



**WITLEY
PARISH
COUNCIL**

UPDATE

Spring 2013

Issue Seventeen

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

You will be receiving a Housing Needs Survey with this newsletter.

We are lucky enough to have been offered the opportunity to gather this information which will give us and Waverley a better picture of

what you feel about housing locally and it will help us fight your corner if you or a friend or relative is in need of affordable housing. So if you could fill it in, it would be very helpful.



At the beginning of every year Witley Parish Council requests funding from Waverley Borough Council (WBC) to enable us to provide services and maintain the open spaces in the Parish. The money comes from your Council Tax. Last year we received an average of £41 from every household.

This year things have got complicated because the system has changed. The number of households that contribute to our funding has been reduced because households in receipt of Council Tax support are either

excluded from the calculations or not included in full. WBC have provided additional funding of £5,321 to ease the transition and we have budgeted to use some of the reserves we hold for emergencies, but this does not make up the shortfall. If we are to maintain services at their current levels we need to ask WBC to increase the amount that comes to us from your Council Tax. The amount we have asked them for is £46 per household, on average which represents an increase on last year of £5 per household of which some two thirds is needed to cover the shortfall mentioned above .

On another subject, the Council feels

continued on page 2 ...

Open Spaces	2
On Being a Councillor	3
The Clockhouse	4
Speedwatch	5
Communications Survey	5
Allotments	6
Parish, County & Borough Councillors	7
Diary Dates	8

continued from page 1 ...



1st Witley Cub Group were delighted with their hand held GPS Units

very strongly that we should support local organisations which provide services to residents so recently we have given grants to Pirrie Hall in Brook, Chichester Hall, Milford Village Hall, Witley Cricket Club, 1st Witley Cubs and The Lovel Cycle Jumps Group and a donation to the CAB. If your organisation has a project in mind, application forms are available from the Council office.

Julie Grist, Council Chairman

UPDATE ON OUR OPEN SPACES

The weather has not made it easy to keep on top of the work needed to maintain the various open spaces in the Parish over the last few months.

Rain, snow, ice and more rain have made it difficult to get equipment onto fields and allotments. However, you may have noticed a few changes around the Parish.

The Jubilee benches have been installed at Witley Recreation Ground and Robertson's Green.

As part of the Big Tree Planting initiative, we were given a field maple by the Surrey Tree Wardens. This has been planted in Witley Recreation Ground, near the playground. Many thanks to our Tree Warden, Peter Herring, for his

support and advice on this.

Now the weather is improving we are able to make a start on coppicing and general tidying of The Pleck (outside Rodborough School); coppicing around Blackhill Pond; and more tidying at Robertson's Green.

We are working against the clock because as soon as birds start nesting in the trees and hedges we have to pause again.

At the Redgate Farm and Enton allotments general tree work and maintenance has been carried out. We are hoping for a rush of enthusiastic new plot holders this

Spring. (See article on page 6).

The work on improving the surface

continued on page 3 ...



continued from page 2 . . .

of Jubilee Field continues. We hope that the Pumas, the Milford-based junior football club, will be using the pitch by the Autumn.

And more on Jubilee Field - two councillors visited Chandler School and Rodborough School in January to consult children about what items of play equipment they would like to

have installed in the new play area there. There was general consensus on the three items selected and we are working to get those installed as soon as possible.

So, despite the weather, it's been a busy time keeping our open spaces pleasant places for everyone to enjoy.

Gillian McCalden, Chairman, Amenities and Environment Committee

ON BEING A COUNCILLOR

I became a Parish Councillor in the Spring of 2009. I have to confess that prior to that I had only the vaguest idea of what the Parish Council was responsible for or did.

I soon learnt that the Council:

- owns a number of properties and land within the Parish which it is responsible for, including Burton Pavilion, Milford Cemetery, the allotments, Witley Recreation Ground and the Jubilee Field, to name but a few!
- is responsible for providing facilities such as play equipment at Sunnyhill, the allotments and the Christmas Trees at Milford, Brook and Witley.
- is a consultative body for planning applications; and
- has a budget to distribute funds to local organisations by way of grants and donations

Councillors attend Full Council meetings which are monthly (save for August and December) and choose which other committees to attend - Amenities and Environment (A&E), Finance and General Purposes (F&GP), Planning and Staffing. There are a number of working parties you can join too.

