

Contact Your Councillor

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

18th November	Planning
28th November	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
5th December	Public Services
9th December	Planning
12th December	Amenities & Tourism
19th December	Finance & General Purposes
23rd December	Planning
2025	
6th January	Council
9th January	Consecutive standing committees for budget
13th January	Planning
27th January	Council (Budget and Precept)
3rd February	Planning
24th February	Planning
6th March	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
13th March	Public Services
17th March	Planning
20th March	Amenities & Tourism
25th March	Annual Town Meeting (note: starts 6pm)
27th March	Finance & General Purposes
7th April	Council
9th April	Planning
28th April	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.
- 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:

2024:

Saturday 2nd November

1pm - 2.30pm

Saturday 30th November

10am - 11.30am

2025:

Saturday 11th January 1pm - 2.30pm

Saturday 8th February 10am - 11.30am

Saturday 8th March 1pm - 2.30pm

Saturday 5th April 10am to 11.30am

Look out for the Town Council Gazebo!

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 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 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: Mon – Fri 9.30am – 6pm, Sat 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

THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

Autumn 2024
Edition 88



NEWS FROM
EAST GRINSTEAD
TOWN COUNCIL

Introducing the new Town Clerk



Sam Heynes joins the Council on 1st November from Cuckfield Parish Council. "I am excited to be joining a much larger Council in this beautiful and historic town. I am looking forward to starting in November and getting to know the Council and the community of East Grinstead over the coming months and years."

Goodbye from Julie Holden

"It has been a great honour to serve the residents of East Grinstead and I've enjoyed every moment of my time here. From putting up statues, buying buildings and establishing entertainment events such as East Court Live, to solemn moments such as the Queen's death and proclamation of the new King. There are so many memories for me here in East Grinstead and much pride. I am leaving a great team with huge amounts of dedication and I shall miss them all. I wish Sam all the very best with taking the Council on to its next chapter."



Town Clerk Julie Holden left the Council on 16th September after more than 13 years in the role and is moving on to Burgess Hill Town Council as their Chief Executive Officer.

Remembrance Day

This year, Sunday 10th November remembers Armistice Day. A small gathering will take place at the WW2 memorial at East Court at 10am. The Town Mayor and the Royal British Legion will lay wreaths, the Last Post will be played, and prayers will be led by St Swithun's vicar, Rev. Luke Whiteman.

After the short service, attendees will head to King Street by 10.30am. Parade master Ian Hudson will organise the groups, and at 10.45am, the East Grinstead Concert Band will lead the parade to the war memorial on the High Street, where they will form up. They will be joined by St Swithun's choir and vicar just before 11am. Members of the public are requested to keep to the pavement to watch and keep the road clear for the procession.

Dignitaries, including a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex, will lay wreaths alongside the parade groups. The service will include a minute's silence and the reading of fallen soldiers' names. After the service, the parade will proceed along the High Street and will end at Chequer Mead Car Park around 11.30am. Roads around the High Street, including King Street and College Lane, will be closed from 10.15am to noon. Poppies will mark the parade route, and notices will be displayed two weeks in advance. Motorists should comply with road closure signs and be guided by marshals. Roads will reopen before noon to minimise disruption.

Service sheets will be available on the High Street or can be downloaded from the Town Council website from the first week of November. The Royal British Legion will sell poppies in the weeks leading up to the event. All are welcome to attend.



It's Christmas Time

Santa Clause is coming to town and East Grinstead's town traders will be wrapping their windows in preparation for this year's Big Reveal and the Christmas Market.

The Big Reveal and the Christmas Lights Switch On are taking place on **Saturday 23rd November**. The High Street will be closed from College Lane to London Road while London Road will be closed from the High Street to King Street from 3pm until 8pm. The East Grinstead Concert Band will open the proceedings at 4.30pm, playing a selection of Christmas carols on Market Square and, at 5pm, Town Mayor, Councillor Steve Ody, will switch on the Town Council Christmas lights at the same time as the Rotary Tree of Light. This will be followed, immediately, by the town traders unveiling their festive shop window displays along London Road and the High Street. East Grinstead Lions have invited Father Christmas to visit the Christmas Grotto.

Don't forget to vote online for your favourite window on the Town Council website. Free parking will be available on the day in Mid Sussex owned short stay car parks (Chequer Mead, Vicarage and Queen's Road) from 3pm.



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

East Grinstead Town Council will also hold a **Christmas Market** on London Road on Sunday 8th December from 11am to 3pm. Enjoy Christmas music and entertainment, shopping for gifts, food stalls, and more. Orchard Nurseries will also be selling Christmas trees. London Road will be closed from the High Street to King Street from 9am to 5pm.

