

Ferring Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2026

As we come to the end of another Council year, I would firstly like to thank my fellow Councillors for their continued commitment and dedication in working to deliver the best outcomes for the village and to be the representatives of our vibrant community.

In addition, the Clerk and Administrative Assistant have maintained that key link between the Council and the Community. They are the public face of the council and provide a huge range of support and guidance/help to residents whilst managing many Parish Council projects. Without their huge efforts the day-to-day business simply could not be carried out.

The Parish Council and its Committees have delivered on a number of projects and continues to engage and build relationships with the various organisations in the village to work together for the benefit of the community. Some of the key achievements over the past 12 months are as follows:

VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY - For the VE Day 80th Anniversary, Ferring Parish Council and Ferring Village Hall joined forces to organise a three-day event over the 2025 Early May Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the anniversary. The events were: VE Day Commemorative Tea Party for 80 residents, Film afternoon / evening with Bedknobs and Broomsticks and The Great Escape including a short talk on Johnny Dodge (the Ferring resident who survived the real escape), and a Craft Fair on bank holiday Monday.

DEFIBRILLATORS (AED's) IN THE VILLAGE – In 2016, Ferring Parish Council installed a defibrillator (AED) at the Village Hall, located on the side wall by the steps to the Club Room. In 2024, the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Bluebird Café, installed an external AED on the wall of the café kiosk.

Ferring Parish Council is delighted to announce the installation of a further defibrillator (AED) at the Henty Arms Public House, positioned on the front wall to the south of the Public Bar. A defibrillator (AED) is a vital piece of lifesaving equipment and represents a significant addition to the village's emergency response resources.

The Parish Council would like to offer its heartfelt thanks to the Henty Arms Public House for organising the funding for the defibrillator. This was made possible through the generosity of Henty Arms customers and the valued support of Cissbury Lodge. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to everyone involved in this project, which is a fantastic example of the community coming together to help keep Ferring safe.

There are a number of Defibrillators (AED's) within the village. The Full location list can be found on our website [Community - Ferring Parish Council](#).

CPR & AED FAMILIARISATION SESSIONS - Ferring Parish Council held three free of charge CPR & AED familiarisation sessions in the Village Hall. This was a popular event and the session was provided by an excellent Trainer from Secamb.

THE BLUE BOAT AREA – The Parish Council has carried out renovation works to the sleepers and benches at the Blue Boat Area on Pattersons Walk. Work focused on improving the condition, safety, and appearance of the seating and surrounding features. The renovated benches provide a more comfortable and welcoming place to rest, while the

refreshed sleepers help preserve the character of the area. The Parish Council hopes the improvements will be enjoyed by the community for years to come.

VILLAGE GREEN NEW SIGN – When entering Ferring village green from the east path, you will see a new smart village green sign has been installed.

PLAQUES - To Publicise Parish Council Initiatives and Projects, plaques have been fitted at various places within the village including the wooden bus shelters and Warren Pond.

PICNIC BENCH INSTALLATION - Following the vandalism and subsequent removal of the previous seat on the village green, a new colourful childrens picnic bench has now been installed courtesy of Arun Distrct Council. The Parish Council have plans to install further benches on the village green.

GATED PLAY AREA ON THE VILLAGE GREEN – Back in 2023 Arun District Council and the Parish Council worked on a project to enhance and improve the gated play area at the village green. The play area consists of various equipment including ‘inclusive’ play equipment, new benches. Fencing was also installed. In 2025, two new items of inclusive equipment which includes a wheelchair swing with flat swings to replace the existing flat swing set and a new wheelchair roundabout with rubber surfacing.

BUS SHELTER PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS - The Parish Council own all of the bus shelters in the village, most of them are to service a bus route with a couple strategically located at certain points for residents to use whilst waiting for the trains to pass through.

To keep the bus shelters in good order, the Parish Council has installed lockable noticeboards at three of the wooden bus shelters, two at Village Green and one at south end of Ocean Drive so that things can be advertised by local groups and organisations.

FUN WITH THE OUT AND ABOUT PROJECT – Freedom Leisure returned to the village with the project in the summer. The project provides free weekly activities for youngsters on the village green including face painting, art and craft, general games and a bouncy castle subject to the weather conditions.

PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS - Remembrance Day Service and Christmas Events 2025 (in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee) were well attended by the community.

DEVOLUTION

This Government is committed to resetting the relationship with local and regional government with the move from two-tier areas to a Unitary Authority structure of Mayoral Strategic Authorities with Mayoral Authority to oversee county-wide strategy.

Mayors will have strong new powers over housing, planning, transport, energy, skills, employment support and more, backed up with integrated and consolidated funding.

Unitary Councils to replace County and District Councils, Proposed delivery date is 2028. The Government White Paper on the roles of Town and Parish Councils, expected in July 2025, remains outstanding.

Chairman, Councillor Clare Royal