

POLEGATE



Polegate Town Council Annual Town Report 2025





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Polegate Town Council

Polegate Town Council is the local level of council. The council is responsible for allotments of which it has two (Cophall & Gosford Way), some street lighting (*mainly side roads plus the High Street lighting*), play parks and playing areas owned by the council, Christmas lights and floral decorations.



The District Council is the next level of council and deals with a wider range of services, such as waste disposal, litter, environmental health, council tax collection and planning.

East Sussex is the highest local authority in our area and has an even wider range of services, which are more strategic including Highways (non-trunk roads), libraries, social services, and education.

Highways England is responsible for A22, A27 and the A2270 from A27 junction traffic lights (including the Polegate bypass).

Polegate Mayor re-elected alongside new Deputy Mayor:

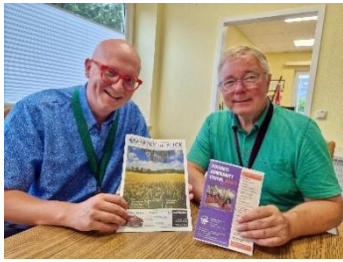


At last year's Annual Statutory Meeting Cllr Dan Dunbar was re-elected unanimously unopposed by his fellow councillors to serve as the Town's Mayor for a second term. Honorary Freeman Cllr Stephen Shing was elected to serve as the Deputy Mayor. Cllr Stephen Shing said, "Thank you to all my councillor colleagues for supporting me for the position of Deputy Mayor of Polegate Town. It is an absolute privilege and honour

to further serve residents in our lovely town of Polegate in this new role. My thanks to James as the previous deputy and my predecessors before me."

Speaking at the meeting Cllr Dan Dunbar thanked his fellow councillors for their support in re-electing him into his role. "It has been a complete honour and privilege to represent my colleagues, the Town Council, and the residents of Polegate."

Mayors Page



The Mayor has had the privilege of attending numerous events to represent Polegate and highlight the incredible work happening locally. From May 2024 to January 2025, more than sixty civic engagements have taken place, both in the town and across Sussex, ensuring Polegate is well represented and connected within the wider community.

During the summer, a civic reception at the Community Centre brought together local dignitaries, charities, and council members to network over afternoon tea, followed by a wonderful performance of 'A Night At The Musicals' by the talented Polegate Drama Group. The Council continues to support local arts and traditions, including the festive Christmas Lights switch-on, where the town welcomed Dame Nanny Dora Nightie in November. In January, nine visiting Mayors were hosted at the Drama Group's 53rd family pantomime, 'Sleeping Beauty,' with some even joining the cast on stage for a musical singalong.



Polegate Town Council also values its strong ties with the Twinning Association, which fosters connections with Saintry-sur-Seine in France and Appen in Germany. In early summer, guests from France were warmly welcomed, while September saw a visit to Appen to meet with their Mayor and celebrate the long-standing friendship between the towns. Another visit to Saintry-sur-Seine is planned later this year.



Throughout the year, Polegate has had the pleasure of welcoming various dignitaries. A particular highlight was the first Civic Carol Service, organised in partnership with Inspiring Angels Eastbourne and St George's Church. This special occasion was honoured by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr. Andrew Blackman, representing His Majesty The King, along with the

County's High Sheriff, Lucinda Fraser.

Throughout the year, the Mayor has continued to support his chosen charity, Eastbourne Area Community First Responders. He has played a key role in raising the profile of this dedicated volunteer team, who respond to medical emergencies in the community. His efforts have also helped increase



awareness of the importance of CPR and the use of defibrillators. During the Mayor's term of office, funds have been raised for the charity at various civic events, and we are extremely grateful for the generous donations received at these occasions.

Supporting and engaging with the community remains a priority for Polegate Town Council, and every effort will be made to continue attending local events and initiatives. Sincere thanks are also extended to Deputy Mayor Cllr Stephen Shing for his valued contributions and support throughout the year.

Reflecting on the year, Mayor Cllr Dan Dunbar said, Growing up and living in the town for the last thirty years, I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity and proud to represent the community as the Town's mayor. It is a honour to attend events to help raise the profile of our town and a It is a privilege to meet individuals, local groups, charities along with businesses doing fantastic work locally. I am enormously grateful for all those who have supported me in my role and I thank each and every one of you.

A Year in Events: Representing Polegate:



What Polegate Town Council has been up to this year:

Installation of Speed Indicator Device:

This year, Polegate Town Council installed a mobile speed indicator device to help improve road safety in our community. This initiative was made possible through funding from Polegate Town Council and a generous grant from the Joint Action Group.

