



**WITLEY
PARISH
COUNCIL**

UPDATE

Spring 2011

Issue Fifteen

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year from Witley Parish Council.

As you are already aware, Local Borough and County Councils have been asked to reduce their spending for 2011/12 and this has a knock on effect on Parish Councils. For instance, the

Compensatory Grant which we receive from the Borough to maintain our open spaces has been cut and will probably be cut again next year. This means that we must also tighten our belts so that we can maintain the high standards you expect from Witley Parish Council.

The consequence of these cuts has meant some long budget meetings during the latter part of 2010 and I am sure you will be pleased to know that we will not be cutting any of our services. We will however have to shelve or think carefully about any new projects for the coming year:

For 2010/11, we only had a 1%

increase in our Precept and were able to dip into our reserves to make up any shortfall to cover any rise in the cost of services.



This year we will be using reserves again but in order to restrict this, maintain services and, for example, make grants to local organisations, we have

proposed a small increase for 2011/12. This equates to a rise per household of £1.19 per annum. The actual cost per household for your Parish Council is £38.85 (less than 75p per week) based on the Band D properties.

However, dipping into reserves can only continue for a short time as we are legally bound to keep a certain amount of reserves to maintain the commitments of the Parish Council.

I hope you will think your contribution to the local community is worthwhile. With your money we maintain thirteen open spaces which

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are all accessible to the general public for recreation, this includes two football pitches, two cricket pitches, ponds, woodlands, children's play areas and two cemeteries. Not forgetting, of course, the two allotment areas.

If you are interested in your local community and would like to know more about what we do, come along to our meetings. Full Council meets once a month on the last Thursday of the month and we would be delighted to see you there. Remember that before every council meeting there is a 10 minute slot for you to voice any concerns or queries to Councillors.

Lastly, on 5th May this year we have a Parish Election. Witley Parish Council needs 16 Councillors and we always struggle to meet this figure. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please drop into the Parish Office or email our Clerk for more information.

We are unpaid volunteers, but the rewards of knowing that you are helping your community are priceless. About 12 years ago I went to a Parish Council meeting and got hooked, so if you think you could spare a couple of evenings a month in your busy schedules, come and join us.

*Maxine Gale, Chairman
Witley Parish Council*

The Local Development Framework

From 24 January to 7 March 2011, Waverley Borough Council is carrying out a Consultation on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options and Draft Policies.



Full details are on their website at

www.waverley.gov.uk/ldf

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the name for the suite of documents that will shape and guide how development takes place in the towns, villages and countryside of Waverley.

The documents of the LDF and the Regional Spatial Strategy (South East Plan) will over time replace the existing Local Plan and Structure Plan.

Sitting at the heart of the LDF is the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy will set out a spatial vision

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for Waverley over the next 15 to 20 years. It aims to tackle the big issues that Waverley is likely to face over this time such as providing appropriate housing and

employment opportunities in a sustainable manner.

*Steve Dale, Chairman,
Planning Committee*

HIGHWAYS

The Highways Sub Committee is always busy as roads affect all our Parishioners across the board, whether it is speeding, parking, pedestrian access or pot holes.

Some of you may be aware that one of the priorities at WPC during the past two years has been trying to alleviate the problems with cars parking inconsiderately in Brook Road and Combe Lane around



Bollards on Combe Lane

Witley Station. This situation is ongoing as when we met with relevant bodies to discuss the options, a white lining programme in both these roads was discussed and taken on board by Surrey County Council (SCC) Highways but sadly has not come to complete fruition.

The white lines were put down in Brook Road and this has eased the problems greatly. White lines are designed as a 'reminder' to drivers that certain areas should be kept clear for safe access and egress to

side roads, junctions, footpaths etc.

Unfortunately, SCC Highways thought the problems in Combe Lane were more serious than Brook Road and proposed a Yellow Lining programme, which was advertised and budgeted for. When the scheme

was advertised SCC received a number of objections from local residents who felt the proposals did not go far enough. The consequence of this is that the whole scheme had to be

dropped and will not now be discussed until later this year.

The situation therefore continues and has become so serious in some cases that cars have been damaged, the police have had to issue parking tickets and the bus stop on Combe Lane is on some occasions unusable due to parked cars.

We have had meetings with South West Trains (SWT) regarding the cost of parking at the station and this has resulted in a slight reduction at

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certain times but people still park outside to avoid any payment. During our discussions with SWT we explained that Witley is unlike other main line stations. People are travelling many miles to catch commuter trains and are unable to use other forms of transport for their journey to work. We really sympathise with those of you having to pay such a high price and will continue to talk to SWT on the subject.

The view of our Sub Committee is that a lot of man hours from both Witley Parish Council, Surrey County

Council, and Police have been spent discussing this ever growing problem area and we are hoping to have discussions with SCC to initiate a White Lining programme in the road, or even a Bus Box so that some of the problems can be addressed.

We are continuing to pressure local authorities to look at speed reductions on our rural roads and making our bus routes, Routes to Schools and mainline stations a priority one for gritting/salting during adverse weather conditions.