Come along and enjoy doing all your Christmas 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

2024

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Sunday

See front page for more information

Saturday 23rd November

The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch On

See front page for more information

Sunday 8th December

Christmas Market

See front page for more information

2025

Sunday 27th April

Bus Running Day

3rd-5th May

Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend

Monday 5th May

Lions May Fair

Thursday 8th May

VE Day 80th Anniversary

1st June/6th July/3rd August

East Court Live

15th-17th August

Being Neighbourly Jazz Festival

Sunday 7th September

Classic Motor Show

Saturday 18th October

EG Community Bonfire Procession & Fireworks

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Day

Saturday 22nd November

Big Reveal

Sunday 7th December

Christmas Market



This year, East Court Live was a bit of a mixed blessing ... we had a glorious June, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings with Choir & Ko, Cinnamon Street, Stephanie Belle and The Conchord Big Band. Unfortunately, we had to cancel July's event due to the weather but we have re-booked The Colas, The Twelve Sullivans, Flairz and Euphoria for July next year.

The sun put his hat back on again in August to bring us local bands Alter Ego and Reminiscent, soul singer Gee Bello and The King of Rock'n'Roll - The Almost Elvis Band to close the show and bring down the curtain on another (almost) great summer of live music!



Classic Motor Show

We held our second classic motor show on 1st September, which proved to be very popular; so, a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event, including owners, exhibitors and residents. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

The earliest vehicle was the 1904 Stanley Steamer, closely followed by the 1915

Model T Ford. We did have a few no-shows due to mechanical issues on the day but a grand total of 95 entrants were on show and the feedback from members of the public, car owners and local businesses was overwhelmingly positive.

East Grinstead's Farmers' Market

The market is open from 9am until 2pm every Thursday, so please come along and support our market traders on Market Square.



Mount Noddy Cemetery

The cemetery department continues to update the 'History of Mount Noddy Cemetery' section on the Town Council's website. This now has over

70 names covering the Whitehall Cinema Bombing 1943, VI Bomb 1944, Commonwealth War Grave Commission graves, Military Personnel and other individuals.

Each headstone has a story to tell and there are links to Sir Edward Elgar, Lord Lucan, the Blount family, and a local story of someone who was believed to have been a spy in the Boer War, to name just a few! Scan the QR code opposite to read more.



Your community needs you

East Grinstead Town Council organises many town events that are enjoyed by the community throughout the year, including East Court Live and the Classic Motor Show. To do this, we need volunteers. If you can spare a few hours on an ad hoc basis to be a road marshal, a car park attendant, or a general event support person, please get in touch. We specifically need people to help at The Big Reveal on Saturday 23rd November and the Christmas Market on Sunday 8th December.

To put your name down or to find out more, contact the Community and Tourism team at communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or on 01342 410 121, or just drop in to see us at the community and tourism desk at the library.

D-Day 80th Anniversary

Thursday 6th June saw the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. The BBC transmitted a radio broadcast at 8 o'clock to the nation and the occasion was marked by a beacon lighting ceremony held across the country at 9.15pm. East Grinstead commemorated the occasion by staging an event on King George's Field, inviting East Grinstead Community Bonfire to assist the Town Mayor, Councillor Steve Ody, in lighting the town's beacon.

There were traditional fairground stall games like "Coconut Shy", "Hook-a-Duck" and with National Fish & Chip Day moving to coincide with D-Day, fish and chips were served to the attending crowd. There were also displays of various army equipment and an opportunity to have your picture taken in a cut-out jeep!

Also in attendance were members from 1343 Squadron RAF Air Cadets; Army Cadet Force Lingfield & Felbridge Anzio Company; East Grinstead Sea Cadets; The Royal British Legion; and Sussex Police.



Fraud Support

Criminals use a wide range of methods to commit fraud and scams. Take Five to Stop Fraud helps you to confidently challenge any requests for your personal or financial information or to transfer money to a criminal's account. To help everyone stay safe from fraud and scams, Take Five to Stop Fraud urges you to follow our campaign advice:

- **STOP:** Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information. It could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've been scammed and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or on 0300 123 2040.



Living Roof Bus Shelter

In August, the Town Council was delighted to unveil East Grinstead's new Living Roof bus shelter, installed in partnership with Clear Channel UK, on London Road (in front of St Catherine's Hospice shop).

Funded by Clear Channel, Living Roofs are planted with a mix of wildflower and sedum species, which help to support biodiversity, in particular bees, insects and birds. Affectionately known as 'Bee Bus Stops', the structures help make our town centre greener whilst contributing to climate-change resistance by capturing particulates from the air.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Steve Ody, who is also the chair of the Environment and Sustainable Travel Committee, opened the bus shelter, commenting, "This is such a great first step for East Grinstead, helping to make our town centre greener and cleaner".



Town Twinning

This year sees the 60th anniversary of our town twinning with Bourg-de-Peage in France, a relationship we are very proud of. Our Mayor and a group of students from Sackville School recently visited and our students won this year's Jeunes Sans Frontières games.

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:

East Grinstead CAP Debt help	£800	Menshare Listening Group	£1200
The Ukaholics	£250	4Sight Vision Support	£800
Arise Counselling Services	£700	East Grinstead Flower Club	£50
Meridian FM	£300	Imberhome School	£400

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 2024.

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

East Grinstead Town Council are pleased 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 in the parish of East Grinstead, Ashurst Wood and Forest Row. All applications are means tested by a trustee committee.

Further information and an application form can be found on the Town Council website or collected from East Court Council office or the library. Please return forms to Deputy Town Clerk, East Grinstead Town Council, East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT marked 'confidential' as soon as possible but no later than 10th November 2024.

