

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 27th APRIL 2026– A REPORT

The Annual Assembly took place on Monday, 27th April in the Village Hall, with 36 people attending. Many of the clubs and societies that are active in Crowhurst were represented, with some displaying information on tables laid down each side of the Village Hall.

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chair, who recorded a warm welcome to newly co-opted councillor, Paula Rivett.

Elize Manning, Climate Officer, Corporate and Strategic Services, Rother District Council, delivered an engaging presentation covering current strategy and projects, their relevance to Crowhurst, and a helpful question-and-answer session with residents.

The Chair gave a brief update on current situation regarding the Children's Play Area which is at the stage of getting feedback from the children.

The Assembly was also briefed on the project to renovate the Pavillion. Attendees were encouraged to look at the information on display.

Further updates were presented regarding the planned Solar Farm Development, Neighbourhood Plan and Village Hall.

County Councillor Field addressed the Assembly regarding activity of East Sussex County Council, and on behalf of District Councillor McClaren who was unable to attend. Topics covered in the report included level of Council Tax for this year, Local Government Reorganisation, Relationship between the new Unitary Authority and Parish and Town Councils, Rother's Draft Local Plan, Planning Enforcement and it was noted that the Council has recruited an additional enforcement officer to increase the capacity of the team and the backlog is reducing and that last year Rother was listed as the most improved district council for its efforts to tackle climate change.

The Community Award 2025, given in recognition of work supporting the people of Crowhurst was awarded to Diane Stainsby. The award recognises among others her long-standing contribution as Secretary to the Annual Fayre Committee and as costumier for the Village Panto.

After a short break for refreshments, representatives of the clubs and societies present were invited to give a short report or summary of their recent activities. This included the Crowhurst Environment Group, Rainbows and Brownies, the Christian Healing Centre, Pre-School, Crowhurst C of E Primary School PTA and the Youth Club. An informative contribution was given by Crowhurst Cricket Club who will play a full set of fixtures this year.

Wine, soft drinks and other refreshments continued to be served once everyone had an opportunity to speak, allowing everyone the opportunity to meet and mingle with other residents.

This event only takes place once a year so look out for next years event which will be held on the 26th April 2027. There is plenty that goes on in Crowhurst, and it is a great chance to find out more!

Councillor Geoff Thomas, Chairman, Crowhurst Parish Council.