



UPDATE

November 2014

Issue Twenty

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to our autumn

newsletter. As I write we seem to be back in the rainy season. Hopefully it won't lead to a repeat of last winter, but it does remind me to highlight to you all how helpful it would be if when you spot drains and ditches getting blocked you could report them to Surrey County Council. The details are in the accompanying directory.

We are now moving ahead with the Neighbourhood Plan – see page 2 – and are looking forward to getting your views. We have also responded, after considerable debate, to Waverley Borough Council's consultation on its local plan – see page 3. Waverley Borough Council is also updating the Conservation Area Appraisals

and the one for Witley village is due to come out for consultation in

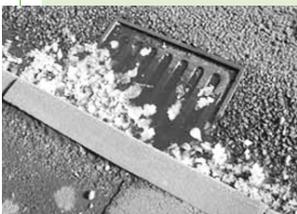
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the next few weeks. So there is a lot going on about how to preserve our piece of 'England's green and pleasant land' while still finding a way to provide our fair share of housing.

How can you help us? You could join one of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Groups when they come on-stream or you could join us as a Parish Councillor and help us spread the load – see page 6.

Councillor Julie Grist, Council Chairman, 2014-15



The Witley Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has started the process of applying for our community of Enton, Brook, Milford, Sandhills, Witley and Wormley, to be able to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

This will be a major project for the parish as a whole over the next couple of years.

1. What is a NP?

The NP is the Parish's statement of where the whole community see the future of the parish. It is a land-use plan that can encompass housing, environment, business, infrastructure and anything else parishioners feel is important. It is intended to be the framework for determining what happens in the parish over the next 15 years.

2. Why Have a NP?

The NP process is the opportunity for every village and hamlet to explore what they might like for their community now and for a sustainable future.

Later in this newsletter you will read a report about the development proposals suggested by our local planning authority, Waverley Borough Council (WBC). This development target is being imposed upon us. We cannot avoid it, but in creating a NP we can

shape where development is located and ensure that it delivers the community infrastructure that Witley needs.

The NP is the means by which we can exercise some control over this. To be clear the NP must work with the Borough's Local Plan and is not a tool to prevent or obstruct development within the parish. It does however enable us to shape that development and to ensure that the

parish benefits from it.

3. Who prepares the NP?

Whilst the Parish Council have submitted the initial application for the NP, the real responsibility for developing the NP lies with all its parishioners. In doing so we will be guided by an expert consultant, but ultimately the parish as a whole must engage in the process via working groups to ensure that the plan properly reflects local concerns and wishes before the parish electorate vote on the plan via a referendum.

4. When?

It is anticipated that we will formally launch the project in February 2015. We will hold a series of local meetings to further explain what

Have your say
Keen to be involved
in the NP?
Share your thoughts in
the Community Forum
on our website:
www.witley-pc.gov.uk

we are seeking to achieve and to gather views and encourage participation.

You will hear more about the plan over the next few months leading to the launch. In the meantime if

you have any questions or would like to participate feel free to contact me via

clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk or visit the Neighbourhood Plan page on our website.



CONSULTATION ON POTENTIAL HOUSING SCENARIOS AND OTHER ISSUES FOR THE WAVERLEY LOCAL PLAN

In preparation for their **Local Plan**, Waverley Borough Council consulted on a number of topics including housing and the Green Belt. Waverley have been allocated a target of up to 8400 additional houses by the government over the period to 2030, and their consultation identified four options for meeting this target. These involved substantial development in the Borough's major settlements, a range of developments at Dunsfold Aerodrome, and 300 additional homes in the largest villages, including Milford and Witley, together with a smaller number in the other villages. For Milford and Witley, Waverley further proposed that the built-up area of the villages be removed from the Green Belt (which presently "washes over" them, as the planning jargon has it) and the villages' boundaries be extended to allow for extra development.

The Parish Council responded

suggesting that the parish's likely share of that 300 allocation could and should be met by continuing redevelopment of sites within the existing village boundaries and that no extension of the built-up area was necessary. Effectively, this implies intensification of development rather than extension of the settlements into the countryside, which your Council believes is the more acceptable way of dealing with the government's targets. Withdrawal of the Green Belt to the edge of the existing settlement boundary would facilitate that, and we believe, reluctantly, that is inevitable. We have also stressed to Waverley the importance of matching housing with adequate infrastructure such as school places, surgeries, drainage and transport.

Councillor Graham Hewett, Vice Chairman, Planning Committee, 2014-15

Amenities and Environment Update

The bad weather earlier in the year left us with a legacy of uncompleted maintenance work.

Recently the weather has been better and we have been able to catch up a bit but there is still a lot to do.

The coppicing work in The Pleck has been completed. This will open up the pathway, letting in more light to the woodland floor as well as making the path a safer place to walk. Further works to improve the area are planned.

Robertson's Green has had significant tree works and the unkempt area south-east of the pond has been cleared; we intend to introduce a meadow regime here. The experimental meadow area in the centre of the green will also have been cut and cleared – we are considering whether this regime should be continued next year.

Jubilee Field has been as popular as ever and at the request of users we have re-opened the second gate so there are now two ways in and out of the play area.

We will be fencing off the young children's play area on Sunnyhill to make this safer for small children.

The meadow area on Witley Recreation Ground has proved successful and at the last count there were ten different types of grass. The meadow regime will continue next year but will be slightly smaller as requested by some users.