*Maxine Gale, Chairman,
Highways Sub Committee*

News about Parish Council land

We're in the process of re-evaluating how we manage our land. It serves a range of purposes,

whether it is used for football, cricket, allotments, children's play area, a quiet place to sit, or a path to walk through. It's easy to be just reactive but we try to be pro-active when we can. Our plan to improve the biodiversity in the margins of Witley Recreation Ground is progressing and you should begin to see the difference by the autumn.

Something else we are working on is trying to return the Pleck, the area of woodland in front of Rodborough School, to its former glory. We have responded to requests from the police to keep the footpath and the

area by the bus stop clear of the woodland, so we have focussed on those areas first.

With the opening of the new allotments we are in the

privileged position of being able to offer allotments very quickly. In many places, as you may know, the waiting lists are years long. So we are always happy to add your name to the waiting list. Plots become available throughout the year, so please do not hesitate to ring the Parish Office on 01483 422044 for further information.

*Julie Grist, Chairman. Amenities and
Environment Committee*

Waverley hoppa Community Transport

What is hoppa?

Formed in 2002 as a result of a transport initiative by Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council, hoppa is a registered charity and a non-profit organisation.

What does hoppa do?

It provides a low cost, door-to-door transport service to the residents of Waverley. All the vehicles provide accessibility for those with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users. The service covers the main centres of population – Cranleigh, Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and surrounding villages, including Milford and Witley.

Four types of door-to-door transport services are provided,

all of which are wheelchair accessible. All the drivers are fully trained, paid employees of hoppa. Services are provided Monday to Friday.

The Godalming hoppa – Transport links from and within Waverley's main towns and villages..

Hospital hoppa – A dedicated transport link from your home in Haslemere & Godalming and the surrounding villages to The Royal

Surrey County Hospital and all other health facilities in the Guildford area.

The Rangers – Transport links between the four main towns and villages for trips not covered by the hoppas.

Group Travel – Group and Club outings or regular contract runs, for up to 14 people per vehicle.

The hoppa will take you to destinations such as Town Centre & shops/supermarkets, Health Centres, The Clockhouse, Dental Surgeries, Local Railway Stations, Garden Centres, or any other destination.

How do you become a member of the hoppa club?

You must first register as a member of the hoppa club and complete a membership registration form and return it by Freepost or by Fax.

Your journeys must be booked in advance through the Call Centre.

Contact details

Phone **01428 681701**,

Fax **01428 681633** or

Email: **enquiries@hoppa.org.uk**.

(Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm)

Website: **www.hoppa.org.uk**



Witley Parish Councillors

Milford Ward

Mr Donald Johnstone

07833 616131

Mrs Catherine Maxwell-Miles
(Chairman, Finance and General
Purposes Committee)

01483 429311

Mr Stephen Mills

01428 682414

Mrs Myra Newnes-Smith

01483 423001

Mrs Joy Nye

01483 414618

Mr Patrick Stewart

01428 681586

Witley Ward East

Mrs Christy Crouch

01428 682181

Mr Claudio Del Giudice

(Lead member for Wormley)

01428 682888

Miss Maxine Gale

01428 683055 (Chairman)

Mrs Julie Grist

(Chairman, Amenities and
Environment Committee)

01428 683448

Mr Nick Holder

(Lead member for Brook)

01428 682402

Mr Jack Lee

01428 684853

Mr Tony Longrigg

01428 684925

Mrs Gillian McCalden

01428 682405

Witley Ward West

Mr Stephen Dale

(Vice-Chairman; Chairman, Planning
Committee)

01428 681356

Your County and Borough Councillors

Surrey County Council

Cllr Peter Martin

(Godalming South, Milford and
Witley)

01483 426064

Cllr David Harmer

(Waverley Western Villages)

01483 609792

Waverley Borough Council

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)

01428 681783

Cllr Nick Holder (Elstead and
Thursley – also covering Brook)

01428 682402

Cllr Bryn Morgan (Elstead and
Thursley – also covering Brook)

01252 790048

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday April 21st

8pm at Burton Pavilion, Milford Heath, between Petworth Road and Haslemere Road

French Hill and Milhanger before returning through the southern section of Witley Common.

Spring Walk

Sunday May 8th.

Meet at 2pm Lea

Coach Road car park (Witley Common) The walk will be led by Tree Warden Peter Herring and will follow the edge of Witley Park to



National Trust Walk

Sunday, May 22nd.

Meet at 10.30 in Webb Road, by the entrance road to the Witley Centre. The walk will be led by Bill Westbrook

Brook Fair

Monday 30th May 2011

Council Meetings

Meetings of the Full Council are held in the Burton Pavilion, Milford Heath Road, Milford at 8.00pm on the last Thursday of each month except August and December.

Meetings are open to the public. The building is accessible for people with mobility problems. Residents wishing to raise any matter with the Council are asked to notify the Council office at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

Where to find us

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

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm.

Tel: 01483 422044

Clerk – **Fiona Fox** (email: clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk)

Assistant Clerk – **David Ralf** (email: asst.clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk)

Web: <http://www.witley-pc.gov.uk>

