

Clymping Parish Council
Chairman's Annual Report
1st April 2025– 31st March 2025

Introduction

Welcome to this Annual Report for 2025/26.

I would like to thank all our councillors who contributed to the Parish work through the year, the residents who contributed to our Working Groups, the residents who turned out to help with projects and the running of community facilities around the village, and our District Councillors and County Councillor who have supported us.

Cllr C.J. Humphris,
Chairman, Clymping Parish Council
2nd May, 2026

Councillors

By the end of the year the Council had its full complement of 7 councillors: initially Cllrs Henry Burrell, Tim Hibbert, Colin Humphris, Anne Miller, David Miranda & Jane Mules. Des Johnston joined the Council during the year.

Meetings

The Parish Council held 6 full meetings. Our Transport Working Group, Environment Working Group, the new Community Working Group and the Planning Working Group of the Parish Council also met to prepare recommendations for Council to consider. Details are available in the Council Minutes see www.clymping.org.uk .

Planning

The Council considered 47 Planning Applications through the year. We objected to objecting to 9 that we felt contravened the policies of our Neighbourhood Plan. The Foreman Homes development for 300 homes remained a focus of attention, with 10 applications. Our major concerns related to surface water drainage and the removal of sewage. Arun District Council approved the drainage proposals, but we remain concerned about the capacity of the Horsemere Green Lane sewer to cope with the waste from the completed development and the inconsistent information from Southern Water over the years.

After many attempts to set up a formal liaison group with Foreman Homes, a first meeting was held in February 2026. Council wants to explore alternative options to the proposed community building preferring further upgrading of existing community facilities in the village. The next meeting will be in May when I'm sure dust from the site will be on agenda.

We reviewed 14 applications related to detail of the Ford Landings proposals, but we felt they had limited direct impact on Clymping and were more an issue for Ford PC. The exception however was the ongoing closure of Footpath 175 across the airfield between the village and Ford/Yapton. This is a matter on which we have pressed the developer Vistry on continually. The alternative route approved by WSCC in 2024 has only recently opened.

Proposed changes to planning application processes at Arun District Council will mean only the very largest developments will be considered by the Planning Committee to give the opportunity for public representation. Most will be handled by the officers alone. The Parish Council will need to ensure community views are fully represented and to hold the officers to account.

The project to upgrade the A259 junctions is apparently much closer to approval with a recent Government statement on funding. We are also awaiting detail of the timing of the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm which received development consent from the Secretary of State a year ago. The scheme failed to achieve funding in the 2026 pricing round. A further application is however expected on the next round.

Council remains very aware that with similar possible timings for the three major developments, Foreman Homes, the A259 project, and Rampion 2, there is a potential for major travel disruption for residents.

Finance (pre-audit)

For the year the Council raised **£21,00.00** through our Precept which is collected as part of your Council tax payments. Total income was **£32,728.48** due to additional income from VAT recovery, bank interest, contributions to Defibrillator purchases, Clymping Village News advertising income and Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) funds of **£8,345.33**. CIL arises as we have an approved Neighbourhood Plan. This CIL money can be used for allowed projects within the village approved by Council.

Total expenditure was **£29,511.10**. Our main expenditure items (pre-audit) were to run the Council **£9,334.92 (inc. wages £6,859.14 & other items £2,475.80)**, Grants were made to village organisations of **£11,874.21**. Environment matters including pond works and signage cost **£3,913.38** and **£3,043.58** was spent to prepare and produce Clymping Village News.

At the end of the year the bank account stood at **£75,343.49**, comprising a General Fund of **£49,249.99**, and reserve funds **£26,093.50** held to be used on specific activities including work on planning the village future, drainage and flooding, improving our village appearance, possible future elections, winter management and resilience.

Of the General Fund, Council is working on projects to improve road safety, pedestrian safety and drainage along Horsemere Green Lane, a further defibrillator installation, pond works and further financial support to the Village Hall, leaving a sensible contingency for the unexpected.

