



# UPDATE

Summer 2014

Issue Nineteen

## Notes from the Chairman

**Welcome to our summer newsletter.** You'll see from the following pages that we have had a productive few months. Our ongoing duty to maintain and develop Council land and equipment has been particularly challenging following the difficult winter we have had.

But in addition to that task, we have also delivered a few projects – we recently added some new equipment for older children at Jubilee Field in Milford and we have begun to see our way forward with our new Ditches and Drainage Working party.

We are about to start on our biggest project for many years – developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish area. See page 2 for more information.

On another topic, our popular directory of local services will be published in print and on the website in November. This needs to be up to date. If your organisation was in the last directory,

we would be grateful if you could let us know of any changes in contact details. If you are involved with a new local organisation and would like to be included, please let us know your details.

And lastly, if you would be interested in joining us as a Councillor and would like to find out more have a chat with the Clerk or any Councillor and we can talk it through with you.

*Councillor Julie Grist,  
Council Chairman, 2014-15*



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## Neighbourhood Plan

### At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 18th June 2014, Members unanimously agreed to start a Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan')

**for the parish.** The formation of a Steering Group was also agreed. Whilst the Plan is led by the Parish Council, everyone can be involved, indeed this is essential.

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. The process for developing a Neighbourhood Plan is a lengthy one and over the coming months the Council will explain more about the Plan and how you can become involved.

There are 5 stages to the neighbourhood planning process. This is a very brief overview:

**1. Agreeing the Neighbourhood.** This means defining the area to be covered by the plan. At the Extraordinary Meeting Members agreed that the area should be the current administrative area of the parish and the Clerk was asked to write formally to Waverley Borough Council to

begin the process of defining the neighbourhood area. This will be widely advertised by Waverley Borough Council in due course and

you will have the opportunity to comment to Waverley on the proposal.

**2. Preparing your Plan.** This means you! Over the coming months look out for further information on how you can become involved, what having a Plan will mean for you

and your neighbourhood. This information will be on our noticeboards and on our website.

**3. Independent Check.** The Plan will be subject to independent examination to check, amongst other things, that it meets the right basic standards.

**4. Community Referendum.** Parishioners living in the

neighbourhood, who are registered to vote in local elections will be able to vote. If more than 50% of people voting in the referendum support the neighbourhood plan then

the local planning authority must bring it into force.

**Over the coming months look out for further information on how you can become involved, what having a Plan will mean for you and your neighbourhood.**



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**5. Neighbourhood Plan.**

Following a successful referendum the Plan is then brought into legal force, it forms part of the statutory Development Plan for our area. Consequently, decisions on whether

or not to grant planning permission in the neighbourhood area will need to be made in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

*Fiona Fox, Clerk, Witley Parish Council*

## WPC sets up a Ditches and Drainage Working Party

**We all have vivid memories of last winter's wet weather and the flooding that many of us had to endure.**

Although Witley Parish Council doesn't have direct responsibility for dealing with the consequences of flooding, we quickly became aware how many of our residents were affected and struggling to find the right people to deal with it. We can find the right people to talk to, and where the flooding affects the public domain – for example, footpaths and roads – we can lobby for appropriate action, as we do for highway and footpath improvements. In February, we set up a Working Party and its focus will be on:

• Preparing a map of watercourses,

culverts and drains, past and present, in the Parish – something which is missing at the moment

• Using this map as the basis for recording flooding 'events' so that it is easy to see how they affect each other and for tracking remedial action

• Drawing up a list of priority sites where coordinated action is needed.

We cannot promise that the relevant authorities, who range from Surrey County Council to the National Trust, will take action, but we can alert them to problems in our area that may have slipped below their radar so they have a better and more detailed picture of what is happening.

*Graham Hewett, Chairman, Ditches and Drainage Working Party*

## W W I

**Since the last Newsletter the cleaning of the Milford War Memorial has taken place**

and Witley Parish Council are pleased at this great improvement to an important local monument. We said in

the last newsletter that we were trying to find out more about the family history of those commemorated on the War

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Memorials; we have had some response to this via the Community Forum on the website but we would love to hear more, **but just about those from WWI at the moment** please. Another idea that has been suggested to us is that we might hold a Remembrance Day in one of the village halls to which people could bring along photos,

letters or any other memorabilia with a panel of WWI experts available to comment. If this is an event you would welcome, could contribute to or would like to help organise, please let us know, either via the web site or through the office.

*Councillor Barbara Kinnes and  
Councillor Stephen Mills, Lead Members,  
2014/2015*

## More play equipment for Jubilee Field



Many of you will have seen the new play equipment poking above the hedge in Jubilee Field. We are delighted that the three new pieces of equipment are proving so popular with the young people of the area.

### Have your say

We would love to hear your views on this topic. Please visit our website and click on the Community Forum tab at the top of the page. There you will find a place to contribute your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

## The Pleck

**The area of woodland between Rake Lane and Rodborough School, known as The Pleck,** is owned by Witley Parish Council and we are responsible for its management. A bus shelter was erected here last year on its Petworth Road edge.

