

Contact Your Councillor

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

Ashplats

Liz Bennett 01342 301007
John Dabell 01342 317745
Danny Favor 01342 410244
Jacquie Russell 01342 322185

Baldwins

Margaret Belsey 01342 321574
Nick Hodges 01342 300113
Julie Mockford 01342 325552
Norman Webster 01342 317806

Herontye

Christine Mainstone 01342 326454
Stephen Ody 01342 302555
Dick Sweatman 01342 322743

Imberhorne

Frank Osborne 01342 322646
Frazer Visser 01342 323066
Rex Whittaker 01342 302515

Town

Edward Matthews 01342 301002
Norman Mockford 01342 325552
Adam Peacock 07444 533028
Peter Wyan 01342 313985

Worsted

John Saull 01342 822712

Annual Town Meeting

Each year the Town Council facilitates an **Annual Town Meeting**. This is a public meeting, not a council meeting, and is a chance for members of the public to ask questions during an open session. There will then be a chance to chat with and gain a greater understanding of some of the volunteer and charitable organisations in the town. The meeting is open to all and will take place on 20 March at 6pm in the Meridian Hall, East Court. Tea and coffee will be available.



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
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

March 2019
Edition 76



NEWS FROM
EAST GRINSTEAD
TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council Community Youth Sports Revenue Grants

The Town Council sets aside revenue funds each year to enable it to support, in a relatively modest way, a range of groups and organisations in the town.

Youth Sports Revenue Grants are awarded to groups and organisations to encourage participation in sport for young people. The fund is intended to facilitate new initiatives in youth sport within East Grinstead's civil parish which serve to benefit local East Grinstead residents and seek to improve the health of those participating.

This year, sports grants were awarded as detailed here:

Organisation	Amount recommended 2018/2019 (£)
Imberhorne School	500
Chartham Park Golf Club	500
East Grinstead Swimming Club	500
Synergy Sports Academy (to be allocated, but not paid until 50% of the total has been raised)	500
Sackville School	500
East Grinstead Cricket Club	250
Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club	250
Total	3000



Town Mayor Cllr Rex Whittaker presenting Sports Grant awards to Suzanne Currie from Sackville School, Steve Hill from Imberhorne School and Ben Knight from Chartham Park



Voter ID

Mid Sussex is set to take part in the next round of the 2019 Voter ID pilots along with 10 other local authorities across England.

The pilots will take place at the 2019 local elections, providing further insight to the Government into how best to secure the voting process.

At the last local elections, five local authorities took part in the first round of Voter ID pilots. The evaluation following the first trials showed they were a success, with the overwhelming majority of people able to cast their vote without a problem. They are being run by the Cabinet Office.

To verify that voters are who they say they are, each of the 11 local authorities in the 2019 pilot will test one of four models of voter ID checks. In Mid Sussex, voters will be asked to present their polling cards as a means of identification.

Anyone who does not have their poll card with them on polling day will be asked to present another form of photo ID such as a UK or EU photo-card driving licence (full or provisional) or a valid British, European or Commonwealth passport.

Local authorities will provide alternative methods of ID to individuals who do not have a specified form of ID, free of charge, ensuring that everyone who is registered has the opportunity to vote.

To contact Mid Sussex electoral services about the 2019 Voter ID pilot or any other election matter, please call 01444 477003 or email elections@midsussex.gov.uk

Elections are on Thursday 2 May. All East Grinstead Town Council seats will be up for election. Details of how to vote or how to become a candidate will be posted on the East Grinstead Town Council and Mid Sussex District Council websites. Please check where your polling station will be as there are some changes this year.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

14 March	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
20 March	(W)	Annual Town Meeting
21 March	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
25 March	(M)	Planning
1 April	(M)	Council
15 April	(M)	Planning
29 April	(M)	Planning

All full Committee and Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at East Court Mansion and are open to the public. Meetings commence at 7pm.

Council meetings provide a maximum period of 30 minutes for public questions commencing at 7pm.

Committee meetings provide a maximum period of 15 minutes for public questions commencing at 7pm.



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Diary Dates

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

Sunday 28 April

Vintage Bus Running Day 9am – 4pm

Vintage buses fill the High Street before heading out to the villages and countryside, recreating the bus routes of yesteryear. Buses are free to ride all day. Timetables can be purchased on the day.



Saturday 4 – Monday 6 May

Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend 9.30am – 1pm

Three towns, and three races over three days making up the classic marathon distance; the Mid Sussex Marathon returns for its eighth year.