Principal Activities

1. Clymping Beach

We remain concerned about the developing situation on the Clymping coastal frontage. The EA came to the village in December and gave a detailed review of the erosion in comparison with the 10-year expert study undertaken in 2019. This is available on the Parish Council website.

This year the erosion of the coastline reached the stage this year where hard debris from roads and former sea defences was on the beach posing safety risks to visitors, and potential environmental damage to the foreshore. The next move of the bund inland will start to directly affect homes, the road and commercial buildings further complicating the situation. We recognise this is creating massive uncertainty and potential loss for the residents affected. Whilst we are fully aware of the Environment Agency strategy to “do minimum”, we feel there is a pressing need for an overarching plan to manage the evolving situation that identifies the key decision points, the criteria to be considered and to provide greater coordination and clarity of responsibilities for action.

We met with the EA, ADC and WSCC in February and engaged with the Crown Estates. We were struck by the apparent lack of coordination between the agencies. We provided a short paper to them highlighting the issues and short-term actions. There is agreement for a more detailed 5-year plan. The key will be to engage all the agencies. Also agreed is a further 10-year expert study from 2028 to build on the recent erosion experience compared to the current study. This would better inform the village of the probable future beach evolution. We will be seeking to bring the three agencies together shortly to get agreement on the overall way forward.

2. Waste Fire

Although we had presentations from West Sussex Fire and Rescue and the Environment Agency at last year’s Annual Village Meeting, I’m not sure that we fully understand what lessons were learned and if steps are being taken to mitigate fire risks at other waste sites in and bordering the village.

3. Highways

We are working with West Sussex Highways on proposals to control parking along Climping Street given the loss of the beach car park and the southern end of the road. Climping Street residents and businesses will be consulted shortly. We are also seeking to resolve the nighttime signage issues for the Church and Church Hall.

We are seeking clarification of the developer conditions relating to improvements to Horsemere Green Lane to see what can be undertaken now to address the issues faced by residents today.

The A259 Junctions project is entering the final detailed design phases. The redesigned Comet Corner is approved and a planning application for Oystercatcher Junction is imminent. Foreman Homes are seeking final approval for the Church Lane roundabout approved as part of the wider development, but we are aware of disagreement with West Sussex highways about the final design and timing in relation to the overall A259 project.

4. The Village Environment

The Environment Work Group has continued its work of planting around the village

including restocking the wildflower meadow on Horsemere Green Lane for this summer. The pond remains quite heavily silted, and in need of desilting as the final stage of drainage improvements along Horsemere Green Lane.

It's good to see "Wild about Clymping" continuing to flourish with local support, residents engagement, and grants attracted from environmental organisations.

5. Community

The workgroup involving councillors and residents have developed an emergency response plan for the village. The plan is published and available on the parish website. A flyer providing advice and guidance on what to do in an emergency was distributed to all homes. Council has agreed to carry out an emergency simulation to test the plan and its processes shortly.

Public Defibrillators are available at the Village Hall, Climping Park and Waterford Gardens and one recently installed at the Black Horse. Council will be considering a proposal for a joint community/Council funded defibrillator in Wooldridge Walk at the May PC meeting.

Community social activities through the year included coffee mornings, a beach showing of the "Wilding" film, an evening with a local novelist, quiz night and a Gala Dinner.

6. Council Representation

Council was represented on the Arun District Association of Local Councils and the West Sussex Association of Local Councils who are actively promoting the role of town and parish councils in the future unitary authority and Sussex mayoral structure. This is a profound local government change eliminating the current district and county councils and possibly material changes to the working and responsibilities of the Parish Council.

And finally

Our thanks go to Nadine Phibbs our clerk for her hard work and the experience she brings to supporting Council and the community.

Cllr Colin Humphris

Chairman

On behalf of Clymping Parish Council

2nd May 2026