The speed indicator device gives instant feedback to drivers encouraging drivers to reduce their speed since drivers are more aware of their speed. This device can help people be more careful when driving their car. The Speed Indicator Device gets moved every quarter making people aware of the speed limit down different roads.



This initiative aligned with the goals of the national Community Speed Watch programme, which aimed to reduce death and injury on the roads, encourage drivers to adhere to speed limits, increase public awareness of inappropriate speed, and enhance the overall quality of life for local communities.

New defibrillators in Polegate:

As part of our ongoing commitment to public health and safety, the local charity, Eastbourne Area Community First Responders, has generously donated a defibrillator to the residents of Polegate this year. This initiative has further strengthened the area's network of strategically placed defibrillators, ensuring greater coverage and accessibility in times of emergency.

The new defibrillator was installed at the entrance of The Mill Development on Jubilee Drive. This addition marks the eleventh public access defibrillator in the area and is the first of two to be donated by the charity this year. These life-saving devices have proven to be crucial in emergency situations, providing immediate assistance to individuals experiencing cardiac arrest.

Polegate Town Council has taken on the responsibility of maintaining these vital resources, ensuring they remain accessible and fully operational through the British Heart Foundation's Network. This network is linked to the nationwide database used by Ambulance Services, allowing first responders to locate the nearest defibrillator quickly when needed.

Beautiful Hanging plants for the High Street:



This summer, Polegate's High Street was transformed with vibrant hanging flower baskets, adding colour and joy to the community. Additionally, new green lanterns and freshly painted lighting columns enhanced the town's welcoming atmosphere, reflecting our connection to the South Downs National Park.

We have also introduced energy-efficient LED lanterns, reducing our environmental footprint while keeping costs low. This initiative not only beautifies Polegate but also promotes sustainability, creating a brighter future for our community.

The hanging plants are particularly sustainable, as they are treated with a special gel that helps them survive droughts and periods of limited water access.

Bulb Planting Event:

In October, Councillors came together to plant 1,000 giant yellow crocus bulbs along the banks of the recreation ground on Wannock Road. Councillors M. Piper, S. Shing, M. Cunningham, and D. Dunbar collaborated on this effort as part of a wider initiative to brighten the town. Despite the cool autumn weather, the team worked diligently to ensure the bulbs were planted in carefully chosen spots to create a stunning floral display in the spring. The initiative not only aims to enhance the town's visual appeal but also promotes environmental sustainability by encouraging biodiversity and supporting local pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



Best Kept Allotments and Garden Competition:

The Best Dressed Allotment Competition, held in July 2024, celebrated the creativity and dedication of Polegate's gardening community. Local allotment holders transformed their plots into visually stunning spaces, with an impressive range of designs and themes.

In addition to the allotment competition, there was also a Best Kept Garden Competition, recognising the hard work and attention to detail in maintaining beautiful and well-tended gardens throughout the town.

The event provided an opportunity for the community to highlight their gardening skills and share their passion for horticulture.



Community Tree planting Event:



In November, we held a community tree planting event, bringing people together to enhance our local environment. We successfully planted 510 bushes and replaced 5 old trees, helping to make the area greener. These additions will improve the landscape and provide habitats for wildlife. We were fortunate to have the support of many dedicated volunteers, including PJ Skips, the Brownies and Scouts, and our local

councillors. This event is just one example of how we can all make a positive difference in our local area. We are excited to see the lasting impact of these efforts and look forward to future projects that will continue to improve our outdoor spaces.

Remembrance Day Ceremony:

The Remembrance Day ceremony held this year at the Polegate War Memorial Recreation Ground was a meaningful and well-attended event. Many people from the local community came together to pay their respects and honour the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to the country. Polegate's Mayor laid a wreath on behalf of the Polegate Town Council and the community.



Information Day:

We held an Information Day to raise awareness about electric blanket safety, testing 37 blankets. Nearly 49% failed to meet safety standards, with older blankets—over 10 years old—posing the highest risks of fire and electric shock. To ensure safety, the wires of the failed blankets were cut on-site.

The event highlighted the importance of regular safety checks and included stalls offering

valuable resources, including Citizen's Advice, Steps to Stay Independent, East Sussex Warmer Homes, and First Responders. It successfully raised awareness on safety issues while providing residents with access to essential services to improve their well-being.

