

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

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

Ashplats North

Margaret Belsey m.belsey@eastgrinstead.gov.uk
Ed Godwin e.godwin@eastgrinstead.gov.uk
Helen Farren 07713 253 929

Baldwins

Julie Mockford 01342 325 552
Frazer Visser f.visser@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

East Grinstead South

John Belsey 07721 303 466

Herontye & Ashplats South

Tracy Hughes t.hughes@eastgrinstead.gov.uk
Adam Peacock 07444 533 028
Craig Pond 07817 560 995

Imberhorne

Ian Gibson 01342 716 790
Stephen Ody 07855 046 703
Rex Whittaker 01342 302 515

Town North

Lee Gibbs 07484 750 363

Town South

Steve Barnett 07714 798 265
Stephanie Reeves s.reeves@eastgrinstead.gov.uk
Tony Scott 07583 120 947

COUNCIL MEETINGS

10th June	Planning
17th June	Amenities & Tourism
24th June	Finance & General Purposes Special Council
1st July	Planning Council
22nd July	Planning
12th Aug	Planning Environmental & Sustainable Travel
26th Aug	Public Services
2nd Sept	Planning
9th Sept	Amenities & Tourism
23rd Sept	Planning
30th Sept	Finance & General Purposes
14th Oct	Planning Council
4th Nov	Planning
25th Nov	Planning Environmental & Sustainable Travel
9th Dec	Public Services
16th Dec	Planning

NOTES:

Members of the public may attend these meetings in person or remotely, please contact townclerk@eastgrinstead.gov.uk to receive the meeting link no later than noon on the day of the meeting. Up to 15 minutes is allowed for public questions relating to items on the agenda.

Questions must be submitted to the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance of the meeting, referencing the agenda item it is related to.

All agendas and minutes are available on our website
<https://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/meetings/>

Design MAD Ideas
madideas.com



Produced with passion using responsibly sourced materials.
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 People	01444 258 102
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 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

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

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.

Fair trade

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 will be held from 22nd September to 5th October. This annual event, a key part of the Fairtrade movement in the UK, focuses on raising awareness about fair trade and promoting the use of Fairtrade-certified products.

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



THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

Spring 2025
Edition 89



NEWS FROM
EAST GRINSTEAD
TOWN COUNCIL

Introducing the new Mayor, John Belsey

I am honoured to have been elected to serve as the Mayor of East Grinstead for the next 12 months.

I moved to our town 30 years ago and since 2015 have been elected as Mid Sussex District Councillor for Ashurst Wood and East Grinstead South and have been an elected East Grinstead Town Councillor since 2019, currently representing East Grinstead South ward, the more rural part of our town that includes Standen, Kingscote and East Grinstead Sports and Rugby Clubs.

East Grinstead is a very special place with much to do and see in and around the town. Beyond the many varied buildings and beautiful countryside, the town is also significantly enriched by the huge number of groups, clubs and activities that take place around it. Many people volunteer, very often in more than one capacity, to run these groups and societies that are the beating heart of our community. Over the coming year I look forward to meeting and supporting these groups, whether that be congratulating people on their achievements, or supporting groups with fundraising or other activities, as well as learning about their needs and objectives as we look to ensure our wider community is well positioned to thrive for the future.

I know the Town Council is working hard to support another full year of interesting events and activities in our town, and I look forward to meeting you all over the next 12 months.



Mayor Cllr.
John Belsey



The new Mayor's charities

As Mayor, I have nominated two charities which I would like to raise funds for during the year. The first is Age UK East Grinstead & District, where I am a volunteer trustee and where I have had the opportunity to see, first-hand, what a difference the dementia respite service makes to people suffering from dementia and their families. Funds raised will go to supporting the dementia service.

My other nominated charity is East Grinstead District Scouts. The Scouts are trying to support their young leaders, a new group of 14 to 18-year-old Explorer Scouts, who have chosen to provide leadership in our nine Scout groups within East Grinstead District Scouts. They work alongside our adult volunteers in Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and have their own recognised national training scheme. I would like to use funds raised to further develop our young leader section, to give them their own identity, for example with Scout scarves, flags and annual awards, and to also support them with their adventurous skills training in activities such as rafting, archery and climbing, which can often be too expensive for young leaders to be able to do to demonstrate their leadership skills.



