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COUNCIL MEETINGS

27th November	Planning
30th November	Public Services
7th December	Amenities & Tourism
14th December	Finance & General Purposes
18th December	Planning
2024	
8th January	Council
10th January	Planning
11th January	Consecutive Standing Committees for Budget
29th January	Council (Budget & Precept)
31st January	Planning
19th February	Planning
7th March	Public Services
11th March	Planning
14th March	Amenities & Tourism
21st March	Finance & General Purposes
27th March	Annual Town Meeting
3rd April	Planning
8th April	Council
22nd April	Planning

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. The meeting of 11th January will commence at 7pm, with the Standing Committee meetings following consecutively.
- 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.

Town Councillors will be at Queen's Walk on the following dates 10am to 11:30am:

Saturday 16th September
Saturday 14th October
Saturday 18th November
Saturday 16th December

2024:

Saturday 20th January
Saturday 17th February
Saturday 16th March
Saturday 20th April

Look for the Town Council gazebo on Queens Walk

Useful Contacts

Age UK East Grinstead	01342 327 046
Being Neighbourly	01342 544 044
Bluebell Railway	01825 720 800
Chequer Mead	01342 302 000
Citizens Advice	0808 278 7969
Clarion Housing	0300 500 8000
Community Transport Sussex	01444 471 919
Disability Access – East Grinstead Area	01342 322 242
East Grinstead Foodbank	07983 209 940
East Grinstead Library	01342 332 900
East Grinstead Museum	01342 302 233
East Grinstead Tourism Desk at Library	01342 410 121
East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323 636
Kings Centre	01342 328 616
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458 166
Mid Sussex Voluntary Action	01444 258 102
Mid Sussex Wellbeing	01444 477 191
National Dementia Helpline	0800 888 6678
National Rail enquiries	0345 127 2920
NHS (non emergency)	111
Police (non emergency)	101
Police Station, Chequer Mead	01273 470 101
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414 000
Samaritans	116 123 (free)
The Hope Job Club	01342 488 282
The Quarry Community Café & Fridge	0772 487 3336
West Sussex CC Area Highways	01243 642 105

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 – Friday 9.30am – 6pm, Saturday 9.30am – 5pm.

THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

November 2023
Edition 86



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12th November will, this year, mark the nation's observance of Armistice Day. There will be a small gathering at the WW2 memorial at East Court at 10am. The Town Mayor and Royal British Legion will lay wreaths, the Last Post will be played and prayers led by the clerical team from St Swithun's Church. Following the short service, participants will then make their way to King Street for 10.30am.

King Street Car Park will be the meeting point for those in the parade. Parade master, Ian Hudson, will organise the groups and then, at around 10.45am, the parade, led by the East Grinstead Concert Band, will make its way to the war memorial in the High Street. The parade will march into the High Street, past the 'speed pillow' near 1 Market Square, where it will loop around and form up in front of the memorial. The parade will be joined just before 11am by the choir and vicar from St Swithun's Church. The High Street must be kept clear to allow for the passage of the procession.

Various dignitaries, including the Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex, will be in attendance to lay wreaths, along with all groups represented in the parade. A minute's silence and reading of the names of the fallen will be included. After the service, at around 11.30am, the parade will march away from the High Street and will disband in the Chequer Mead Car Park.

All are welcome to attend this event but are asked to please stay off the roads and keep to the pavement.

Roads around the High Street, including King Street, London Road as far as the High Street, High Street and College Lane, will be closed from 10.15am to 12 noon. The parade route will be marked with poppies on the lamp posts, and there will be notices displayed along the route advising of the road closure for two weeks prior to the event. Please obey the road closure marshals and signs, as there will be pedestrians in the road at various times. We aim to get everything re-opened well before noon to reduce the disruption, but your patience is appreciated.

A service sheet will be available on the High Street from stewards, or you can download it from the Town Council website from the first week of November.