The Planning committee meets every 3 weeks, the others bimonthly. All meetings are in the evening, usually 8pm.

As the name suggests, F&GP deals with financial matters including the decisions on applications for grants and donations, budgeting and maintenance of Parish Council property.

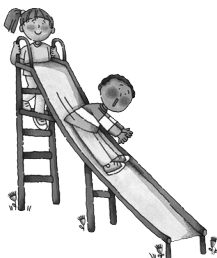
Planning is the first point for consideration of planning applications. We do not determine

continued on page 4 . . .

continued from page 3 . . .

the application, that is for Waverley Borough Council, but we do pass on our opinion on the applications. We also look at planning policy generally and matters relating to the roads within the Parish.

A&E aims to encourage dialogue between residents and the Council so that the Council can respond, where possible, to the needs of the community in relation to recreation



and amenity facilities.

I have learnt over the past four years that being a Parish Councillor is an opportunity to make a contribution to the neighbourhood within which I live.

Don't take my word for it! Why not join us? Contact the clerk at clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk or 01483 422044 for more information.

Patrick Stewart, Chairman Finance and General Purposes



DO YOU HATE WASHING UP?

Are you over 50, perhaps living on your own, and looking for somewhere to go during the day? Or do you know anyone who is at home for longer than they want to be? Then why not try **The Clockhouse**, in Chapel Lane, Milford? 'I'm not ready for a place like that' I have heard people say – but never after they've come in for a look, so why not come along for lunch one day and see for yourself? If transport is a problem then we have minibuses that could come and pick you up from anywhere in Witley, Milford, Chiddingfold or Elstead and take you home again, and our chef does a very good lunch. Entertainment is laid on three days a

week after lunch, we run art classes, computer classes, a glass class and Extend exercise sessions three days a week, and that's just for starters.

Prices are very reasonable, but we do make a small charge for the minibuses if you use them. For more details ring me on 01483 420668 and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We also have a website –

www.clockhouse.org.uk

Robin Amy, Manager, The Clockhouse



SPEEDWATCH

You may have spotted the bright yellow hi-vis jackets along the Petworth Road over the past few weeks – Speedwatch is alive and well again in the Parish after an absence of a few years.

Community Speedwatch is a nationwide scheme designed to discourage drivers from driving faster than the set speed limit. The information gathered by our volunteers is fed back to the police, who take further action where required. The aim is to encourage the public to be aware of their speed and to secure a general reduction in vehicle speed through the Parish – it is not about catching as many speeding drivers as possible!

Currently we have 6 trained volunteers able to go out with the speedgun and there are another 10 or so waiting to be trained. But don't let that put you off - many hands

make light work and the more volunteers we have, the more monitoring we can do and the more roads we can cover. It really won't take much of your time – training is minimal (but necessary), half an hour at most. With the number of volunteers we have, you might only be going out once a month for an hour or so and monitoring can take place any day of the week.

At the moment, we are concentrating our efforts on the A283/Petworth Road through Witley but with more volunteers, we hope to extend on to the A286, particularly in Brook. If there is anyone out there who would like to help, then please do contact the Parish office. If you know of a road with a 30 or 40 mph speed limit where speeding is a problem, then again, please let us know.
Christy Crouch, Leading Councillor on Speedwatch

RESULTS OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

Many thanks to those of you who returned the survey in the last newsletter, or completed it online. We asked for your views on our various methods of communicating with the people of the Parish – the newsletter which is delivered three times a year; the noticeboards around the Parish; and our website,

www.witley-pc.gov.uk.

We were extremely heartened by the positive response to the newsletter. It is good to hear that, of the people who responded, 97% read most or all of the newsletter and 96% of people found it helpful.

continued on page 6 ...

continued from page 5 ...

The articles that you told us you found most interesting were those with a focus on local news. The article on the SCC Budget Consultation was considered the least interesting. (Message received!). It was particularly encouraging to read your positive comments about the newsletter and to learn that you appreciate the hard work that goes into producing and delivering it. Thank you!