Mayor Cllr. John Belsey
and Deputy Mayor
Cllr. Stephanie Reeves

Goodbye from Councillor Steve Ody

As my year as Mayor of East Grinstead draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for what has truly been the best year of my life. It has been the greatest honour to serve this remarkable town alongside the Mayoress, meeting so many inspiring people and experiencing the strength and warmth of our community.

From Armed Forces Day to singing 'Sussex by the Sea' with the Duchess of Norfolk, from the atmospheric carol service at Sackville College to re-uniting 101-year-old WW2 veteran John Crocker with his regimental tie and beret – every event has highlighted what makes East Grinstead so special.

We witnessed Sackville School's triumph in France at the Jeunes Sans Frontières event, commemorated the D-Day landings, celebrated at East Court Live, and enjoyed the magnificent Classic Motor Show.

One of our proudest achievements has been supporting Being Neighbourly in its mission to bring East Grinstead its first community trishaw – an electric bicycle that will bring the joy of cycling to people of all ages and abilities. On 26th April, as Mayor, I hosted a fundraising ball, raising an impressive £6,000 for the Being Neighbourly community trishaw. Shortly after, I completed an 82-mile bike ride to Beachy Head and the Bomber Command Memorial, returning to East Grinstead, which raised a further £2,000. Huge thanks to everyone who supported, donated, and helped make it all possible.

To every volunteer, community group and kind-hearted resident – thank you. You are the glue that holds this town together. Your compassion, dedication and generosity are the heartbeat of East Grinstead.

Being your Mayor has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I will carry the memories of this year and the people who made it so meaningful forever.



Cllr. Steve Ody

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

Sunday 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August

East Court Live

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th August

Being Neighbourly Jazz Festival

Sunday 7th September

EG Motor Show

Saturday 18th October

EG Community Bonfire Procession & Fireworks

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Day

Saturday 22nd November

The Big Reveal

Sunday 7th December

Christmas Market at East Court

New Merchandise

East Grinstead Town Council is pleased to announce the introduction of two new additions to its range of merchandise: mugs and coasters. The designs are taken from Jenny Watson's original drawings that feature on tree planters on display around town.

The items are now available to purchase from the Community and Tourism Desk in the library and at East Court Mansion.

Mug and Coasters



East Grinstead Foodbank – action needed



We are so pleased that people have been downloading and using the Bank the Food app. However, Foodbank donations are down 20–30% on this time last year, so we are taking this opportunity to reach out to our community to encourage those that can to please continue donating. The best way to find out what is needed is to check the Bank the Food app for the latest list of in-need items.

For more information, visit eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk

To get the app, go to your app store and search for 'Bank the Food'.



Devolution

East Grinstead Town Council has received many enquiries regarding the Government's proposed devolution policy in Sussex. This policy, which impacts the higher-tier councils of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove, has seen the councils' joint application for consideration approved. As a result of this, the County Council elections due to take place in May 2025 were cancelled.

A public consultation was launched, which closed on 13th April 2025. The Secretary of State will consider all responses before making a recommendation to Parliament. If approval of a Mayoral Combined County Authority is granted, this would be established in time for the first mayoral election to take place in May 2026.

East Grinstead Town Council is committed to working closely with key stakeholders as the process unfolds. As a council we are well positioned to assume greater responsibilities and to deliver additional services should the opportunity arise and a suitable new structure be agreed. We remain optimistic that these potential changes would bring tangible benefits to our residents and community.

We remain committed to keeping our community informed and will share updates as more details become available.

Use this QR code to find out more about what this means and to read the Government's white paper.



Bike survey

The Town Council is considering the launch of a bike hire scheme to promote sustainable travel and improve health and wellbeing in our community. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Your feedback will help shape this exciting initiative, so take a moment to get involved – simply scan the QR code and complete the survey by 30th June 2025.



