



# **WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **West Clandon Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2017 - 18**

The past year has been another busy one on a number of fronts. After several years of lobbying, Clandon Crossroads was resurfaced to a high standard last Summer and for yet another year, the Parish Council's attention has been focused on the safety and speed of vehicles, motorists and pedestrians using our village street - the A247.

Last year, Surrey County Council's Local Guildford Committee recommended that £50,000 should be made available for safety improvements to our village street. Unfortunately, the sum was then revoked by the SCC as a result of their funding crisis.

The Parish Council has since decided to fund and buy another Vehicle Activation sign, which will be located outside the entrance to Clandon Park. It is hoped that this sign will be installed this Summer and will help to slow traffic down as it approaches the narrow stretch of road outside 'The Bull' and the School.

The Police and Surrey Highways have also reacted favourably to our suggestion that the village's 30mph speed limit should be extended from Lime Grove to Green Lane and we hope to see some more progress on this proposal during the coming months.

During the year, we have also helped establish the now prospering Clandon Good Neighbours scheme and also the installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall.

The Parish Council has now given up the practice of using cheques to pay its bills and all such transactions are now done online.

The Parish Council has continued to monitor planning matters in the village. The proposed new Guildford Borough Plan continued to be an area of focus and the Parish Council has been active in monitoring the process. Our main concern has been to protect West Clandon from inappropriate development that would affect the Village. Particular areas of concern are development proposals at Gosden Hill Farm and Garlick's Arch.

Although not within West Clandon, proposed developments at Newlands Corner are also of concern and we have continued to protest strongly against Surrey County Council's proposals for this site. Most recently, we have submitted objections to the Planning Inspectorate last June, over proposals for six large artificial play structures. These proposals appear to have now 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. We have continued to raise concerns on applications with Guildford Borough Council's Planning Department and in particular, concerns brought to us by local residents. During the year, we have put forward objections to applications for new developments in the Greenbelt and applications for additional houses in the Village where we thought the sites were too cramped.

Guildford Borough Council has released the final version of its Local Plan for consultation. Regrettably, this latest version has taken no account of the Parish Council's previous objections and we have responded with a detailed statement of objections on the topics of green belt, congestion and infrastructure.

At the end of the year, Guildford Borough Council submitted the Plan for examination and the Inspector's first questions have now been published. Encouragingly they ask about some of the issues raised by the Parish Council. The hearing of an appeal by the Wisley developer has now concluded and the outcome is awaited. Proposals for the re-building of the A3/M25 junction have also been published. The Parish Council has written to Highways England asking to be made a consultee on schemes for improvement to the A3 from the M25 to the Hogs Back.

Of particular concern is the proposal for slip roads from the A247 to the A3 at Burnt Common, effectively creating a 4-way junction. These were put forward by the Wisley developer as a way of reducing the impact of the development on the A3 but were objected to by Highways England. However, they remain in the Local Plan and there is some evidence that Highways England may be changing their position. The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the potential for big increases in traffic on the A247 through the village. To this end, the Parish Council has proposed that the best site for a 4-way junction would be at the Gosden Hill site near Potter's Lane and that consideration should be given to creating an access from Park Lane/Merrow Lane to the A3 to provide an alternative to the A247.

I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council - Jonathan Murphy, Christopher Dean, Rob MacDonald, Eric Palmer, 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 9th 2018

Terence Patrick  
(Chairman)

