

Stedham with Iping Annual Parish Meeting.

SIPC Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to our 2026 annual parish meeting. Its great to see so many people here. This is, I think, the first time that your Parish Council and The Stedham Memorial Hall have joined forces to organise what we hope will be an enjoyable and useful evening.

Just to clarify this Annual Parish Meeting is an assembly held once a year for the electors of the Parish to discuss village issues and ask questions. It is not a meeting of the Parish Council.

My name is Ruth and I am Chair of Stedham with Iping Parish Council. If you would like to know more about what your Parish Council does, please come along to one of our meetings. We really value input from our parishioners. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month except August...when we take a break.

Tonight's meeting will include 2 presentations...one from the Police and then one from the National Trust. This will be followed by a session where you, the electors of the Parish will be encouraged to raise questions, share concerns or make statements regarding matters that are relevant to the Parish and its residents.

Before I hand over to Alastair to introduce the first speaker here is a quick summary of what your Parish Council has been up to over the last year

We have renovated the Iping bus shelter. We owe a big thank you to Jackie and Rick, artists who live in Stedham for their beautiful artwork on the outside of the bus shelter.

We applied and received a grant from the Southdowns National Park through their 'Beelines scheme' to plant wild flowers around the perimeter of the Common View playing field. The ground was prepared and the seeds planted...we now wait for them to bloom.

We tidied up the Telephone box in Iping and have installed a Defibrillator.

We have organised several Afternoon teas at the Sports Pavilion which are growing in popularity.

We were pleased to join with the Stedham Sports Association for their Christmas tree tossing competition which collected £262 for The Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance.

Stedham and Iping Speed Limit Action Group, a local group of volunteers, submitted plans for reduced speed limits in both Stedham and Iping. (20mph in parts of Stedham and 30mph in Iping) Unfortunately they were not successful but have now revised their application, just for 20mph in School lane Stedham. They hope to have a better outcome. The Parish Council would like to thank them for their hard work and perseverance.

Our big project for the next few years is to work alongside the Southdowns National Park and other local organisation and landowners to eradicate Himalayan Balsam from our river banks. This is an invasive non native plant that spreads by seed and engulfs our native riverside plants. You will have found a leaflet on your chair.

The owners of Bridgefoot in Stedham have kindly offered offered to organise a demonstration/training session on Sunday 28 June for anyone who would like to get involved....we will need a large band of volunteers!!

We will continue to work with Hyde housing and the Highways department to try and improve the parking difficulties within the Common View Estate. There is a real concern that Emergency vehicles would not get through and so we ask all residents to think about how and where they park their cars...particularly if they have more than one or two vehicles.

Just a reminder that there will be an opportunity after the 2 talks for parishioners to raise any issues that they may have.

So now I will hand over to Alistair to introduce our speakers for the evening.