Festive Christmas Tree Switch-on Event:

For Christmas 2024, the community came together to celebrate the festive season with great joy and enthusiasm. The highlight of the festivities was the lighting of the Christmas tree, which was graciously donated by PJ Skips. The event was made even more special with the involvement of Polegate's Drama Group's pantomime dame group, who were invited to switch on Polegate Town Council's magical Christmas lights. Their performance added a touch of festive flair and fun to the occasion, making it a memorable experience for all those in attendance.



The event brought the community together and helped to create a warm and inviting atmosphere in the town, allowing everyone to experience the magic of the season. The lighting ceremony and the accompanying performances were truly a special way to mark the end of the year and spread holiday cheer across Polegate.

Mayor's Annual Tea Party Celebration:

The Mayor's Tea Party is a cherished annual celebration that brought together Polegate's retired residents for a fun and festive occasion last year. Mayor Cllr Dan Dunbar hosted a raffle and silent auction to raise money for his chosen charity, the Eastbourne Area Community First Responders. The event was a tremendous success, raising a total of £475.60, which directly supported the vital work of the first responders. Councillors and office staff offered their support, ensuring everything ran smoothly and helping create a welcoming atmosphere for all attendees.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for residents to come together, share in the holiday spirit, and enjoy some light-hearted fun during the Christmas period. It was a pleasure to witness the community's generosity and participation, and the ongoing support each year continues to make this event a highlight for everyone involved.



Business Plan and Vision

No.	Project	Sub-Projects	Timescale
1	Items outstanding from Previous Business Plan		
1a	Undertake a range of improvements and upgrades to Brightling Road Recreation Ground	<u>Continue with improvements and enhancements.</u> Planning permission in progress and data collection re pump track, concrete skate park, climbing wall, accessible park, car park and associated access, solar lighting, CCTV, and power	Short to medium term (ongoing)
1b	Continue to partner with Wealden on Cuckoo trail enhancements Completed	New signage to be installed in Feb outside of council offices which direct to cuckoo trail, SDNP Council toilets and offices	Short to medium term (ongoing)
1c	Improve signage to the Cuckoo trail and liaise with other authorities to achieve this Completed	In partnership with WDC signage as above	Short to medium term (ongoing)
1d	Financial feasibility of temporary structure in car park to provide accessible chambers and library	Work being carried out on feasibility of different location. Agreed, some legal matters to be considered.	Short to medium term (ongoing)
1e	To continue to partner with Cuckmere buses and promote services that provide an easy access to the South Downs National Park from Polegate. Ideally services to South Downs National Park, Friston, Seven Sisters Country Park and Jevington.	Continue to advertise services that provide these facilities to residents and tourists. Supporting through New Years Day Service and grants when applied for.	Short to Long term (ongoing)
1f	Establish a 'Friends of Brightling Road Leisure Ground' group	Continue and development further partnerships with local groups interested in the environment with a view to setting up a friends of group.	Short to Long term (ongoing)
1g	Continue to develop partnerships between Southern Railways to		Short to Long term (ongoing)

	encourage and promote visitors to the town		
1h	Promote Polegate as a 'Gateway' to the South Downs National Park	<u>Continue</u> joint initiatives with Southern Railways and the South Downs National Park Authority Cuckmere Buses and other agencies.	Short to Long term (ongoing)
1i	Drainage of field	<u>Continue</u> with the Football Foundation initiative and AFC Langney in a field friendly drainage system. (not full drainage) Testing now needs to be carried out on the ground.	Short term – assessment Medium term – funding and implementation Long Term – maintenance
1j	Brightling Road Leisure Ground - Contact the local business community for prospective sponsors and grant funders	<u>Continue</u> to attract further sponsorship and grant funding	Medium and long term
1k	Brightling Road Leisure Ground – enhanced bench provision	<u>Continuation of improvements once complete.</u> Install additional benches around the area. Awaiting installation with contractors and more locations being prepared.	Medium to long term
2	Environment and Appearance of the town		
2a	Improve signage to the Cuckoo trail	Partnership with WDC almost complete	Short term
2b	<u>Continue</u> to liaise with other authorities to ensure that the Town Council can carry out certain services without issues. i.e. litter, weeds, cleaning signs, white gates etc	Encourage volunteer groups and individuals. <u>Continue</u> to Liaise with Wealden District Council waste department, street scene. Continue to liaise with East Sussex Highways. PTC already provide additional verge cutting; enhanced litter picking alongside volunteer groups and events. Encourage reporting of appearance issues and resolve where possible.	Short to medium term
2c	Further litter awareness campaigns Completed		Short to medium term

