

Contact Your Councillor

Email your councillor at
initial.surname@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Ashplats

Margaret Belsey 01342 321574
Liz Bennett 01342 301007
John Dabell 07802 641502
Danny Favor 01342 410244

Baldwins

Dean Duly 01342 619918
Helen Farren 07713 253929
Christine Mainstone 07495 387849
Julie Mockford 01342 325552

Herontye

Stephen Ody 07855 046703
Adam Peacock 07444 533028
Dick Sweatman 01342 322743

Imberhorne

Frank Osborne 07428 536376
Frazer Visser 01342 323066
Rex Whittaker 01342 302515

Town

Charles Amos 07484 880233
Edward Matthews 07966 840185
Tony Scott 07583 120947
Jason Woodgate 07813 778018

Worsted

John Belsey 07721 303466

COUNCIL MEETINGS

9th June	Public Services
16th June	Amenities & Tourism
20th June	Planning
23rd June	Finance & General Purposes
23rd June	Special Council
4th July	Council
11th July	Planning
1st August	Planning
22nd August	Planning
1st September	Public Services
8th September	Amenities & Tourism
12th September	Planning
15th September	Finance & General Purposes

NOTES:

- 1) All full Committee and Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at East Court Mansion or virtually and are open to the public. Meetings commence at 7pm with exception of the Special Council meeting on 23rd June to approve the annual accounts, which will be held immediately following Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- 2) Council meetings provide a maximum period of 30 minutes for public questions commencing at 7pm.
- 3) Committee meetings provide a maximum period of 15 minutes for public questions commencing at 7pm.

About the Planning Committee

Planning, from small extensions to large-scale housing developments, is one of the most emotive subjects the Council deals with.

East Grinstead Town Council is not the planning authority, but is a tier one statutory consultee. This means the Council can give a local viewpoint formed from its own experience and connections to the local community.

Planning is, however, governed and regulated by law. Planning law is set at a national level and adapted to local levels by District and Neighbourhood Plans. This can sometimes lead to confusion over the decisions made.

The job of Chair of the Planning Committee is to make sure we make the best recommendations to the planning authority (Mid Sussex District Council) to protect the character and identity of our town within these laws. Mid Sussex takes our views into account, but they must be "materially relevant" and supported by the adopted plans and policies if any objections are to prevail.

East Grinstead faces some challenges over the next few years as the pressure on the south east to build more homes arrives at our door. I am proud that we have a strong committee that really cares about our town, and we will push back on any developments that we feel do not help solve the traffic and infrastructure issues our town already faces.

Your local ward members are always happy to answer any questions you have about planning, so please do feel free to get in touch and ask. (See Contact Your Councillor).



Deputy Town Mayor –
Cllr. Frazer Visser
(Planning Committee Chairman)

Contacts

Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Citizens Advice	03444 771171
Clarion Housing	03001 000303
Disability Access – East Grinstead Area	01342 322242
East Grinstead Foodbank	07983 209940
East Grinstead Library	01342 332900
East Grinstead Tourism Desk	01342 410121
East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323636
Kings Centre	01342 328616
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
Mid Sussex Voluntary Action	01444 258102
Museum	01342 302233
Police Station, Chequer Mead	101 or 01273 470101
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414000
Samaritans	0845 7909090
The Hope Job Club	01342 488282
West Sussex CC Area Highways	01243 642105

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Visit: East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT
Call: 01342 323636
Click: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Find help with services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council in the library or call 01342 332900.

The library is open: Monday 9.30am – 7pm,
Tuesday – Thursday 9.30am – 6pm, Friday and Saturday 9.30am – 5pm.

THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

May 2022
Edition 83



NEWS FROM
EAST GRINSTEAD
TOWN COUNCIL

Hello from the New Mayor

At the annual Council meeting on the 9th of May, Cllr Adam Peacock was elected as the new East Grinstead Town Mayor.

Adam was first elected in 2015, representing Town ward, then in 2019 re-elected representing Herontye. Since 2015, Adam has held several roles including Chairman of the Amenities & Tourism Committee and Deputy Leader as well as being the Town Council's representative on Grenestede Talking News, East Grinstead's monthly audio news service for the visually impaired.

Adam has been a resident of East Grinstead for over 30 years, having moved to the town in 1990.

Since becoming a Councillor, Adam has become increasingly aware of the extensive number and variety of charities, voluntary organisations and volunteers that exist in East Grinstead. This became particularly apparent during the recent Covid-19 pandemic when local charities, businesses, volunteer groups and volunteers came together as the Emergency Action Group to arrange deliveries of shopping and prepared food, collection of prescriptions and other similar errands for the elderly and the vulnerable needing to shield.



