

CATSFIELD PARISH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Dear Parishioners,

This newsletter is the first of a quarterly newsletter that will be sent out to the Parish, with helpful information that is beneficial to the village. If you would like to receive this newsletter direct, along with other communication from the Parish Council, 'how to' information is at the end of this newsletter.

Please also send the Clerk any news and stories that you would like to see featured and shared with the village.

Catsfield Parish Council recently had a change of IT systems, so the Clerk and all Cllrs now have new email addresses. They are shown below:

Vicki Rutt – Clerk	clerk@catsfield-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Keith Robertson - Chair	cllr.robertson@catsfield-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Des Christian – Vice Chair	cllr.christian@catsfield-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Sarah Jacques	cllr.jacques@catsfield-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Sharon Harris	cllr.harris@catsfield-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Diane Wilson	cllr.wilson@catsfield-pc.gov.uk

The Councillor portfolios are as follows:

- **Open Spaces**
Cllr Diane Wilson
- **Highways and Traffic**
Cllr Keith Robertson
- **Finance**
Cllr Keith Robertson and Cllr Des Christian
- **Community Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Area**
Cllr Sarah Jacques and Cllr Sharon Harris

SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Are you fed up with the speed of drivers coming through the village? Can you spare 2 hours a month to help educate drivers?

If so, Speedwatch is back and needs more volunteers to make a difference, please contact the Clerk to join.



AN UPDATE ON THE REQUEST FOR SPEED LIMIT CHARGES TO THE NORTH OF THE VILLAGE

Cllr Robertson reported at the Parish Council meeting in July 2025 that East Sussex County Council have agreed to honor the Parish Council's community match scheme so the speed changes to extend the 30mph limit to Horns Corner and Powdermill Lane will be going ahead (this excludes the "S" bends for which speed limit changes were not allowed by ESCC). The proposal will go to a Lead Member meeting in October 2025 and then we have been advised it can take 12/18 months to implement the speed changes.

WHAT HAS CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL BEEN DOING SO FAR IN 2025?

Speed limit changes – The Parish Council applied for changes to the speed limits in the village. Two areas were applied for and as of 2025, one has been approved. Further information can be found on this newsletter.

Recreation Ground - Following a burst water pipe, the Pavilion has been re-decorated to repair damage and refreshed throughout. After commissioning a report on the trees at the recreation ground, we have removed any dead or parts of trees that could be a danger to users of the rec. Hasting United Youth Football and Hastings United Seniors are paying to use our recreations ground on a limited basis. This helps to raise revenue to support the cost of running the ground and Pavilion.

Pavilion – The Parish Council have obtained two independent assessments of the potential of solar for the pavilion as a first stage in considering the way forward as part of the Parish Council's decarbonising strategy.

Street Lights - The Parish Council have replaced all of the bulbs in the lamps with LED. This will both save on costs and reduce our carbon use which is in line with our strategic objectives.

Village Car Park - After requests to reduce the number vehicles parking long term, the Parish Council will be changing the parking rules to prevent long term parking. We also consulted on installing a barrier to the car park. Residents confirmed they do not want a barrier and so this will not be installed.

Supporting Catsfield Village Hall - The Council have recently approved in principle funding to provide air conditioning for the Village Hall. The Council are funding some new storage units for the History Group and have asked the group to consider electronic imaging to archive data and open up the amazing amount of information the group have collected about Catsfield to a wider audience using a website.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS - FEEDBACK REQUIRED ON POSSIBLE PROJECT AT THE RECREATION GROUND

The Parish Council are considering clearing an area at the rear of the recreation ground to create a shaded seating and wildlife area, is this something residents would enjoy and use? Please can you feedback to the Clerk with your thoughts on this idea, so the Parish Council know whether to continue working on this project.

COMMUNITY STREET MEETING WITH PCSO SAMANTHA KEMP



PCSO Kemp will be available to all residents in Catsfield Village car park on Saturday 18th October 2025 between 14:30 – 15:30 if there is anything you would like to report, discuss or seek advice.

****UPDATES FROM OUR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS****

East Sussex County Council – Cllr Kathryn Field

I am still working with the County Council to try to make the road safer at the bends this is ongoing and not a speedy process!

Drainage work is due on the Green at the junction of Church Road. The work will start at 08.00 on 9 September and continue until 17.00 on 15 September. There will be temporary traffic lights, and the bus services have been informed

In spite of the finishing of the works to A21 being postponed, again, the closure of Battle Hill from 1 September is going ahead. This will undoubtedly cause disruption to all of us but the work to the gas main is urgent.

Rother District Council – Cllr Nicola McLaren

By-election for Catsfield and Crowhurst held on the 26th June. As you may know, your former District Councillor Chas Pearce had to stand down for health reasons earlier in the year. I heard from so many residents how much his service and dedication to our beautiful ward was appreciated and how he will be missed. I am honoured to have been elected as your new Rother District Councillor and I'm ready to work hard and speak up on your behalf wherever I can. Feel free to get on touch with me cllr.nicola.mclaren@rother.gov.uk or 07564 798073

CATSFIELD SOCIAL GROUPS

The Catsfield Wombles – The Catsfield Wombles are a group of local people who litter pick the local Village area every couple of months. Any age or ability welcome, although primarily it is an 18+ group. The group provide the necessary equipment, and volunteers can do as much or as little as they wish. The group is insured, and volunteer safety is a priority therefore they stick to a risk assessment for the activity. It is a rewarding pastime and makes a real impact to the local community. It is a great way to meet friends and get to know your neighbours. The announcements for upcoming litter pick details are placed on the local village Facebook Page. Contact with the group can be made either via the Clerk or through responding to the Facebook posts.

