please sign up for our communications list.

You can do this, via Vicki Rutt, Parish Clerk on 07483 306519 or clerk@catsfield-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except in August and December, at 19:00 in Hermon's Cottage which is adjacent to the Village Hall.

Each meeting starts with public questions so please come along and have your say.