We are keen on meadow areas as not only do they provide habitat for wildlife but also keep maintenance costs down.

You may have noticed that our land has recently been maintained by contractors rather than our groundsman, who retired in July. Our parish covers a large, diverse area and we are taking the opportunity to re-assess the groundsman role and the benefits of using contractors. It is likely we will be looking for a new groundsman in 2015.

Councillor Stephen Mills, Chairman, Amenities and Environment Committee, 2014-15

Obstructions on pavements are making life more difficult than it needs to be



Parking cars on pavements seems to be becoming a habit in the area. It is difficult and dangerous for

anyone trying to walk along the pavement, particularly for those with buggies, and it is impossible

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for wheelchair users and people with sight problems. Please, before you park on the pavement, think about how dangerous you are making it for other people.

Another problem is

overgrown hedges, bushes

and trees which reduce the size of the useable pavement and can hit a pedestrian at face level. If it's your hedge which is overgrown please keep it trimmed back to the boundary.

Witley Charitable Trust

Since the 17th Century, the Ancient Witley Parish (including Milford and a small part of Brook) has had charity funds which have been used to help permanent residents who are in need. Using income from historic bequests, the Trustees look to assist young people, the elderly and infirm as well as the needy and isolated at Christmas. In 1982 the Charity was registered with the Charity Commission and since then has been called The Witley Charitable Trust. In addition to providing Christmas gifts, in recent years help has been provided to various people in a variety of ways:-

- **Taxi fare to a Clinic for a**

- **wheelchair patient unable to use public transport.**

- **Help for student trainees to purchase specific equipment.**

- **Paying for pre-school when a parent was made redundant.**

- **Grant for wife on limited income to visit her husband in hospital.**

Those needing help are recommended to the Trustees by medical or educational personnel, local councillors or ministers of the churches. For further information ring 01428 604679.

Daphne O'Hanlon, Chairman, Witley Charitable Trust

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Remember – Witley Parish Council welcomes applications for grants from new or established organisations for financial assistance towards the capital expenses of the organisation. Recent recipients of grants have been:

- **Milford Scout Group**

- **The Clockhouse**

- **Chichester Hall**

- **Milford Pumas**

The grant should be less than 50% of the cost of any project and should

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benefit residents of the parish. The full conditions of the grants and an application form can be downloaded from our website on the Grants & Donations page.

We also welcome requests for donations to charitable organisations that benefit the residents of the parish. Recent donations have been to:

Rodborough Technology College

Victim Support

Citizens Advice Bureau

Crimestoppers

Safe Drive, Stay Alive

Waverley Age UK

*Councillor Patrick Stewart, Chairman
Finance and General Purposes
Committee, 2014/2015*



The annual renewal for allotment plots

took place in October.

Some plots were

relinquished, meaning that we could allocate plots to people on the waiting list. We do, however, still have a few vacancies at both allotment sites. If you are interested in taking

Allotments

one of these, please contact the Parish office. The smallest plots, about 60m², will cost you only £15 a year, including water charges. For more details see our website on the Allotments page.

*Councillor, Stephen Mills, Chairman,
Amenities and Environment
Committee, 2014/2015*

Councillor Vacancies

If you care about your local environment and have time to put something back into the community we would love to hear from you.

You will need to be available on Thursday evenings as most of our meetings are held on Thursdays, but don't panic, not every Thursday, and on Wednesday if you are interested in Planning. We are not a Statutory Consultee but we comment on all planning applications from a local point of view.

Please contact the Clerk for more details about how to apply to become a Parish Councillor.

Witley Parish Councillors

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Julie Grist (Witley East Ward)

01428 683448

julie.grist@witley-pc.gov.uk

COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

Patrick Stewart **07785 274867**

(Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee; Milford Ward)

COUNCILLORS

Christy Crouch (Witley East Ward)

01428 682181

Steve Dale (Witley East Ward; Lead Member for Witley)

01428 681356

Maxine Gale (Witley East Ward; Lead Member for Enton)

01428 683055

Graham Hewett (Milford Ward; Lead Member for Milford)

01483 417495

Donald Johnstone (Chairman, Planning Committee; Milford Ward)

07436 116404

Barbara Kinnes (Witley East Ward)

01428 682870

Jill Longmore (Witley Ward West)

01428 683942

Gillian McCalden (Witley East Ward; Lead Member for Wormley)

01428 682405

gillian.mccalden@witley-pc.gov.uk

Louise Mills (Witley East Ward; Lead Member Brook and Sandhills)

01428 682414

Stephen Mills (Chairman, Amenities and Environment Committee; Milford Ward)

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stephen.mills@witley-pc.gov.uk

Tony Sollars (Milford Ward)

tony.sollars@witley-pc.gov.uk

Your County and Borough Councillors

Surrey County Council

Godalming South, Milford and Witley

Peter Martin **01483 425644**

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Waverley Western Villages

David Harmer **01428 609792**

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Waverley Borough Council

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Jenny Else **01252 702036**

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Bryn Morgan **01252 794993**

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Milford

Lynn Graffham **01483 426636**

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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



Christmas Tree Lighting Events

Friday 28th November, 7pm
Chichester Hall, Witley
and Pirrie Hall, Brook

Friday 5th December, 7pm
Milford Village Hall, Milford



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 Clerk 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 9.00am – 12.00 noon

Tel: 01483 422044

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

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

www.witley-pc.gov.uk

