



Twineham Parish Council Newsletter – October 2025

An informal meeting was held in early October to share initial thoughts and concerns about the possible closure of Twineham School.

Those present included Annie Hirst, Rachel Cornish (The Vicar), Sophie Hatcher, Janet Knight, Mike Courtier and Fanny Jones, with Charles Worsley and Richard Copper also invited.

The School and Its Place in Our Community

Many people feel deeply saddened by the news that our much-loved village school may close. Parents, children, and staff are understandably anxious about what this could mean for our community in the future.

There is frustration regarding the way in which the County Council has handled the process for closure and concern that the decision may already have been made before the public consultation got underway. However, no final decision is expected until March 2026, and this remains a time for discussion, ideas, and community input.

Please note that the West Sussex County Council consultation closes on 16th October. You still have time to comment online at

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/twineham>

Thinking About the Future Use of the Site

Our meeting explored early, informal, ideas about what might happen to the school buildings and grounds if the closure goes ahead.

Please remember: these are just suggestions at this stage – nothing has been decided.

Some points discussed:

- The school building belongs to the Diocese Trustees, who may prioritise a suitable use over the highest sale price.
- The playing field is owned by the County Council, with planning constraints due to flooding and its proximity to our Grade I listed church.
- Ideas included:
 - Using part of the field for a new burial ground.
 - Keeping the hard play area and outdoor classroom for community and children's use.
 - Planting a community orchard or woodland on areas prone to flooding.

- Possibly converting the old school building for residential or community purposes in future.

Community Projects and Next Steps

There was enthusiasm for using grants to improve community spaces – for example, upgrading the hard play area and developing a woodland or orchard.

It was agreed that any future plans would need full public consultation, so everyone can understand the options, benefits, and costs.

If the parish council eventually takes on new responsibilities, such as managing a burial ground, this would involve extra work and expense, and would need community discussion.

What Happens Next

- The group will seek early advice from planning consultants and the Diocese.
- Everyone is awaiting the official consultation outcome before taking any formal steps.
- A future community meeting and further newsletters will help keep everyone informed and involved.

Get Involved

This is very early days, and no decisions have been made.

The ideas above are simply starting points to get people thinking about how Twineham might move forward together.

If you have thoughts or suggestions, please share them – every voice matters as we look ahead to the next chapter for our village. Do please contact your Parish Councillors who will be very pleased to discuss this very important community issue.

Your Parish Councillors:

Annie Hirst (Chairman) Annie.hirst@twineham-pc.gov.uk
Fanny Jones Fanny.Jones@twineham-pc.gov.uk
Caroline Murphy Caroline.murphy@twineham-pc.gov.uk
Jane Veaney Jane.veaney@twineham-pc.gov.uk
Charles Worsley Charles.worsley@twineham-pc.gov.uk
Dawn Langston (Clerk) clerk@twineham-pc.gov.uk

