

Contact Your Councillor

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

20th June	Finance & General Purposes
20th June	Special Council
24th June	Planning
1st July	Council
15th July	Planning
25th July	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
5th August	Planning
28th Aug	Planning
5th Sept	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
12th Sept	Public Services
16th Sept	Planning
19th Sept	Amenities & Tourism
26th Sept	Finance & General Purposes
7th Oct	Council
9th Oct	Planning
28th Oct	Planning
18th Nov	Planning
28th Nov	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
5th Dec	Public Services
9th Dec	Planning
12th Dec	Amenities & Tourism
19th Dec	Finance & General Purposes
23rd Dec	Planning

NOTES:

- 1) Most 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 the exception of the Special Council meeting on 20th June to approve the annual accounts, which will be held immediately following the F&GP 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.

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Please share your newsletter and recycle afterwards.

Useful Contacts

Age UK East Grinstead	01342 327 046
Being Neighbourly	01342 544 044
Bluebell Railway	01825 720 800
CAP Debt Help	0800 328 0006
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 Public Contact Point, Chequer Mead	01273 470 101
Quarry Café and Community Fridge	0772 4873 336
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414 000
Samaritans	116 123 (free)
The Hope Job Club	01342 488 282
West Sussex County Council Highways	01243 642 105

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Visit: East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT

Call: 01342 323 636

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 332 900.

The library is open:

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 6pm and Saturday 9.30am – 5pm

East Grinstead Community and Tourism

Visit: Tourist desk, Library Building, West Street, East Grinstead RH19 4SR

Email: communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Call: 01342 410 121

Fair Trade

Fairtrade Fortnight is 9th–22nd September 2024, celebrating 30 years of the Fairtrade Foundation. Look out for activities around town during this time.

East Grinstead has been a Fairtrade town since 2005. If you would like to be involved in the Fairtrade East Grinstead group or any events, please contact: SusanJoy471@hotmail.com.



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THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

Spring/Summer 2024
Edition 87



NEWS FROM
EAST GRINSTEAD
TOWN COUNCIL

Introducing the new Mayor

Steve Ody was co-opted onto Council in 2018 and then was re-elected in 2019 for the ward of Herontye and re-elected again in 2023 in his ward of Imberhorne.

Since 2018, Steve has held various roles in Council and served on the Planning, Public Services and Finance & General Purposes Committees. This year Steve has been Chair of Planning and Chair of the new Environment & Sustainable Travel Committee. Steve also represents the Town Council on the board of trustees for the town's museum, East Court SANG and the Sports Council.

Steve has lived in East Grinstead for 29 years, has worked in and around the town since 1987, and is a busy mortgage and protection advisor. His work in the community allowed him to start, with the help of some other great people, the first Kidical Mass bike rides in East Grinstead. He volunteers at the town's Repair Café and was instrumental in the town finally having its Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan adopted at district level. He is focused on delivering as many improvements as possible for the community to cycle and walk more safely around town. Things you may or may not know about Steve: he supports Fulham FC and loves to ride his bicycle as much as he can.

He has selected Being Neighbourly as his chosen mayoral charity, as it will be able to help raise funds for a very specific project that is close to Steve's heart. Being Neighbourly provides incredible support for the most vulnerable members of our community. We will be raising money to help buy a Trishaw electric bicycle to take our vulnerable residents out on rides. This will enable them to reconnect with the community and feel part of the town, build new relationships, feel less isolated, strengthen their emotional well-being, and feel the wind in their hair again!

If you see Steve out on his bike, please say hello!



Town Mayor, Cllr. Steve Ody with
Deputy Mayor, Cllr. John Belsey

Thank you from Cllr. Frazer Visser

“Serving our wonderful town this past year as Mayor has been a whirlwind journey of excitement, humility, and inspiration far exceeding my expectations. Meeting East Grinstead's phenomenal groups, charities, schools and residents has given me an even deeper sense of pride in our community.

Highlights included visiting our Austrian twin town of Schwaz, the East Court Live events, and the profound honour of leading the town's Remembrance Day services.