Catsfield Cricket Club – Catsfield Cricket Club provide members of the Catsfield village community the opportunity to play friendly, social cricket at the Playing Field and at local villages on Sunday afternoons between the beginning of May and the end of September. New members welcome. If you are interest please contact Keith Cook, Vice Chair via 07916 717870 or keith.cook@btinternet.com

Catsfield Football Club – Catsfield FC was formed in 1906 and was at the heart of the village until it folded in 1997. Thankfully the club was reformed in 2001 under the watchful eyes of Mike Davey, Martin Gurr, Andy Gurr and Scott Lavocah. They won the division 7 title in their first season back and came runners up in the JCF Jewellery Challenge Cup final. The club then went on a steady rise through the East Sussex League, peaking in Division one and winning a number of cup competitions along the way. In recent times Catsfield achieved success with a cup double in the 2023/24 season. Catsfield are now under the stewardship of brothers Adam & Tom Barham in East Sussex Division two. They are always looking for new players from the local area. If you are interested please contact David via catsfieldfc@hotmail.com

CATSFIELD SOCIAL GROUPS – CONTINUED

Catsfield Stoolball – Catsfield Stoolball have both ladies and mixed teams, playing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the summer and at local tournaments on some Sundays. Contact can be made through their Facebook page.

Catsfield Social Club – Catsfield Social Club takes place in the village hall on a Wednesday evening, 7pm - 10pm. It includes a variety of board games, a Wii, table tennis and tea and biscuits. All for an incredible £2 an evening. The social club is run by Janet Woolf who can be contacted via 01424 892139 or janetwoolf55@aol.com

Catsfield WI – Catsfield Women's Institute has been meeting in the Village Hall, Church Road for 107 years and was one of the first to be established in East Sussex. Currently, we have 33 members and enjoy a variety of speakers, competitions and events with opportunities afforded through membership of the East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes and the National Federation. We meet twelve times a year with a short formal business introduction, followed by a speaker or craft session and then a full tea. We also play a full part in village life and events. Please just come to our meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 2pm. Enquiries can be made to the President Ann Davey on 01424 830477.

Catsfield History Group – We are a small group which meet fortnightly in a room on the first floor of the village hall. The group was formed as part of the village millennium celebrations to set up a history of the village. At that time, we were led by an archivist from a local museum who advised us how to compile, store and maintain the village records. On behalf of residents, we continue to hold and maintain a large number of pictures, photographs, articles and other items relating to the parish of Catsfield. Members of the group can be contacted by email catsfieldarchivegroup@hotmail.com

Rural Business Grants Programme

Deadline is end of September

The Rural Business Grants Programme delivers grants to rural Small or Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) in the Rother and Wealden district areas.

Businesses can apply for 50% matched capital grants of between £2,500 and £35,000.

Capital projects could include farm diversification projects outside of agriculture, property adaptations, creation and expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses, new equipment, machinery and commercial vehicles. The programme is funded by the UK Government as part of the Rural Prosperity Fund through allocations received by Rother District Council and Wealden District Council. It is delivered by East Sussex County Council.

The funding application window is open from June 2025 until March 2026, or when all the funds are allocated. Expressions of interest should be made to East Sussex County Council through the webpage below, where you can find guidance and further details on the grants available.

Find out more: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ruralbusinessgrants

Catsfield Fete & Barn Dance – Saturday 2nd August 2025

Many thanks to those who attended the Fete and Barn Dance on Saturday 2nd August. It was a busy and fun-filled day, 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.
- The Wacky Band and the Acromax Gymnastics Club and Performance Group for the great music and displays.
- To the village clubs and societies who have contributed... The WI, Cricket Club, Stoolball Club, Preschool and CADS.
- To the Horticultural Society for letting us use their fete equipment and to the Parish Council for letting us use the recreation ground on the day.
- To James Parker, Parker & Son for being our headline sponsor and to Paul Wilson Play Sport for his sponsorship, your generous support was much appreciated.
- To everyone in the village who kindly donated bottles for the Bottle Tombola.
- To Rachel and Tim Gowland for letting us use Great Park Farm Catsfield for the Barn Dance.
- To the Catsfield Steamers for an amazing Barn Dance... was great to see you back in Catsfield again.
- And last but not least to the dedicated team of people who put the fete and barn dance on. They are Jessamy Lavocah, Paula Barker, Nick Rance, Megan Gowland, Laura Hoy, Carol Hodgson, Ali Cowlen and Katy Reed-Rance. The Fete and Barn Dance would not have happened without them...

We have organised the Fete and Barn Dance this year to raise money for various things that we would like to do at the Village Hall, namely solar panels, air conditioning in the main hall and a new boiler, which we'll hopefully receive some grant funding from the Parish Council and other sources. We will also make contributions to the Clubs and Societies who helped on the day.

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

Many thanks,
Scott Lavocah



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

You can do this, via Vicki, 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.