



Parish Council NEWSLETTER September 2007

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since last year's Autumn newsletter, there have been many changes at Witley Parish Council, some good, some not so good.

In May we had an election and 15 Councillors were elected to sit on Witley Parish Council. Our full compliment is 16 and we were very fortunate to have Christy Crouch join us after the elections to make a full house. We have since sadly lost Cllr: Judy Morris who has moved away but I believe we have someone waiting in the wings to fill the position.

Also in May, our Parish Clerk, Brian Groves, retired to the West Country. We were very sorry to lose Brian – he had become very well known and liked in the



community and we wish him well with his future ventures. I believe he is already trying to track down a Parish Council in his new surroundings in need of his wicked sense of humour and willingness to turn his hand to anything. We thought you would like to see a photo we have of Brian which typically shows him in wellies and flat cap instructing Cllr: Steve Dale, a landscape architect, how to transplant a birch tree on Robertson's Green.

The good news is that we presently have an Acting Clerk, Kate Shipton, who is also the Clerk at Frensham. Kate will be with us until we find a permanent replacement for Brian and she is organising the office so we are all 'Shipton Shape' before the new recruit takes over.

Our long serving Groundsman Kevin Flynn has had to cut his work hours with us and is now part time looking after the cemeteries and play areas within the parish, along with all the 'odd jobs' in the winter months. We are delighted that he was able to stay on as his knowledge from the last 29 years service is invaluable to us all.

Due to Kevin's change in working

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hours, it has been necessary to instruct contractors to cut the recreation grounds for the period July to October this year. We will be discussing whether to employ a new Groundsman or put the work out to tender after October. We will obviously look at what is the best value for our parishioners when coming to a decision.

So as you can see, some good, some bad news but the Parish Council has tried this year to be more visible attending the Milford and Witley Fairs. We would have

been at Brook as well but unfortunately the weather was against us this year.

Last December for the first time we hosted three community events with the lighting of Christmas Trees outside the village halls. This was so well received that our Christmas Lights Working Party are busily preparing for this year's events and we hope you will participate again at the lighting ceremonies bringing your communities together.

After one of the wettest winters in recent years, Blackhill Pond at Milford was returned to its former glory topped up to the brim. Unfortunately due to the earlier drought and the sudden rush of water the vegetation took hold, so this year we have had more of a

water meadow than a pond but things are in the pipeline to address the problem.

Another highlight this year has to be the Consecration of a new piece of land in Milford Cemetery. In July Bishop Ian, the Bishop of Dorking, conducted the ceremony along with Father Michael Perry of Milford and we now have a Garden of Remembrance for the interment of ashes. We were prompted to do this as our Cemetery is filling and we wanted to keep it open for as many years as possible for the people of the Parish. We think this new piece of land will assist us in doing so.

Before the ceremony the Cemetery was given a face lift by some of our Councillors ably led by Cllr. Catherine Maxwell-Miles. They

weeded, planted, painted and spread six tonnes of shingle on the paths and the area now looks splendid. Our thanks go to Catherine and her team for such a great effort.

On a positive note also, our web site is now running more smoothly and information is being uploaded so you can keep informed of meetings, events and local news. One of our other new Councillors, Jack Lee, has taken the web site under his wing and we hope you will enjoy using it.

Lastly, I am sure you will be pleased to know that we have adopted the new Code of Conduct for Parish Councils.

Maxine Gale,
Chairman, Witley Parish Council



AMENITIES & ENVIRONMENT



The challenge this year has been to keep control of all the land for which the parish is responsible, in the light of the exceptional growing conditions in all areas – grass, vegetation, trees and ponds.

In the spring we had a host of golden daffodils – our thanks go to both Witley and Milford horticultural societies for planting them on our behalf. We also planted many more cherry trees, not just along Cherry Tree Road but also on the Guildford