Equally rewarding has been raising funds for my chosen charity, the QVH Charity at the Queen Victoria Hospital. We have raised £24,142.73, and this will directly support patients by funding specialised equipment and research that goes beyond the scope of the NHS.

Words cannot express my gratitude to everyone who supported events and my year as Mayor, especially my wife and family for their unwavering support. While I will miss serving as Town Mayor, I have full confidence that Councillor Ody will do an exceptional job.”



The new Mayor's charity

We are delighted that East Grinstead's new Mayor, Cllr Stephen Ody has chosen Being Neighbourly as his charity for the coming Mayoral year.



Funds raised will go towards a Trishaw, an electric bike. This has two seats at the front and allows our neighbours and a friend to get out and enjoy a cycle ride.

Being Neighbourly aims to reduce isolation, support mental well-being, enable access to financial support and, importantly, engage or re-engage neighbours to feel part of their community. We provide practical help with shopping, prescriptions or just a friendly chat and put on events such as music festivals, tea parties, trips to garden centres and local attractions. We also source furniture and PAT test small electrical goods.

Being Neighbourly works closely with other local organisations and partners to better support our neighbours. We offer support to neighbours aged 18+.

We can be contacted on: 01342 545 044 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

or by email: beingneighbourlyeg@gmail.com.

More information is available on our website: www.beingneighbourly.co.uk

or on Facebook:

Being Neighbourly EG



Sunnyside Barn opening

Sunnyside Barn, formerly St Barnabas Hall on Dunnings Road, was purchased by East Grinstead Town Council for community use. The newly refurbished community facility now has wi-fi and capacity for up to 70 people.

There has been a building on the site since the turn of the century, when men from Sunnyside used to play cards in a barn. The Sunnyside Mission came into existence in 1910 and was affectionately known as The Barn. In 1926, the Vicar of East Grinstead suggested that the mission should have an ecclesiastical name, and thus it became St Barnabas Church. The church was re-built in 1975, as the old iron building had no proper foundations and was in a state of decay.

Following the closure of the church, the building was purchased by East Grinstead Town Council in 2023. The updated hall reopened in February 2024 and now hosts a range of clubs, classes and community groups.

If you would like to hire Sunnyside Barn for a group, class or children's birthday party, please contact the Community & Tourism team on sunnysidebookings@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or call 01342 410 121.



Youth club at Sunnyside Barn

East Grinstead Town Council is working in partnership with parents and local businesses and is providing funding for the first year of a new youth club to be held at Sunnyside Barn.

The Town Council is employing a qualified and experienced part-time youth worker and a youth co-ordinator who will set up and run the club. It is hoped that other adults and parents will also lend their support to this worthwhile project which will provide a safe space for young people at the heart of their community. The group will also offer peer support, opportunities for development, friendship, and alternative activities.

The youth club will be held on Thursday evenings from mid-September for young people aged 10 to 13 years old.

For more information, please contact a.fletcher@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or call 01342 410 121.

East Court Live

East Grinstead Town Council is pleased to announce that, for the third year running, South East Water will be supporting the Council as the headline sponsor of the popular East Court Live music events.

East Court Live is a summer programme of free live music events on the terraces of East Court. There will be a pay bar, food stalls and free disabled and general parking on site. So, please join us for an afternoon of music and family fun.



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



East Court Live, 1pm – 5pm

Bands performing: Choir & Ko, Cinnamon Street, Stephanie Belle and headliner Conchord Big Band.



East Grinstead commemorates D-Day 80th anniversary with community picnic and beacon lighting, 6pm – 9.15pm, King George's field.

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East Grinstead Armed Forces Day at East Court, 11am – 3pm.

Free entry, with various displays including cadet forces and music from East Grinstead Concert Band.



East Court Live, 1pm – 5pm

Bands performing: The Colas, The Twelve Sullivans, Flairz and headliner Euphoria.



East Court Live, 1pm – 5pm

Bands performing: Alter Ego, Reminiscent, Gee Bello, Soul & Motown and headliner The Almost Elvis Band.