Saturday 4 May: East Grinstead 10 mile

Sunday 5 May: Haywards Heath 10 mile (Sussex Grand Prix race)

Monday 6 May: Burgess Hill 10 kilometre

To find out more about the Mid Sussex Marathon weekend and how you can get involved, go to www.midsussexmarathon.co.uk



Monday 6 May

East Grinstead and District Lions May Fair 10am – 4pm

East Grinstead's historic High Street will be closed to traffic for the day. There will be charity stalls, small fairground rides, music, food and entertainment for all the family. The May Fair is a popular annual event raising funds for local charities.



East Court Live

FREE!

Sundays 2 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1pm – 5pm

Music on the terraces of the East Court Estate with three FREE picnic concerts brought to you by East Grinstead Town Council. Free entry. There will be a pay bar and food stalls. Parking on site is dry weather dependent. Please use town car parks where possible (free on Sundays).

Toilets reopen after £50,000 refurbishment

The public toilets on the East Court Estate have reopened after an extensive refurbishment lasting 2 months.

Having been available on the Estate for many years, the toilets were desperately in need of a refit. The Town Council, which owns the toilets, had determined that they would be updated and had reserved a budget; however, the facility was funded using financial contributions paid by developers to mitigate the impact of local housing development. The funding is known as Section 106, a community infrastructure contribution paid by developers to the district council for use in the community. The underspent Town Council budget has allowed for works to upgrade the public toilets inside the mansion to start earlier than planned.

Cllr Adam Peacock, Chairman of the Amenities and Tourism Committee, said: "The toilets are well used, especially now due to the number of annual public events the Council organises. The toilets were badly in need of the refurbishment, and we are grateful to Mid Sussex Council for allowing the Section 106 money to be allocated to this project."



The toilets were reopened by Town Mayor Cllr Rex Whittaker and Mid Sussex District Council Chairman Cllr Bruce Forbes, pictured along with Cllr Christine Mainstone, Vice Chairman of the Amenities and Tourism Committee.

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Taking (no) steps for a better view

Wheelchairs and pushchairs can now gain easy access to the upper terrace at East Court. Until now access has been by steps or by a long route via the War Memorial.

The upper terrace affords lovely views of Ashplats Wood and the distant Ashdown Forest, provides a vantage point from which to watch the East Court Live concerts, and has the Greenwich Meridian Line marker which was positioned there during the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Improving the access to ensure that the top terrace can be enjoyed by all had been a goal for the Council for some time.

As part of its continued works to improve the Estate, East Grinstead Town Council has installed a ramp beside the steps to allow wheelchair and pushchair access between the upper and lower terraces.

Vice Chairman of the Amenities and Tourism Committee and Town Council representative on the local Disability Access Group, Cllr Christine Mainstone, said: "We are so pleased to be able to invite those with mobility issues to enjoy the grounds from all aspects. While it was possible for them to reach the terraces previously, it involved a longer route on the East Court drive past the War Memorial. This was difficult for the many people who cannot manage steps or walk long distances. The ramp will be much more convenient for those estate users."

Cllr Adam Peacock and Cllr Christine Mainstone, Chairman and Vice Chair of Amenities and Tourism.



We will remember them

As part of the 2018 Summer/Autumn planting scheme to commemorate the centennial of the end of WWI, 100 wooden poppies became a very poignant feature in the High Street War Memorial beds.

A team of volunteers, under the guidance of Head Gardener Jenny Watson, produced the poppies from recycled timber.

During the design process it was decided that, as with the famous Tower of London poppies of 2014, these would be available for sale to the general public after Remembrance Sunday, with all the proceeds donated to the Royal British Legion East Grinstead Poppy Appeal. The poppies were sold at the Council offices and the Tourist Information desk in East Grinstead library and raised £500.

Lynda and John Railton, who have organised the East Grinstead poppy collections for many years, are appealing for volunteers to support them this year. There are many roles available, from selling the poppies to counting the money to completing the paperwork. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact them via the Poppy Appeal.



John and Lynda Railton receiving the cheque from Town Mayor Rex Whittaker and Jenny Watson, who had organised the making and selling of the poppies.



Showcasing local tourist attractions

Our town promotions team has installed a display screen at the Tourist Information desk in East Grinstead library.

Chairman of Amenities and Tourism, Cllr Adam Peacock, commented: "The screen is a great addition to our resources and perfectly complements the extensive range of leaflets that we have to offer. We are looking forward to using the screen creatively to showcase the many tourist attractions in the town and surrounding areas."