Bike Bank



East Grinstead's Classic Motor Show

Mark your calendars for East Grinstead's Classic Motor Show on Sunday 7th September from 11am to 3pm. Held on the historic High Street, with its stunning Tudor hall backdrop, the event is free for all – both vehicle owners and spectators. Make this September one to remember!

Entries for cars are now full, but if you have a pre-1985 motorcycle we'd love you to join the display. Sign up via the Town Council website to secure your spot.

Note: The High Street will be closed from 9am to 5pm. Residents and visitors, please move your vehicles beforehand to avoid issues.

For more details, contact the Community and Tourism team at 01342 410 121 or email communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk



High Street

Railway 200

East Grinstead Town Council celebrates the 200-year anniversary of the historic moment when, on 27th September 1825, George Stephenson's steam-powered Locomotion No. 1 travelled 26 miles between Shildon, Darlington and Stockton, carrying hundreds of passengers to great fanfare. It set in motion a series of events that changed the world forever.

Railway 200 will be a year-long nationwide partnership-led campaign to celebrate 200 years of the modern railway and inspire a new generation of young pioneering talent to choose a career in rail. Community, rail and other groups are invited to get involved.

For more information, search online for Railway 200 or use this QR code:



Railway 200 Logo



Cllr. Steve Ody and Jon Beardmore from the Bluebell Railway

Buzzing with Pride – Town Wins Award

Our Town Wins Bee Friendly Award! The Estates Management Team has been buzzing! We're thrilled to announce our town has been crowned a winner of the Bee Friendly Town Award, thanks to an initiative sparked by the Environmental & Sustainable Travel Committee.

Pollinators such as bees play a vital role in keeping environments healthy, and our town has always shown them some love. From vibrant hanging baskets to planting habitat-friendly spaces, we're proud to support our tiny winged workers. But we didn't stop there. Education and community spirit are just as important. Our Youth Club got creative, designing eye-catching bee posters to mark World Bee Day, while our magical fairy trail became a hub of fun bee facts, bringing awareness with a smile. Together, we've shown that small wings can make a big impact – and so can we.

Cllr. Steve Ody, Luc & Graham from Outside Services



VE Day

East Grinstead marked VE Day's 80th anniversary in style on 8th May 2025. The day began with a proclamation at the High Street war memorial at 9am, followed by the raising of the VE Day flag. A lively



community event on King George's Field in the evening brought traditional games, vibrant stalls, and performances by Choir & Ko, the Conchord Big Band, and Stephanie Belle. The evening's highlight saw the Town Mayor, with support from East Grinstead Community Bonfire, light the beacon, accompanied by a moving rendition of 'I vow to thee, my country'. It was a heartfelt tribute to unity, hope and peace. Thank you to everyone who supported this special occasion.

Marathon man gets freedom of the town

James Cooper, who completed 366 marathons in 2024, one every single day of the year, to raise awareness of mental health issues was honoured for his amazing achievement with the freedom of the town of East Grinstead. This honour is reserved for individuals who have rendered eminent services to the community, and James exemplified this through his selflessness and commitment. His journey not only raised funds for the Samaritans, but also sparked conversations about mental health, inspiring many to seek help and support. Congratulations James Cooper; the Town Council is honoured to bestow upon you the freedom of the town. May your story continue to inspire, and may your steps lead others towards hope and resilience.



James Cooper – Marathon Man & Cllr. Steve Ody

East Court Live

Once again East Grinstead Town Council, in association with South East Water, will be hosting a summer series of free, live music events on the terraces of East Court Mansion on the first Sunday of June, July and August.

Each event is a fantastic afternoon for the whole family, so bring a picnic or buy something on the day from the food stalls and bar. There is free disabled and general parking on site, and it's only a short walk from the High Street! See you on the terraces!

The line-ups this year are:

June: Hit Play, Half a Horse Apiece, the Horndogs, and Venn 5

July: The Colas, the Twelve Sullivans, Flairz, and Euphoria

August: Wrong Direction, Overdrive, the Eddie Miller Band, and Gee Bello's Sensational Soul & Motown Band