2d	Increase access to the town and its facilities including parks for those with decreased mobility and/or special needs	Continue with current initiatives and implement new ideas where possible taking this into consideration. Prep for requests to highways underway	Short medium and long term
2e	Continue support for wildlife areas	Continue Supporting Friends of Jubilee Nature Reserve	Short to long term (ongoing)
3	Tourism for the town		
3a	Promote Polegate as a destination		Short term
3b	Provision of a range of events in the town with the Council's role as facilitator	Summer festival now run by PCF; Xmas event now run by PCF. New public and civic events, annual events being developed.	Short to medium term
3c	Provide additional funding for more events in the town	As events are created budgeting the previous year in readiness. £2000-5000? Some additional funding allocated, however mindful of austerity and the current economic climate.	Medium term
3d	Create walking festival in summer	Design to promote an appreciation of the local area and environment to local residents, promote community activities and general health of the local population. Liaise with other organisations to achieve these goals. Currently sharing Health walks info on social media whilst Communities group discuss the format and intention of the event.	Medium term
	Promote World Book Day in Polegate during March through fun activities such as hunt the book in local retailers, augmented reality tours and other ideas.	Aim to increase the support for a library. Work in partnership with schools and other authorities to achieve this.	Medium term

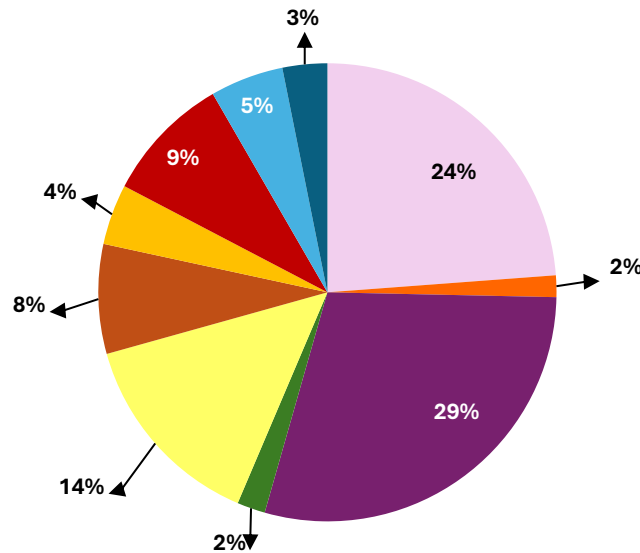
		Looking at new event in 2026. Will be discussed at Communities and Tourism committee.	
4	Brightling Road Leisure Ground Recreation Ground		
4a	Pathway from outdoor gym to new accessible roadway	Planning permission in place. Quotes in Funding required.	Short term PP Medium term path due to funding.
4b	Sponsorship scheme	Some completed and underway. Continue and add to. Refreshing sponsors for the flowers at present. Litter sponsorship from 2 partnerships.	Short to medium term
4c	Funding for further events on the land	Budget 2025/26 set in Autumn Winter 2024/25. Some enhancements only due to austerity.	Medium term
4d	Tennis court (new)	Grant / S106 / CIL funded. Awaiting planning permission and funding. Looking at grants presently.	Medium to Long Term
5	Climate Change		
5a	Educate residents and promote how to mitigate climate change and promote an environmentally sustainable approach	Continue and enhance social media and website posts. Hold events where appropriate. Theme for annual town assembly 2025 is climate change.	Short to medium term
5b	Assess the town council's carbon footprint and carry out improvements where possible	In progress.	Medium term
5d	Investigate solar lighting and other schemes to reduce the impact of street lighting. NB the town council provides lighting for amenity and footways and is NOT required to light the roads.	Solar lighting is planned for Brightling Road Leisure Ground and is part of the planning permission being sought at present. Funding in Place.	Medium to long term
6	Wellbeing of residents		
6a	Promote the general health of the town and residents to support the NHS	NB other initiatives encourage health and wellbeing for our residents.	Medium to long term

		Partnership with Wealden District Council our parks sessions for residents for free. Sharing on social media of health and wellbeing subjects and initiatives. On going.	
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Polegate Town Council's Finances:

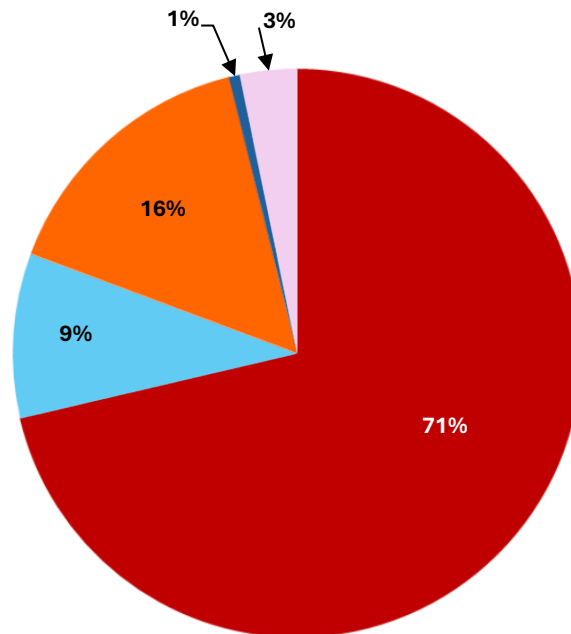
What the Council Spends money on:

- Employee Costs Town Councillors Recreation Grounds
- High Street Toilets Street Lighting Council Offices
- CIC Grant Administration Highways
- Other



Where the Council's Income comes from:

- Precept General Administration Recreation Grounds Allotments Other



Most of the services are covered by the precept income, which is generated from those who pay Council Tax within the parish boundary. The Town Council has been looking at several avenues to generate income and reduce the costs to the council, in various ways, such as grants, income initiatives, sponsorships and other avenues to reduce costs. The Council has managed to get further grants, to support projects happening in Polegate.

Accounts

The Council's accounts are prepared annually, covering the financial period from 1st April to 31st March. These accounts are audited and formally signed off by the Council around June each year, with an external audit typically conducted between July and September. The Council maintains designated Ear-Marked Reserves (savings), which are funds allocated for specific projects. These reserves are reviewed annually to determine whether the projects remain viable, whether sufficient funding is available, or if the reserves should be reallocated due to changes in legislation. Completed projects have contributed to the reduction of ear-marked reserves, reflecting prudent financial management. To comply with audit requirements, the Council is obligated to retain a certain level of general reserves to cover regular expenses. This reserve typically amounts to 6–12 months of standard expenditure or half of the annual precept. Polegate Town Council consistently adheres to this range, as verified by internal and external audits. The Town Council is committed to minimising the financial burden on residents by seeking sponsorships, grants, and alternative funding sources. By actively pursuing additional income streams, the Council aims to reduce its reliance on Council Tax revenue while continuing to deliver the high-quality services expected by the community.

Polegate Town Council**Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2024**

31st March 2023

31st March 2024

	Income Summary	
367,485	Precept	365,846
367,485	Sub Total	365,846
	Operating Income	
0	Employee costs	2,312
147	Administration	5,107
238	Town Councillors	612
33,260	General Administration	48,032
1,234	High Street Toilets	1,234
0	Town Centre and Community Safe	1,263
3,981	Recreation Grounds	79,320
3,073	Highways	3,762
3,200	Allotments	3,279
0	Street Lighting	1,193
750	The Polegate Partnership	900
413,368	Total Income	512,861
	Running Costs	
148,276	Employee costs	145,419
26,638	Administration	54,929
8,496	Town Councillors	9,315
5,561	General Administration	5,318
26,082	Council Offices	47,199
90	51 High Street	654
25,181	Wannock Office	26,124
9,294	High Street Toilets	12,136
3,500	Town Centre and Community Safe	8,268
66,399	Recreation Grounds	177,572
28,837	Highways	31,617
1,383	Allotments	2,377
33,104	Street Lighting	87,103
15	Prize and Prize Giving	580
918	The Polegate Partnership	995
0	The Planning Committee	358
0	The Retired	722
383,773	Total Expenditure	610,685
	General Fund Analysis	
204,122	Opening Balance	207,502
413,368	Plus : Income for Year	512,861
617,490		720,363
383,773	Less : Expenditure for Year	610,685
233,717		109,678
26,215	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	(85,882)
207,502	Closing Balance	195,560

Useful Information:

Jubilee Nature reserve:

The Polegate Jubilee Nature Reserve is a piece of land gifted to Polegate Town Council, which is managed by the dedicated group of volunteers known as the Friends of Polegate Jubilee Nature Reserve. The reserve, which is former railway land, sits between the railway line and surrounding farmland. Some remnants of its railway history can still be found on site.