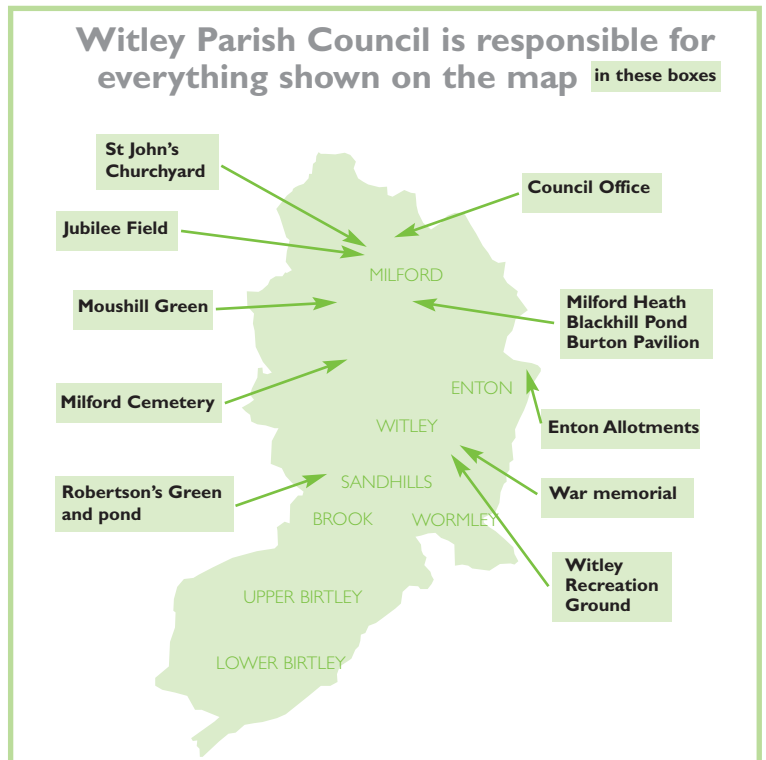
and Godalming Bypass Road, on the corner of Wheeler Lane and in Sunnydown, Witley. We think we now have enough cherry trees, but will continue to add more bulbs, trees and shrubs when we can. Your ideas for what and where are very welcome.

Now we have very nearly our full complement of councillors, we have been able to re-establish the practice of walking footpaths on behalf of Surrey County Council, in order to report back on any problems.

We have also had a number of activities involving parishioners this year – parish clear up days at Milford Heath, the Pleck and Robertson's Green and two parish walks, one led by Peter Herring, our tree warden, which was absolutely fascinating.

Julie Grist,

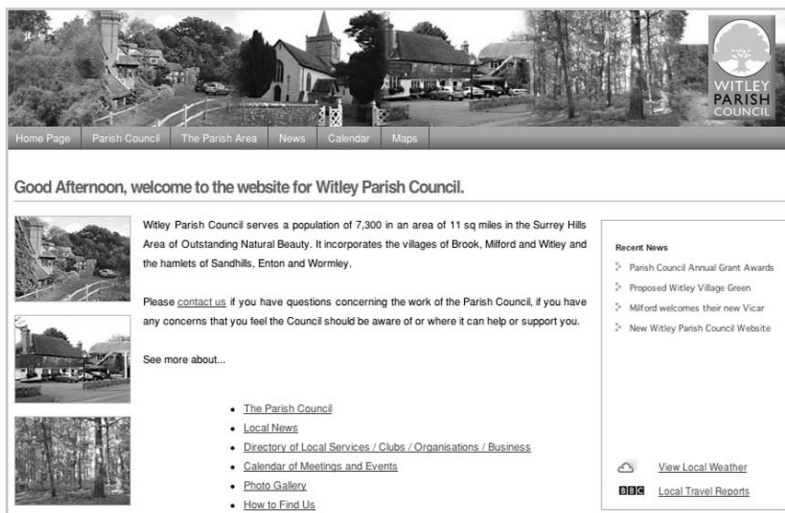
Chairman, Amenities and Environment Committee.



FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

The total budget for 2006/7 was in the order of £170,000 which was a slight increase on last year. We have used this money to keep the parish properties and playing fields in good shape.

In addition we are also committed to the continued support of village groups facilities and sports clubs as well as providing grants to encourage community events such as Witley Parish Fair. If you are helping to organise an



event within the parish for the benefit of our residents then please apply for a grant, as we may be able to help you.

In order to raise the profile of

the Parish Council and to make communication with us easier, we invested in a redesign and significant rethink of the content on the Parish Council website. Hopefully this will be used more in the future. Visit us at www.witley-pc.gov.uk and let us know if we have succeeded.

John Foster,

Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee

PLANNING

Witley Parish Council are Statutory Consultees for any planning application made to Waverley Borough Council. We are therefore consulted for our direct local knowledge of application sites and we try to represent the views of parishioners if they make representations to us as a Committee.

It is sometimes questioned if we have any real power or if the Borough Council takes notice of our views. I feel parishes have increasing powers and consider that a vocal, informed Parish Council is respected and listened



to by Members. We do, after all, have frequent contact with our Borough Council representatives.

In the recent period, we have considered and supported the application for the Dorlcote site (now under construction), supported applications for the

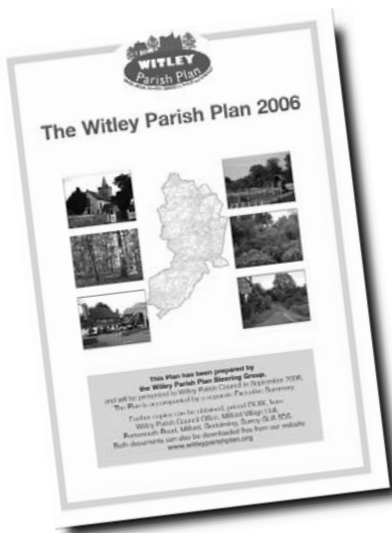
Donkey Sanctuary improvements, opposed the extinguishment of footpath 139 on the Rockwood Estate and this view was supported when the Inspector dismissed the Appeal. We also have ongoing concerns about the brickworks site in Brook, which is the subject of Enforcement Notices from Waverley Council.