By contrast, it was enlightening to learn that only 45% of the people who responded to the survey read

the Parish noticeboards and only 24% visit our website. Clearly there is room for improvement here. Over the coming year we are hoping to make significant changes to the website, which will hopefully increase the number of visitors.

But don't worry, we won't forget that there are people who don't have access to computers and who appreciate news and information on paper. Many of you made that point and we have heard you.

Thank you again for completing the survey.

*Gillian McCalden, Chairman
Communications Sub-Committee*

ALLOTMENT VACANCIES

Witley Parish Council runs two allotment sites in the Parish – one at Redgate Farm and one at Enton.

It was not an easy year for allotment holders last year - too much rain and too little sun meant that crops struggled and pests thrived. However our enthusiastic plot holders battled on and many produced some impressive crops.

As every year, there were some plot holders who decided to give up their plots for various reasons and we therefore have a number of vacancies at both Redgate Farm and Enton.

With the warmer weather on the

way, why not consider taking a plot? You could cut down on food miles,

eat your own organic produce and get some exercise. It's also a great way to teach children more about where their food comes from.

If you would like to learn more about having an

allotment in the Parish contact our Clerk on clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk or 01483 422044. We can arrange for you to meet an existing plot holder and visit the allotment sites.

But don't think about it for too long - plots are rented on a first come, first served basis.

Christy Crouch, Lead Member, Allotments



WITLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Milford Ward

Donald Johnstone

(Chairman, Planning Committee)
 07436 116404

Jack Lee 01428 684853

Catherine Maxwell-Miles
 01483 429311

Stephen Mills . . 01428 682414

Myra Newnes-Smith
 01483 423001

Patrick Stewart
 (Chairman, Finance and General
 Purposes Committee) 07785 274867

Witley Ward East

Christy Crouch 01428 682181

Steve Dale

(Council Vice Chairman, Lead Member
 Wormley). 01428 681356

Maxine Gale

(Lead Member, Enton)
 01428 683055

Julie Grist

(Council Chairman)
 01428 683448

Barbara Kinnes
 01428 682870

Jill Longmore

(Lead Member Brook and Sandhills)
 01428 683942

Gillian McCalden (Chairman,
 Amenities and Environment
 Committee) 01428 682405

Louise Mills 01428 682414

Witley Ward West

Nick Holder

(Lead Member for Brook)
 01428 682402

Your County and Borough Councillors

Surrey County Council

Godalming South, Milford and Witley

Peter Martin . . . 01483 426064
 peterj.martin@surreycc.gov.uk

Waverley Western Villages

David Harmer . . 01483 609792
 david.harmer@surreycc.gov.uk

Waverley Borough Council

Elstead and Thursley

Jenny Else 01252 702036
 jenny.else@waverley.gov.uk

Bryn Morgan . . . 01252 79004
 bryn.morgan@waverley.gov.uk

Milford

Lynn Graffham . . 01483 426636
 lynn.graffham@waverley.gov.uk

Denis Leigh 01483 420025
 denis.leigh@waverley.gov.uk

Witley and Hambledon

Elizabeth Cable . 01428 682640
 elizabeth.cable@waverley.gov.uk

Adam Taylor-Smith
 01428 681783
 adam.taylor-smith@waverley.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 18th April

8pm, Burton Pavilion, Milford Heath.
There will be speakers on The Lovel
Cycle Jumps Group, the National
Trust and Community Speedwatch.

FAIRS and FETES

Brook Fete Monday 27th May

Milford Fete Saturday 8th June

Witley Fair Saturday 22nd June

Spring walk , Sunday 2nd June, 2pm meeting at Churchfields
Car Park, Church Lane. It's just past Witley Infant School going from the
Petworth Road.

Walks on The Web. We now have twelve local walks on our
website and we've recently updated three of them which have already
changed. The walks are free to download but if you don't have a
computer we will have them at our stands at the fairs and fetes or you
can pop into the office and pick up a copy.

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: www.witley-pc.gov.uk

