



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Terence Patrick, Stoney Royd, Woodstock, West Clandon Surrey GU4 7UJ
Tel. 01483 222 534

Clerk: Paul Edwards, Amberleaf, Clandon Road, West Clandon, Surrey GU4 7TL
clerk@westclandon.org.uk

Chairman's Report 2021 – 2022

Neighbourhood Plan

For the last three years, a committee of local residents, at the invitation of the Parish Council, have been writing and assembling the West Clandon Neighbourhood Plan in an effort to protect the village against unwarranted development. Our plan was put to a referendum on March 17th 2022, when 313 Clandon residents voted in favour of our Neighbourhood Plan with just 20 voting against. On April 5th, the plan was ratified by a full meeting of the Guildford Borough Council and has now become an important part of the Borough Council's planning policy, bringing us into line with many Surrey villages that include West Horsley, Effingham and Send. Huge thanks go to local resident and former Parish Clerk John Stone for all his hard work that has made the West Clandon Neighbourhood Plan become a reality and to the many residents who supported the plan by voting for its adoption.

Planning

During the year, the Parish Council has continued to consider planning matters that affect West Clandon. Although the Parish Council has no control over specific planning applications in the Village, which are decided by Guildford Borough Council as the planning authority, we can and do comment on planning applications that are raising concerns. During the year, we have objected to a number of applications for additional houses in the Parish, where we thought the sites were too cramped or would harm the openness of the Green Belt.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

During the year, the Parish Council also made a detailed submission to Natural England's evidence gathering to support the proposed extension of the Surrey Hills A.N.O.B.

Recreation ground

During this past year of covid related restrictions there have been a minimum of new initiatives and the main effort has been to maintain the grounds and play areas in a good state of repair. Pleasingly, there has been much use of our playground facilities and the new toddler's area has proven popular. There has been a fair amount of maintenance necessary with repairs to the fencing, the steppingstones adjacent to the playground and the verges by the roadside trimmed and cleaned up. The football pitch was made available to a homeless team of Feltonfleet Fathers for their Wednesday evening practice for which they were very appreciative.

Our Clandon Dragon was again cleaned up and kept in good repair by some residents from the village with fresh chalk introduced to spruce up its appearance. Our contractors only ever have the need to trim the approaches and areas around the 'Chalk Beast' from time to time.

We have begun the process of improving the entrance area to the village hall car park with a view to planting trees and shrubs to make the side verges more attractive. We have also removed the very old dilapidated 'Parking' sign and replaced it with a smart blue one.

Footpaths

Apart from the usual vegetation cuts during the summer months, some improvements to the footpaths network have been made including the replacement of a staggered gate on FP67 (that goes from 'Oak Grange Road's Dangerous Corner towards Send prison), the widening of FP69A (between Lime Grove and Green Lane) and the cutting back of vegetation at the dangerous exit to FP66 (opposite the entrance to Lime Grove).

The February storms also created a number of temporary blockages, but these were promptly removed by local residents.

There have been flooding concerns in some areas in the north part of the village but we managed to get the Surrey County Council's flood risk team to conduct a site visit and provide some advice on mitigation.

Five new trees were planted at the entrance to Meadowlands with the help of the Surrey Highways tree scheme with residents offering to assist with their maintenance. Unfortunately, storm Eunice has since created more gaps in the tree line that will need to be filled. The Parish Council conducted a survey of the vegetation encroachment on the A247 pavements through the village, which had resulted in a dangerous narrowing of footpaths for pedestrians. Subsequent liaison with a number of private property owners and organisations has resulted in some sections of the pavement being cleared and further work has been promised.

Developments

During the year, Guildford Borough Council approved the developments at Garlick's Arch. As a result, improvements to bus services through the village, improvement of Footpath 568, cycle storage at the station and a sum of £500,000 towards environmental improvements in West Clandon have been promised. These are unlikely to happen until substantial development on the site has taken place. In addition, there will be a SANG recreational area established off Tithebarns Lane with footpath access from the A247.

The submission of the planning application for development of the Wisley site was put on hold by the Minister, delaying a decision on the rebuilding of the M25's junction 10 until May this year at the earliest.

A247

During the year, the Parish Council has written to the Surrey County Council on a number of occasions, to express residents' concerns about the safety aspects of the A247. These include the serious effect of the proposed slip roads from the A247 to the A3, which would result in a large increase in traffic through the village; the dangerous exit from the Station Road on to the A247 and the dangerous junction of the A247 with the existing A3 slip road, which has been the scene of numerous accidents. Although a brand new sign has now been placed at this junction, the Parish Council has repeatedly asked for a proper bollard, illuminated by mains electricity, to be installed there so that road users can be made aware of the junction as they approach it when it is dark.

The condition survey of some of the manhole covers and potholes on the village street was carried out during the year and registered with the Highway Authority or brought to the attention of property owners for action - some of which has been taken.

Speed Watch Initiative

A West Clandon Community Speed Watch scheme has now been formed with 10 pre-trained operators under the leadership of Drew Craig and with the help of Surrey Police. It hoped to get the scheme fully operational on the A247 by the summer.

The Village Hall

In September, the heating system in our village hall – built and opened in 1928 – was completely replaced with a modern boiler and new radiators thanks to a Guildford Borough Council emergency grant.

New Village Website

Last July, the Parish Council completely redesigned and improved the village website so that its users can now access all the council's minutes and agendas from the monthly meetings. The website also provides lots of other useful information including links to village organisations, a complete history of West Clandon plus even up to date information on the weather! I would like to thank Parish Councillor Ann Dickinson and our new clerk Paul Edwards for their dedicated efforts in bringing our new website to fruition. Our new website can be located by logging on at **westclandon.org.uk**

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their help in assembling this report and for their help in running the Parish Council during the past 12 months. I would also like to thank our three Borough Councillors Tim Anderson, Christopher Barrass and Catherine Anne Young together with our new Surrey County Councillor Bob Hughes, for all their help, advice and support during the past year.

April 2022

Terence Patrick
(Chairman)