The Committee meets regularly to consider applications, to ensure that the Council's views are always made clear to Waverley.

Stephen J Dale,
*Chairman, Witley Parish Council
Planning Committee*

THE WITLEY PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The recommendations in the Parish Plan have been remitted to the appropriate committees and working parties of the Council and



the Plan Working Party is looking at those that don't fit naturally anywhere else as well as having a coordinating role. We will continue to report progress in newsletters, at the Annual Parish meeting and on the website.

A Named Councillor for the hamlets

One interesting observation we have now addressed is that some of the areas around the parish felt that they were not being fully represented by the Parish Council. Our councillors are officially allocated between three Wards – Milford, Witley East and Witley West

and although we all cover the entire Parish, no specific mention is made of Enton, Wormley or Sandhills. We have therefore decided that each of these areas will have a 'Named Councillor' who may be contacted by residents regarding local issues to be brought forward to the Council. They are Cynthia Perkins for Enton, Nick Holder for Sandhills and Claudio del Giudice for Wormley.

New residents to receive information about the local area

New residents in Witley and Milford will receive the Parish Directory, the latest newsletter and the Parish Plan Summary as part of their Go

Godalming Welcome Pack. The packs are delivered by John Sandy and Elizabeth Cable and we appreciate them adding these to their load.

Highways Improvements

The Council has been in close touch with Surrey Highways Department on a number of issues, two of them being the danger spots identified as top of the list in the Parish Plan – the junctions of the A286 Haslemere Road with Gasden Lane and with Roke Lane. You will have noticed some changes – anti skid surfacing and some sightlines have been improved. Soon there will be consultation about changes in the speed limit.

We have also been working with the Surrey Hills Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) in placing bollards

on some grass verges around the parish where people were parking cars illegally.



New tennis and swimming facilities

Swimming came first in popularity and tennis came fifth in the responses to the questionnaire. So it is good news that the new tennis facilities at Rodborough School are due to open on 1st October and the swimming pool early in 2008.

They will be open for hire on a pay and play basis in evenings, weekends and school holidays.

Waverley Community Strategy revision

In July, representatives from the working party were pleased to be invited, by Waverley Local Strategic Partnership, to a workshop along with people from all the other parishes and towns who have produced Parish Plans or Town Healthchecks. This was part of a pre-consultation exercise, to enable Waverley to start the process utilising the recent responses from the community.

Julie Grist, *Chairman,*
Witley Parish Plan Working Party

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that there are 13 notice boards around the parish which are updated weekly. They cover not only the villages but the hamlets as well. The agendas for all Parish meetings are displayed and at the start of the monthly Full Council meeting there is a slot for people to come along and tell us of concerns they have in relation to matters that affect the Parish.

If you want to know who has applied for planning consent or building changes the weekly schedule of plans being discussed is shown, so if you want to tell us of your concerns come along to the Planning meeting.

Information about the fetes and the Christmas lights are also put up giving details of the events.

So where are the notice boards?

Milford

- Alldays, Church Road
- Council Office, Milford Village Hall
- Milford Heath Road, opposite the playing field
- Jubilee Field, Church Close
- Milford Railway Station

Enton

- Enton Green, Water Lane/Station Lane

Witley

- Bus Stop at Petworth Road/Wheeler Lane
- Opposite the White Hart, adjacent to the war memorial
- Witley Recreation Ground, Petworth Road
- Witley Railway Station

Wormley

- Bus Stop, Petworth Road outside King Edwards School

Sandhills

- Robertson's Green, Brook Road/ Hatch Lane

Brook

- Bus Shelter, Haslemere Road near the Dog & Pheasant



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PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GRANT AWARDS

The Parish Council regularly awards small grants of under £750 and annually awards partnership funding over £750 to voluntary organisations for activities which benefit the inhabitants of the Parish. Such activities can often be carried out more efficiently by a combination of grant aid with voluntary effort.

Partnership Grant applications are considered annually in November for

payment in April. Small grant applications are considered

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throughout the year. Community associations, cultural, educational,

sporting, leisure and charitable organisations are eligible but not individuals or commercial organisations.

If your organisation wishes to apply for partnership funding, you should obtain an application form and a set of grant conditions from the Parish office.

Completed applications must be received by Friday 5th October 2007.

IF YOU HAVE A MINOR PROBLEM OR COMPLAINT ...