The Royal British Legion will be selling poppies, as always, in the weeks leading up to the day. #wearyourpoppywithpride

Christmas is Coming

Christmas will be upon us once more, and East Grinstead's town traders will be wrapping their windows in preparation for this year's Big Reveal.

The Big Reveal and the Christmas Lights Switch On are taking place on Saturday 18th November.

The Rotary Tree of Light will be switched on at the same time as the Town Council Christmas lights, at 5pm, by the Town Mayor, Councillor Frazer Visser.

The town traders will then unveil their windows simultaneously along London Road and the High Street, immediately after the Christmas Lights Switch On. You will be able to vote for your favourite window; please see our social media for announcements nearer the time.

The High Street will be closed to traffic from 3pm to 8pm, and it will be free to park in Mid Sussex owned short stay car parks (Chequer Mead and Queen's Road). Look for signs about timings on the pay machines.

So, come along and kick-start your Christmas with a festive atmosphere and enjoy the lights, Big Reveal and late-night shopping.



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Town Events

For information on town events, contact our Community and Tourism Team on **01342 410 121** communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or go to www.visiteastgrinstead.com

2023

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday

See front page for more information

Saturday 18th November

The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch On

See front page for more information

Saturday 9th December to Monday 1st January

Panto

Snow White at Chequer Mead Theatre. Find out who's gone to stay with the seven dwarves far far away!

2024

Monday 6th May

The Lions May Fair

Sundays 2nd June, 7th July and 4th August

East Court Live

Thursday 6th June

D-Day 80th Anniversary Event and Beacon Lighting at King George's Field

Sunday 1st September

Classic Car Day on the High Street

Saturday 19th October

East Grinstead Community Bonfire - Procession and Fireworks

December

- The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch on
- Town Christmas Market

Dementia and Dementia Bench

East Grinstead Town Council has installed a dementia bench and noticeboard outside East Grinstead Library to continue highlighting dementia and dementia education. It is important to understand that dementia is not an inevitable part of ageing; it is a disease.

The bright blue custom bench features two heads facing each other and pointing towards the brain. They are separated by the symbol of Dementia Friends, the forget-me-not flower. The wording on the bench says, "It's called getting ill, not getting old" and includes the phrase "East Grinstead striving to be dementia friendly". Behind the bench is a noticeboard which gives some information about the support and services available in the town aimed at those living with dementia.

The Town Mayor unveiled the bench, together with the Chair of the East Grinstead Dementia Action Alliance and Town Clerk Julie Holden, who said, "We are striving to find ways to keep awareness of this disease in people's consciousness. This bench is a wonderfully visual focal point, and the noticeboard helps with signposting."



About the Environment and Sustainable Travel Committee

East Grinstead has a progressive council and community with thriving clubs for people who run, cycle and walk, such as Park Run, Kidical Mass, Ashdown Ramblers, EG Tri, East Grinstead Runners, and East Grinstead Cycle Club. However, the results of a 2019 survey asking why residents don't walk and cycle more came back with an overwhelming answer, "The roads and pavements are not safe enough."

In answer to this feedback, this year the committee had the town's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) adopted by Mid Sussex District Council.

As a next step, East Grinstead Town Council, under the chairmanship of Steve Ody, Councillor and Deputy Town Mayor, has set up a dedicated committee for the environment and sustainable travel. It's an exciting and positive step forward for our whole community, and this is the first such committee in the district. It shows that we take the environment and active travel seriously, and it is an incredible opportunity for the council to have a major impact on the future of the town.

The vision for the committee is that cycling, walking and wheeling will be the natural and safe first choice for all age groups for short journeys in and around town, helping to fight congestion, improve air quality and improve our health and mental well-being.

The committee meets every month to discuss the projects in place. If you'd like to learn more, or have ideas on how we could move forward, then please contact towncouncil@eastgrinstead.gov.uk. More information on the LCWIP is available on the EGTC website: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/community/local-cycling-and-walking/



East Grinstead Foodbank

East Grinstead Foodbank supports individuals and families who simply cannot afford to put food on the table.