Against this background, as we emerge from the pandemic and gradually get back to normal, Adam's choice of charities are:

East Grinstead & District Lions Club

East Grinstead & District Lions Club is part of Lions International, a global organisation with over 1.3 million members, which stages fundraising events throughout the year (notably the May Fair & Donkey Derby) to make grants to local charities and individuals in need. The club also delivers health awareness events in respect of diabetes and prostate cancer.

Being Neighbourly East Grinstead

Being Neighbourly was set up in March 2020 and is a support group for people living in East Grinstead and the surrounding area who may need assistance following the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.

The group has linked with the East Grinstead Town Council, Age UK, and local GP surgeries who recognise and know group members, as well as working with the wonderful Mid Sussex Voluntary Action team.

The group can offer the following:

- Food shopping for essential items
- Taking prescriptions to a surgery
- Picking up prescriptions
- Posting mail
- Or just making a friendly phone call.



Above: Town Mayor -
Cllr. Adam Peacock



Right: Cllr. John Dabell

Thank you from John Dabell

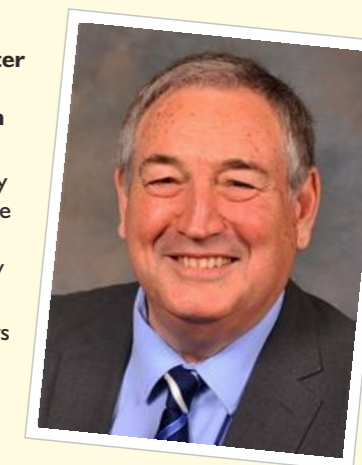
The outgoing Town Mayor, Councillor John Dabell, with his Mayoress wife Tracy and Consort daughter Jenny, would like to thank everyone he has had the privilege to meet during his 19-month term (extended, due to the pandemic) serving our lovely town and townsfolk, and who have made his time in office so very, very memorable.

John commented: "During the first year, the pandemic sporadically closed most open-air annual events and severely curtailed normal opportunities to openly meet with organisations personally. Then, as things became gradually more freed again, this was more than made up for by events and opportunities coming online, and I felt that it was so important to attend as many and as much as possible, to fully support all the terrific organisations that work so very hard for the good of our lovely residents in so many ways.

"My motto (stolen from the Prince of Wales) during my tenure has been 'Ich dien' (I serve), and my mantra is always 'Fun!'. I can assure you that I have had a great deal of fun as I have, hopefully, served my/our wonderful town and raised some much-needed funding for my two chosen charities:

CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young, and St Catherine's Hospice Crawley.

"Thank you everyone for the honour of allowing me to serve, and may God bless."



Produced with passion using responsibly sourced materials.
Please share your newsletter and recycle afterwards.

design © MAD Ideas®
01293 773085
www.madideas.com





Diary Dates



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Jubilee marks the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne on 6 February 1952. There will be an extra bank holiday and the usual Spring bank holiday will be moved from the end of May to the start of June, to create a four-day Jubilee bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June. This is the first time that any British monarch has celebrated a platinum jubilee.

On 2nd June at 9.45 pm the town beacon will be lit on King George's field, joining the beacons across the Kingdom in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Come along at 4pm and bring a picnic, there will be displays from local community groups to entertain you. The Town Council have also awarded a small grant to 20 street parties around the town for members of the community to get together and enjoy over the weekend.

There is a special celebratory tea party at the Meridian Hall on Friday 3rd June and East Court Live on Sunday 5th June to round off the weekend celebrations!

So, join in the fun over the weekend, come and wave a flag to celebrate this important event and join in with the beacon lighting and listening to the music at East Court with your friends and family.

Thursday 2nd June

Jubilee Picnic and Beacon Lighting at King George's Field

Arrival from 4pm: Bring a picnic to King George's Field:

- 6pm: Displays from local community groups
- 9.45pm: Lighting the beacon

Friday 3rd June

Afternoon Tea with the Mayor

Meridian Hall at East Court, 2pm-4pm

This event, now fully booked, is for those who remember the Queen's coronation.



For information on these and other events in and around the town, contact our Tourist Information on 01342 410121 communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or go to www.visiteastgrinstead.com

Meet your Councillor at the Library

Come into the East Grinstead library on the second Saturday of each month to meet your local Town Councillor to discuss any issues that may affect you. They are always happy to help.



East Court Live is a summer programme of free outdoor live music events on the terraces of East Court, so bring your own low chairs and rugs and chill out. There will be a pay bar, food stalls and free disabled and limited additional parking onsite.

Sunday 5th June – East Court Live

This will celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and will end with a 'Last Night of the Proms' feel. Artists performing are The Jive Aces, East Grinstead Choral Society, St Mary's Primary School Choir, The Glass Hearts, East Grinstead Concert Band, Soloist Laurence Williams and an Audience sing-along!