Since October 2022, the Friends Committee and working group have been actively caring for the land. Their mission is to conserve the nature reserve as a habitat for local wildlife, promote and maintain biodiversity, and provide a natural green space for residents to enjoy. Visitors have the opportunity to learn about the local wildlife and environment while being part of the conservation effort.

For more information or to get involved, please contact
polegatenaturereserve@gmail.com

Allotments:

The Council manages two allotment sites: Cophall and Gosford. Cophall has seen several improvements in recent years, and there are ongoing plans to upgrade the pathways, trim back the perimeter vegetation, review the boundary fencing, and enhance the overall appearance, security, and availability of allotments, as there is a significant waiting list.

Gosford Way allotment land is rented from Wealden District Council, and the Town Council manages a small number of allotment beds there. The income generated from Gosford allotment fees is returned to Wealden District Council each year.

If you are a resident of Polegate and would like an allotment in the future, please contact admin@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk or 01323 488114 and you will be added onto the waiting list. The current waiting time is approximately 1 to 2 years.

Committees

- **Finance and Policy Committee:** This committee is responsible for overseeing the financial health of the organisation, managing budgets, and making decisions regarding financial policies. They are also involved in establishing long-term financial strategies, investment plans, and reviewing financial statements.

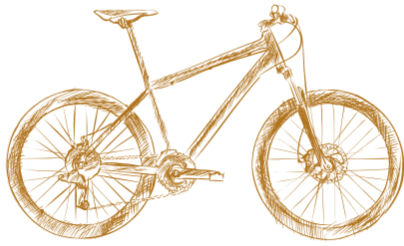
- **Personnel Committee:** They handle matters related to employee benefits, compensation, and ensuring that the organisation complies with employment laws and policies.
- **Planning Committee:** They put forward their comments on Planning Applications as Statutory Consultants and the views are considered by Wealden District Council who make the decision on the approval or refusal of a planning application.
- **Buildings and Land Committee:** This committee handles matters related to the maintenance, development, or management of physical properties owned by the organisation. They make decisions about renovations, expansions, lease agreements, land acquisitions, or managing any land-use policies.
- **Climate Committee:** Focuses on discussions and decisions related to climate change and sustainability initiatives within the organisation and the community.
- **Communities and Tourism Committee:** Works on promoting local tourism, community engagement, and developing strategies for enhancing the area's cultural and community life.
- **Christmas Lights Committee:** Organises the planning, funding, and installation of festive Christmas lights and related events for the community.
- **Street Lighting Committee:** Responsible for maintaining and managing street lighting infrastructure and deciding on new installations or upgrades.

Working Groups:

- **Business Plan Working Group:** Develops and reviews the business plans, ensuring alignment with the organisation's goals and objectives.
- **Website Working Group:** Works on the development, and improvement of the organisation's website, ensuring it serves the community effectively.
- **Neighbourhood plan Working Group:** Focuses on planning initiatives at a local level, shaping the future development and infrastructure of specific neighbourhoods.
- **Risk Management Working Group:** Identifies, assesses, and manages risks to the organisation's operations and strategic objectives.
- **Libraries Working Group:** Deals with initiatives related to libraries, including services, funding, and strategic planning.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy Working Group:** Focuses on projects funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy, ensuring they align with the community's needs and growth.
- **Flower Contract Working Group:** They decide on the theme, colours, and variety of flowers and bulbs, as well as discuss the details outlined in the contract.

- **Internal Audit Review and Internal Working Group:** Oversees the internal auditing process, ensuring the organisation complies with financial and operational standards.
-

Advice to Help Combat Climate Change:



Carpool or use public transport – sharing rides or taking the bus helps reduce traffic congestion and lowers emissions. This not only benefits the environment but can save you money on fuel and parking.



Switch your light bulbs to LED bulbs – they have a longer lifespan and are fully recyclable, helping to reduce waste. Plus, they use less energy, which can lower your electricity bills.



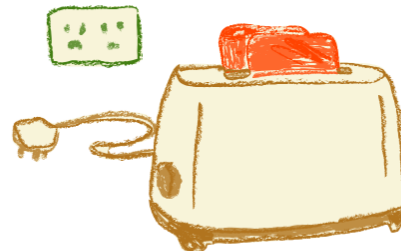
Reduce, reuse, recycle – by minimising waste, you can help lower pollution and conserve valuable resources. This also contributes to a cleaner, healthier environment.



Take shorter showers – this reduces water usage and cuts down on the energy needed to heat the water. It's a simple way to conserve resources and lower your utility bills.