Between March and August this year, the foodbank provided 3-day food parcels for 1,359 adults and children. It is now asking for donations for Christmas bags, which help to lift the spirits of people struggling financially in the festive season. Children really love them!

Could you organise a collection with your family, colleagues, friends or community group? Download the free BanktheFood app to get a regularly updated list of the most needed items.

It would really help if you could deliver your collection to the foodbank, but it can also be collected. Please email admin@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk to book a drop-off or collection time.

Located in the Jubilee Community Centre in Charlwoods Road, the foodbank is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 3pm.

If you need support, please call, text or WhatsApp 07856 864 251 or email crisis@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk



St Barnabas Hall Update

Following the purchase of St Barnabas Hall by East Grinstead Town Council, the refurbishment of the hall in Dunning's Road is now underway.

The outside timber façade has been given a facelift and work has started internally to make the hall ready for its new hirers. Viewings are taking place in preparation for the re-opening in the New Year. If you run a class, are part of a community group, or need an event space to hire, then consider St Barnabas Hall.

As the building now has a new purpose it needs a new name! The Town Council invites East Grinstead residents to suggest a new name for the hall. For name suggestions and hirer enquiries please email communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk



Community Revenue Grant

East Grinstead Town Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and organisations in the town and sets aside a small amount within the revenue budget to pump-prime specific initiatives. The Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee was pleased to be able to award grants to the following groups:

Age UK East Grinstead	£100
Arise Counselling Service	£500
Being Neighbourly	£100
East Grinstead Art Society	£250
East Grinstead Chess Club	£50
Evergreens of East Grinstead Pensioners Club	£200
Greenaway Foundation	£1,000
St Catherine's Hospice	£300
Time 4 Children	£500

The grants are awarded annually, and next year's grants need to be applied for by the beginning of September 2024.

Youth Sports Grants

There is a £3,500 grant for youth sports. Application forms are on the Town Council website and need to be submitted by 30th November 2023.

Mount Noddy Cemetery

East Grinstead Town Council is the burial authority for Mount Noddy Cemetery, and it has a duty to maintain the burial ground in good order. One of the responsibilities is the ongoing safety testing of memorials and headstones. More information can be found on the Town Council website, under 'burial services', at www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk.

If you are the deedholder or a family member of a loved one interred in the cemetery, it is important that you keep the cemetery department updated with your current contact details. This can be done by letter or email to cemeterymanager@eastgrinstead.gov.uk.



East Grinstead's Farmers' Market

East Grinstead's Farmers' Market has been trading on the High Street since Henry III granted our charter in 1247 and now plays host to a fishmonger, butcher, baker, cheesemonger, grocer and coffee roaster.

The market is open from 9am until 2pm every Thursday, so please come along and support our market traders here in East Grinstead.



Photo: Miles Audio Visual



The weather was beautifully sunny and there was a great turnout at all three of this year's East Court Live music events held on the terrace of East Court Mansion. A big thank you to all the people who helped to make it possible, all the bands who gave us fantastic music, and all the local residents who were there to enjoy the days with us and gave so generously to the Mayor's charity in aid of Queen Victoria Hospital.

Classic Car Show 2024

Following the success of East Grinstead's first classic motor show, the Town Council is pleased to announce that it will hold a second event on Sunday 1st September 2024.

In recognition of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we are keen to have veteran and vintage motor vehicles (1900-1985) attend the event.

Please send your requests for registration to: communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk.



Sidney Betchley, Henry Smith Charity and John Smith's Trust

East Grinstead Town Council is proud to announce that applications for the Sidney Betchley, Henry Smith Charity and John Smith's Trust are open. The charity is a small trust that provides monetary support towards the cost of Christmas in the form of a voucher for those over 65 on a low income. All applications are means tested by a trustee committee. Please apply by returning your completed form marked 'confidential' to Deputy Town Clerk, East Grinstead Town Council, East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT as soon as possible but no later than 9th November 2023. Forms available from www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/articles/news/2022/09/sidney-betchley-henry-smith-charity-and-john-smiths-trust, Town Council or library.