



# **WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **West Clandon Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2016 -17**

For yet another year, the Parish Council's principle focus has been the safety and speed of vehicles, motorists and pedestrians using our village street - the A247. A new Vehicle Activated Speed Sign was installed on the northern side of the railway bridge in an attempt to slow traffic approaching the dangerous junction of Oak Grange Road and Station Approach junction, where visibility of A247 traffic is very limited.

Last December, the Guildford Local Committee recommended that a grant of £50,000 should be made towards safety improvements to our village street. A month later, a Parish Council sub-committee met with SCC Highways to fully discuss these potential improvements and safety options for the A247. These include another VAS sign between the Church and the Bulls Head, more 30mph repeater signage and an extension of the 30mph limit from Lime Grove to Green Lane. Highways officers are due to report back to the Parish Council with their recommendations and proposals later in the Summer.

Last Autumn, after a great deal of lobbying from the Parish Council and others, SCC Highways patched up the deteriorating road surface of Lime Grove. As this residential road does not possess any proper foundations, resurfacing and pothole filling will probably have to continue until the whole road is resurfaced properly.

Despite even more lobbying, the appalling road surface at Clandon Crossroads is still awaiting attention and we have been informed that it will probably be attended to under the SCC Highways Horizon scheme during the next financial year. You may remember that this work had to be postponed last year, when the SCC was forced to make a cut of £10million to their budget.

In a joint project with East Clandon Parish Council and the Surrey County Council, the footpath between the end of Green Lane and the Ripley Road has been cleared of vegetation and the boggy sections filled in, permitting walkers the benefit of keeping their feet dry. Until fairly recently, this footpath has been virtually impassable during the winter months and not much better in Summer.

In May 2016, the Parish Council was forced to take over the running of the Village Hall, when the leading members of its Management Committee retired or left the village. We are now happy to report that a new Committee has now been formed to run this important village facility. New stage curtains have recently been fitted and it is hoped to replace all the hall's chairs in the near future.

Outside the Hall, a new grass extension to the Village Hall's Car Park was successfully completed, using 106 money generated from the 'Waterfields' extension to Meadowlands.

During the year the Parish Council continued to monitor planning matters in the village. A significant area of activity continued to be the proposed new Guildford Borough Plan where the Parish Council has been active in monitoring the process. Our main concern has been to protect West Clandon from inappropriate development which would affect the Village. Particular areas of concern were development proposals at Gosden Hill Farm and Garlick's Arch. We responded to the consultation draft plan in Summer 2016.

Although not within West Clandon, proposed developments at Newlands Corner are of concern and we have continued to protest strongly against Surrey County Council's proposals for the site including large play structures and a large cafe and shop. Some of these proposals appear to have fallen away but they could re-emerge in future.

Although the Parish Council has no control over specific planning applications in the Village we can comment on planning applications in the same way as the public and we do raise concerns on some applications with Guildford Borough Council which is the planning authority. An application which is currently being consulted on by Guildford is for 13 houses at Tithebarns Farm on Tithebarns Lane. The site is regarded as a Brown Filed site and is currently occupied by former chicken sheds.

Just after Christmas, it was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden and unexpected death of one of our Parish Council colleagues Carol Roberts. She joined the Parish Council in October 2015 and immediately took on one of the most demanding portfolios, assuming responsibility for the Recreation Ground and its playground. And as a resident of Meadowlands, she always made sure the Council was always kept up to speed with the concerns of residents. She is still greatly missed by her Council colleagues and all those who knew her.

I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council - Jonathan Murphy, Christopher Dean, Rob MacDonald, Stephen Meredith and our Clerk John Stone for their help, support and assistance during the year. Also thanks go to our Borough Councillors Jenny Wicks, David Reeve and Matthew Sarti and to our County Councillor Keith Taylor for attending and contributing to our meetings with their help and advice.

April 7th 2017

Terence Patrick  
(Chairman)