Sunday 3rd July – East Court Live

Bands performing are The Whiskey Poets, The Hot Dog Rockers, The Radiators, and Euphoria.

Sunday 7th August – East Court Live

Bands performing are A Bag of Hats, The Secret Agents, Disc B'stards, and Gee Bello Soul Classics.

Go to www.eastcourtlive.co.uk for more information.

Sunday 4th September – Classic Car Day

East Grinstead Town Council will play host to several classic car clubs, including a selection of big Healeys, Midgets, Sprites, Sunbeams and Wolseleys. There will also be food, music and car memorabilia.

For all other events in and around town, please go to www.visiteastgrinstead.com

East Grinstead has been a Fairtrade town since 2004 and has the support of EG Town Council. Further information from Susan Joy: tel: **01342 835190** or mob: **07821379064**. email: SusanJoy471@hotmail.com



Spotlight on Water Efficiency in New Partnership between South East Water and East Grinstead Town Council

East Grinstead residents are being encouraged to do their bit to protect their local environment thanks to a new 12-month partnership between South East Water and the Town Council.

With climate change high on the agenda and many homes looking for ways to save money, cutting down on the amount of water used daily will help the local environment and could reduce water and energy bills. As part of this year-long sponsorship, South East Water will be in the town talking about the extra help available for people struggling to pay water bills, along with giving out water-saving advice.

There was a warm welcome for the South East Water team at Love East Grinstead when, along with receiving top water-saving tips, five residents won water butts. The team was also seen at the Mid Sussex Marathon at the end of April, giving out bottled water to the runners. The regular High Street events and the East Court Live concerts later in the year will give more opportunities to talk water.

Tanya Sephton, Customer Services Director, South East Water, said: "This partnership with East Grinstead Town Council will show the many ways we can work together as a community to save water and money, and a great place to start is in the home."

"To get people on the right track, we have several free water-saving devices, including regulated shower heads and water-saving gels for garden plants available on our website. There are also Leaky Loo detection strips, which could save up to 300 litres of water a day."

The devices can be ordered at www.southeastwater.co.uk/freedevices

With the cost of living increasing and challenging times ahead, South East Water is encouraging residents who need extra support with paying water bills to get in touch now, as the company has a range of schemes available.

It is also asking people to check whether they are eligible for its Priority Services Register, which offers additional support with water supply and managing water accounts, and gives prior warning of any planned works in the immediate area.



For more information and to check eligibility for extra support, go to www.southeastwater.co.uk/priority

East Court Gardeners

The gardens are looked after by a dedicated team of volunteers, led by our part-time gardener Jenny. The aim of their work is to maintain all-year interest for our visitors, a colourful backdrop for the many weddings that take place at East Court, and a wildlife-friendly environment for all to enjoy.



Above: bee rockery
Right: fern rockery



Over the years, the team has developed areas of the gardens specifically to encourage and attract bees and pollinators, and has established a recycling area that has now allowed East Court to become self-sufficient in providing top dressing, mulch and compost.

The grounds are here for all, so bring a picnic and enjoy the views across Ashdown Forest and beyond.



L: East Grinstead Meads Football Club
R: Swim 1st Junior Triathlon Club

Community Grants

Sports Grants

The Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee was pleased to be able to award grants to the following groups from its Youth Sports Grant Fund:

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club	£500.00
Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club	£375.00
4th East Grinstead Scout Group	£312.50
TS Resolution NTC	£312.50
East Grinstead Meads Football Club	£500.00
Swim 1st Junior Triathlon Club	£500.00
East Grinstead Swimming Club	£500.00

East Grinstead is a Dementia-friendly Town!

The East Grinstead Dementia Friendly group, comprising representatives of councils, businesses, carers, care professionals and community groups, started meeting in 2013.

The intention was to raise awareness of dementia to help make East Grinstead a dementia-friendly community. The group formally became an alliance in 2016 to make bigger steps and to continue raising awareness. In October 2018, the alliance was recognised as qualifying to be a dementia-friendly community. We are working proudly to become so throughout the town.



Memory Moments Café East Grinstead

Know Dementia's Memory Moments Café offers a wonderful opportunity for people with memory problems and their families or carers to come and enjoy an afternoon of meaningful social activities. Participants enjoy a lovely cup of tea or coffee with tasty cakes, while taking part in the week's themed activities and enjoying a variety of entertainment, including singing, dancing, quizzes, animal therapy and much more. It's a lovely way to meet new people and create special moments.

The café is held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 2pm to 4pm at the Jubilee Community Centre in East Grinstead. To find out more or book your place, please call **01273 494300** or email info@knowdementia.co.uk | www.knowdementia.co.uk