Improve your home's insulation – better insulation helps retain heat in winter and keeps your home cooler in summer. This reduces your energy consumption and can lower your heating and cooling bills.



Unplug devices when they aren't in use – this reduces energy wastage. As a bonus, it can also save you money on your energy bills.

POLEGATE



WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

PARKS - Oakleaf Play Area
maintenance and safety and
Brightling Road Leisure Ground
meadow, skate park, outdoor gym,
basketball court, informal football goals,
trees and picnic benches in the
entrance field, meadow and main field
Allotments - Cophall and Gosford Way
Benches • Dog Bins • Flowers
Grass Cutting (East Sussex Highways
responsibility but PTC carry out additional cuts)
Litter in parks and council owned land

Parish owned Street Lights
(lettered columns)

Toilets - (Council Garden)
NB: Toilets at Wannock Road are part of
the Community Interest Company

Wooden Bus Stops

**Polegate War Memorial
Recreation Ground** is
managed by the **Community Interest Company**,
not Polegate Town Council
pwmrgcic@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk

Contact: admin@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk
Mayor and Deputy Mayor - available for civic and social events
Please contact the office **01323 488114**

Wealden District Council
Bins and rubbish including fly tipping
and street scene
Business rates • Council tax
Car parking (off street) • **Tourism**
Enforcement • Housing • Planning
Litter in High Street and streets
Road Sweeping
Environmental Health
(rats, pigeons, seagulls, noise)

01323 443322

CAB (Wealden Citizens Advice)
Appointments can be booked in Polegate
0300 330 9022 or **03444 111444**

Network Rail
Black Path overgrowth • Network Rail Car Park
Porters Way hedges
03457 114141

East Sussex County Council
Education • Social Services • Estates
including old library grounds in Windsor Way,
car park hedging and fencing

0345 60 80 190

Highways

Hedges • Highways • Overgrown hedges
Parking on street • Pavements • Yellow lines
Pavement gully clearing • Potholes
Roadside trees overgrown or dead
Street lighting (numbered columns)
Weeds in road

0345 60 80 193

Highways England

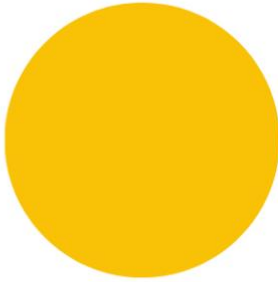
A22, A27, A22-A27 Cophall Road
Lighting and verges on trunk roads

0300 123 5000

Clear Channel
Glass/Perspex bus shelters with adverts
0800 731 3699

Please note that the car park, Roy Martin Way and the grass near the Co-Op is privately owned and not under the control of the town council. If you live in Tower Mill area, Clement Lane and beyond Southfields, Farmlands and beyond you are in Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council boundary. Their offices can be contacted on **01323 489603**

Polegate Town Councillors



Vacancy



Cllr N Dunbar



Cllr A O'Kane



Cllr J Keen



Cllr J Heward



Cllr D Watts



Cllr D Dunbar



Cllr M Piper



Cllr C Berry



Cllr M Cunningham



Cllr A Wood



Cllr D Murray



Cllr S Shing



Cllr D Shing



**Cllr W Heasman
- O'Neill**

Contact Information:

Polegate Town Council:

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Website:.....www.polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk

Twitter:.....@PolegateTC

Facebook:.....Polegate Town Council

Polegate Town Councillors:

Cllr Nathan Dunbar:.....C/O Polegate Town Council 01323 488114

Cllr Andy O’Kane:.....C/O Polegate Town Council 01323 488114

Cllr Jamie Keen:.....C/O Polegate Town Council 01323 488114

Cllr James Heward:.....C/O Polegate Town Council 01323 488114

Cllr David Watts:..... C/O Polegate Town Council 01323 488114

Cllr Dan Dunbar:.....07743 982610

Cllr Margaret Piper:.....01323 485611

Cllr Cherie Berry:.....01323 656879

Cllr Malcolm Cunningham:.....07967 468562

Cllr Andrew Wood:.....C/O Polegate Town Council 01323 488114

Cllr Douglas Murray:.....01323 482715

Cllr Stephen Shing:.....07576 261898

Cllr Daniel Shing:.....07576 261898

Cllr Wilfred Heasman-O’Neill:.....074621 143324

East Sussex County Councillors:

Daniel Shing:.....07576 261898

East Sussex County Council:

General enquires:.....0345 60 80 190

Highways:.....0345 60 80 193

Wealden District Councillors:

Chris Primett:.....07971 860990

Oi Lin Shing:.....07576 261898/ 07872 014028

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Wealden District Council:

Phone:.....01323 443322

Website:.....www.wealden.gov.uk

Sussex Police:

Non-Emergency Contact Number:.....101

In an emergency:.....999

Annual Town Assembly 2024 Minutes:

Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly Polegate: 13th May 2024

Present: 21

1. The Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.
2. Apologies – Cllr W Alexander and Cllr D Shing.
3. The minutes were voted as an accurate record of the previous meeting on 6th March 2023, and these were signed.
4. There were no matters arising from the previous meeting
5. Public discussion:

Parking (Wealden District Council and Sussex Police responsibility)

Residents spoke about parking (Sussex Police & Wealden District Council) and how the PCSOs used to ticket on behalf of Sussex Police.

Another resident commented that This had been changed by Giles York around 2017 and now the Police would not be enforcing this unless it was dangerous.

A discussion on how to put pressure on Wealden. A councillor updated those present stating that at a recent meeting they had been told that Wealden were now looking at this policy again.

A councillor stated that it would only be possible to employ a traffic warden if Wealden decriminalised parking and it may be that Wealden would do this. The matter was also discussed at Wealden's conference.

Grass verges (East Sussex Highways & Polegate Town Council)

The verges were discussed, and a councillor updated the residents that the town council was now looking after the verge cutting and the contractors were in conversation with council on how to improve the cuts to make the town look better and less long grass.

Potholes (East Sussex Highways responsibility)

Potholes were discussed at length, the number of them and damage to cars, the whole county was looking extremely bad. The poor quality of the filling of the holes when they were being done. Residents felt it as unfair for them to be paying and Highways not doing the work properly.

Drains (East Sussex Highways responsibility)

Residents complained that many of the drains had not been maintained and were either sunken in the roads or sticking out being a danger to cars and cycles.

The lack of maintenance and cleaning of the drains was discussed and how this led to roads flooding because the gulleys had not been cleared. Covers were being left sticking up or completely open and only sometimes covered by a cone!

Residents felt that the highways stewards were not doing their job properly and that the role should belong to East Sussex County Council and NOT a steward employed by the contractor. Simple contract monitoring should be in place and this role should belong to the county council. Or the contractor effectively is checking its own work with their own employee. Once this role was with county council fines and penalties should be in place for poor workmanship or failure to carry out work.

A brief discussion took place on using recycled materials which were currently being exported.

Railway gates getting stuck (Network Rail responsibility)

A resident commented that network rail also was not maintaining their gates, and these were regularly getting stuck in both the open and closed positions.

Residents felt that there was a lack of enforcement causing the majority of the issues. Rat runs; speeding; parking; workmanship by contractors.

Policing (Sussex Police responsibility)

Residents commented on the perceived lack of policing in the area. Burglaries and other smaller crimes were being ignored.

Recycling (Wealden District Council responsibility)

Residents commented on the recycling bins being removed and coffee cups etc that could but were not always being recycled. Residents wondered if Tesco, LIDL, co-op ASDA could recycle things more especially coffee cups.

Meadow (Polegate Town Council responsibility)

A resident commented on whether anything could be done to make the walkway around the meadow less wet. Was there a possibility of making the walkways with bark chip.

Cuckoo Trail (Wealden District Council responsibility)

A resident asked if the cuckoo trail could be cut back (siding) so that the pathway was not overgrown. People can no longer walk down there easily with bikes going at 25-30mph along there. (there should be signage saying use your horns/bells shared

pathway). There were also people riding up and down the trail on e-scooters. **OFFICE REPORT TO PCSO/Sussex Police.**

PADMEC/Mini Railway

A resident said that this was a hidden gem and was there a way to do further sign posting to this facility. Possibly tourist brown signs? **OFFICE LOOK INTO SIGNAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO MAKE AWARE**

Medical centre

Residents commented on their concerns over the medical centre and would it happen. They criticised Wealden District Council for allowing two medical centres on the planning. NB this was refused by PTC and WDC and was allowed by the inspector (Secretary of State) thus creatin an issue with two medical centre plots.

Residents thanked the council for the event and booklet which laid out all it had achieved in the last year and plans for the following 4 years. A resident commented that he preferred the un-themed events. He said that in his opinion the last two councils were the best Polegate had ever had. He thanked the council and staff for all they do.

The meeting closed at 8pm.



POLEGATE



Polegate Town Council Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 09:00 - 13:00

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