Classic Motor Show

11am – 3pm, East Grinstead High Street.



East Grinstead Community Bonfire

Torchlit procession through the town, with bonfire and fireworks at East Court.



Remembrance Day Service and Parade 10.30am – 12pm.

A service at the War Memorial and a parade of community groups along London Road and High Street.



The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch On

The Mayor will switch on this year's Christmas lights, after which the town traders will be, once again, unveiling their Christmas window displays along London Road and High Street.



Town Christmas Market

Please see press for further details nearer the time.



New planters

To brighten up Railway Approach, two new planters have been installed. The drawings on the planters depict landmarks in East Grinstead. How many of the landmarks can you recognise? Scan the QR code to read background information about each of the historical landmarks shown on the planters.

Pictured here are Cllr John Belsey (left), Cllr Steve Barnett (right) and Jenny Watson, East Court's gardener and artist.



War memorial bench at Mount Noddy

East Grinstead Town Council has installed a new bench in Mount Noddy Park, next to the row of nine Commonwealth War Grave Commission graves. The bench highlights both victory in Europe and victory over Japan and recognises the sacrifices made throughout World War II.

The inscription on the bench reads:

This bench is dedicated to all those in this cemetery and beyond who paid the ultimate price in defence of their countries.



East Grinstead's Classic Motor Show

East Grinstead Town Council is, for a second time, pleased to host another Classic Motor Show. This year, the focus is on vehicles that are registered pre-1985, so come along to see an array of veteran, vintage and classic motor vehicles dating from the early 1900s with showings from Aston Martin, Alvis, Bentley, Bond, Corvette, Jaguar, Lotus, Rolls Royce, Vauxhall and many, many more...

This free event will be held along our historic High Street on Sunday 1st September from 11am until 3pm.

The High Street will be closed from 9am and will re-open at 5pm. We ask that residents and visitors please remove their vehicles before the road closure comes into effect, as you will be unable to move once the event begins. For more information, please contact the Community and Tourism team email: communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or call 01342 410 121.



A call for event volunteers

East Grinstead Town Council enjoys organising many town community events for residents, but to do so it needs volunteers to help on the day. Volunteers have an essential part to play to help events run smoothly.

This is a general call out to you: please consider giving up a few hours of your time to support your community by volunteering for an event. It doesn't need to be for the whole event, it could be simply for a small proportion of it... after all, every little helps.

If you would consider being a road marshal, a car park attendant or a general event support person, please get in touch with the Community and Tourism team at communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk, on 01342 410 121 or by dropping in to see us at the tourist desk in the library.



Neighbourly allotment

Being Neighbourly has recently launched a community allotment project at Mount Noddy in East Grinstead. The idea is to bring people together to spend time in nature; there are many studies showing how gardening brings huge benefits to mental and physical health, and the group wants to tap into this, reducing social isolation and loneliness.

The group is delighted to have been awarded a grant by Sussex Lund, a grant programme supported by the Lund Trust and operated by the High Weald National Landscape Partnership. This grant will enable Being Neighbourly to further develop the community allotment with a wheelchair-accessible poly tunnel, a fruit cage, raised beds and a picnic bench made from 3,500 plastic bottles.

The Being Neighbourly allotment will also feature a number of raised planters made from sustainably sourced timber for those who struggle to bend to dig at ground level. Ultra-light hand tools have been chosen for those suffering with arthritis and there will even be a small pond created with a donated Belfast sink.

Sustainability is really important. The allotment will incorporate a worm farm made from an old recycled wheelie bin, and a tumbling composter made from 90% recycled plastic, as well as a water butt capturing rainwater. Native flowers will be planted and the space will include some bug houses made by people with learning difficulties.

The allotment will be available to Being Neighbourly 'neighbours', carers and befrienders, as well as other local community groups and individuals.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Neighbourly allotment or would like to come along or volunteer, please email belngneighbourlyeg@gmail.com or call 01342 545 044. Being Neighbourly would love to hear from you!