Minor problems and complaints such as litter and litter bins, highway signs, recycling etc. are invariably the responsibility of either the Borough Council or County Council, and it is most effective to report the problem at once. Going direct to the authority concerned will be simpler in the long run, as you have actually seen the problem and can explain it clearly.

This is the procedure we suggest:

- 1 Telephone the appropriate department and note the date and the problem.
- 2 Ask the name of the person you have spoken with.
- 3 Ask them what the response time is likely to be and if they would be kind enough to let you

know when the matter has been resolved.

- 4 Inform the Parish Clerk and/or relevant Borough or County Councillors if anything is outstanding for a long time
- 5 Keep a copy of your reports for information.

These are the general contact numbers, but the 2007/08 Parish Directory gives more details.

Surrey County Council
tel no: 08456 009 009
www.surreycc.gov.uk
email:
contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk

Waverley Borough Council
tel no: 01483 523333
www.waverley.gov.uk
email:
enquiries@waverley.gov.uk

Witley Parish Council
tel no: 01483 422044
www.witley-pc.gov.uk
email:
clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk



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WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL POSTER COMPETITION



**We are looking for
eye-catching posters
to advertise our
Christmas Tree Lighting
Ceremonies.**

The competition is open to pupils of all schools in the Parish of Witley so why not have a go and maybe your poster will be the one advertising the Christmas event in your village.



**IF YOU ARE AGED BETWEEN 4 AND 18
YOUR SCHOOL WILL HAVE THE DETAILS.**

The trees will be lit at 7.00pm at:

Pirrie Hall, Brook - Friday 30th November

Milford Village Hall - Friday 7th December

Chichester Hall, Witley - Friday 7th December

With carols and refreshments

POSTERS SHOULD BE A4 SIZED

Entries can advertise one or all three venues and three posters will be chosen to be displayed around our villages.

There will be a prize for the three selected artists.

Entries, by **Monday 1st October**, to:

The Parish Council Office
Milford Village Hall, Portsmouth Road,
Milford, Godalming,
Surrey GU8 5DS

Open: **Monday to Friday**
8.30 am – 12.30 pm



DON'T FORGET TO COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

**A vacancy for a
Councillor has arisen**

Any resident member of the
Parish of Witley

(incorporating Brook,
Milford, Enton, Wormley
Upper & Lower Birtley
and Witley Villages)

who wishes to be considered
for the vacancy, please contact us
at the address shown on the left
for an application form or for
further details concerning this
voluntary vacancy.



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YOUR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

SURREY

Cllr Peter Martin 01483 426064

Cllr David Harmer 01483 609792

WAVERLEY

Cllr John Sandy
(Milford) 01483 429910

Cllr Keith Webster
(Milford) 01428 644332

Cllr Elizabeth Cable
(Witley and Hambledon) 01428 682640

Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith
(Witley and Hambledon) 01483 423129

Cllr Nick Holder
(Elstead and Thursley
– covering also some of Brook) 01428 682402

Cllr Bryn Morgan
(Elstead and Thursley
– covering also some of Brook) 01252 790048

WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

MILFORD WARD

Mr John Foster 07808 931808
(Vice-Chairman)

Mrs Rosie Lander 01428 683765

Mrs Catherine Maxwell-Miles 01483 429311

Mrs Myra Newnes-Smith 01483 423001

Mrs Joy Nye 01483 414618

Mrs Cynthia Perkins 01428 683066

Mr Wilton Philp 01483 429290

WITLEY WARD EAST

Mrs Christy Crouch 01428 682181

Mr Claudio Del Giudice 01428 682888

Miss Maxine Gale 01428 683055
(Chairman - email: chairman@witley-pc.gov.uk)

Mrs Julie Grist 01428 683448

Mr Nick Holder 01428 682402

Mr Jack Lee 01428 684853

Mr Tony Longrigg 01428 684925

WITLEY WARD WEST

Mr Stephen Dale 01428 681356

COUNCIL OFFICE



Council Office,
Milford Village Hall,
Portsmouth Road,
Milford, Godalming,
Surrey GU8 5DS

Open: **Monday to Friday**
8.30 am – 12.30 pm

Telephone: **01483 422044**
(Answerphone at other times)
Fax: 01483 411957

Mrs Kate Shipton – Acting Clerk
(email: clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk)

Mrs Pat Jameson – Assistant Clerk
Website: www.witley-pc.gov.uk

Meetings of the Full Council are held in the Milford and Villages Day Centre, Chapel Lane, Milford at 8 pm on the last Thursday of each month except August and December. There is an exception this year in September when the meeting will be on 13th. Meetings are open to the public. Residents wishing to raise any matter with the Council are asked to notify the Council office two days prior to the meeting. The building is accessible for people with mobility problems.