Works to the woodland have been minimal in recent years. We have really just dealt with safety concerns by cutting back overhanging vegetation into the school and along the footpath

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... continued from page 4 running through the wood. In the next few years however; the Council aims to bring the woodland back into active management and improve the condition of the footpath, which spent much of the winter under water!

The woodland comprises mainly coppiced hazel with standard oaks, although ash, birch, holly and willow also feature. We intend to manage the woodland in zones. We want to coppice the overgrown hazel and holly to allow natural light back to the woodland floor. This will encourage the development of more ground flora which is very lacking in the darkest areas. Weak single trees along the footpath will be removed entirely, in favour of the major oaks and the hazel and holly understorey. This will seem quite dramatic in the short term, but will develop a healthier and more varied woodland.

There is a small woodland pond near the Petworth Road that dries up in the summer; but still provides a varied habitat and holding pond for surface water run-off – it was in this area that the path was submerged. The Council intends to raise the lowest level of the

**We want to coppice the overgrown hazel and holly to allow natural light back to the woodland floor**



path by approximately 100mm and eventually to dredge the pond to increase its holding capacity, also improving its year-round wetland value. The pond is dominated by three large scrub willows which will also be coppiced, improving light to this potentially attractive pond area. It is not intended to deepen the pond excessively as there could be safety concerns.

The Council does have a serious litter problem in the area nearest the school entrance and it is hoped that with increased visibility through the wood and improved access along the path, this situation may be improved.

Finally, it is worth noting that our trees are valuable – a high quality oak was stolen from the middle of the Pleck last year by someone who felled it, processed it into logs and removed everything before it was realised he was not on legitimate business – these trees belong to the community – it's always worth asking what people are doing!

*Stephen Dale, Lead Councillor for The Pleck, 2014/2015*

## Allotments



### Do you want an allotment?

**There are vacancies at Redgate Farm in Milford and Enton in Witley**

Visit [www.witley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.witley-pc.gov.uk)  
for more information  
or phone 01483 422044  
or email [clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk)

## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

**Just a reminder!** Witley Parish Council has funds available to support local organisations with contributions to capital funding. See the grants and donations page on our website for more information and application forms.



INCORPORATING  
THE VILLAGES  
AND HAMLETS OF  
BROOK, ENTON,  
MILFORD,  
SANDHILLS, WITLEY  
& WORMLEY

## Witley Parish Council has a Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

**Help shape the area in which you live**

**Make a contribution  
to improving our  
environment**

**Represent your  
fellow residents  
on local issues**

**Be involved in local decision making on  
planning and expenditure**

For more information about what is involved  
visit our website, [www.witley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.witley-pc.gov.uk)

talk to any Councillor or email the Clerk.

[clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@witley-pc.gov.uk)

## WITLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS for 2014-15

### COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

**Julie Grist** (Chairman; Witley East Ward) ..... 01428 683448  
julie.grist@witley-pc.gov.uk

### COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

**Patrick Stewart** (Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee; Milford Ward) ..... 07785 274867

### COUNCILLORS

**Christy Crouch** (Witley East Ward) ..... 01428 682181

**Steve Dale** (Witley East Ward; Lead Member, Witley) ..... 01428 681356

**Maxine Gale** (Witley East Ward; Lead Member, Enton) .. 01428 683055

**Graham Hewett** (Milford Ward; Lead Member, Milford) 01483 417495

**Donald Johnstone** (Chairman, Planning Committee; Milford Ward) ... .. 07436 116404

**Barbara Kinnes** (Witley East Ward) ..... 01428 682870

**Jill Longmore** (Witley West Ward) . ..... 01428 683942

**Gillian McCalden** (Witley East Ward; Lead Member, Wormley) 01428 682405 . gillian.mccalden@witley-pc.gov.uk

**Louise Mills** (Witley East Ward; Lead Member, Brook and Sandhills) ..... 01428 682414

**Stephen Mills** (Witley East Ward) .... 01428 682414  
stephen.mills@witley-pc.gov.uk

**Tony Sollars** (Witley East Ward) ... tony.sollars@witley-pc.gov.uk

**Please note:** the Chairman of the Amenities and Environment Committee and the Chairman of Staffing had not been appointed for 2014 - 2015 before the newsletter went to press.

## 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 794993  
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

## 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 09.00am – 12.00pm.

**Tel: 01483 422044**

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

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

**Web: [www.witley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.witley-pc.gov.uk)**



## CONTACTING SURREY POLICE

Please dial **999** in an **emergency**.

A police emergency is defined as incidents where:

- Someone's life is in danger.
- Someone is at risk of violence, or property is about to be damaged.
- A serious offence is in progress.
- A suspect is at the scene or an early arrest is likely.
- Serious disruption to the public is likely.
- Very serious crime (e.g. Rape, GBH).

Please report non-emergency incidents to us by phoning **101** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is recommended that you put these numbers in your mobile, to enable you to contact the police when you need to.

### **Contacting the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired**

If you are hard of hearing or speech impaired, textphone on **18001 101 (non-emergency)** or **18000 (emergency)** or text us on **07786 204020** or **999**.

(Register at: [www.emergencysms.org.uk](http://www.emergencysms.org.uk))