



# WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Chairman's Report 2022 – 2023

### A247

During the past year – and as in previous years – the West Clandon Parish Council has written to the Surrey County Council on a number of occasions expressing the concerns of residents regarding safety, excessive speed and potential accident spots on the A247 village street. There have been several accidents near 'Summers' on the street's narrowest section, where the carriageway is only 14 foot wide. Large vehicles continue to mount the narrow pavement oblivious of the reality that it is continually being used by pedestrians and children walking up to the village school. With the help and support of our Surrey County Councillor Bob Hughes, we have started lobbying – like several other Surrey villages - for 20 mph speed restrictions on this narrow section of the village street to slow down speeding traffic. Residents in Tithebarns Lane have also asked the Parish Council to request a 40 mph limit from Surrey Highways to deter speeding along this stretch of road.

Another dangerous section of the A247 receiving our attention has been the exit from Clandon Station, where a motorist's view of oncoming southbound traffic is obstructed by the railway bridge's parapet. Several site meetings with Surrey County Council Highways have taken place to suggest ways of making this exit safer.

Following further lobbying and site meetings - at our September meeting - the Parish Council was presented with a revised scheme for the accident prone A247/A3 slip road junction by Duncan Knox who has responsibility for safety on Surrey's Highways. The proposed scheme was adopted and work was successfully completed to reconfigure this 'T' junction. Only time will tell as to how successful this redesign has been in reducing accidents and the Parish Council will review the situation later this year.

In March, it was announced that the Government's investment road strategy RIS 3 had been delayed and that any construction work on the A247/A3 slip roads will not take place until 2030 at the earliest.

### 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.

The development at Garlicks Arch (now renamed Allium Park) is now well underway and the associated SANG off Tithebarns Lane is now in use although there is still no proper footpath to access it.

### Recreation ground

During the past year, the main effort has been focussed on maintaining the Recreation Ground and its play areas in a good state of repair. In addition, we have white lined afresh the parking spaces outside the village hall, filled in pot holes in the car park, carried out tree works, installed a new toddlers swing, returfed the football pitches goalmouths and with the benefit of a large grant from the National Lottery, installed an outdoor multi-gym.

### **Footpaths**

The village's footpaths have remained fairly incident-free during the past 12 months. Footpath 69 between Lime Grove and Green Lane was blocked for a few months due to a collapsed hedge but was cleared in January. A new kissing gate was installed on the northern section of this footpath near Tithebarn's Lane as part of a wider network of new paths around the Garlicks Arch SANG. Vegetation that had encroached on the pavement on the narrow section of the village street at 'Summers' was cut back in various places after the Parish Council had contacted property owners and the A247 road signs were cleaned and vegetation cut back by the Surrey County Council's 'veg' gang.

### **A.O.N.B.**

The Parish Council gave a detailed submission to Natural England to support a suggested extension northwards of the Surrey Hills A.O.N.B. across the A246 into parts of the village but was unsuccessful. Neighbouring East Clandon was recommended for inclusion but not all the residents were in favour, fearing that it would make domestic planning permissions more difficult to obtain.

### **Adoption of a Risk Register**

In July, the Parish Council established and approved a Risk Management process to identify risks, evaluate their potential impact and implement actions to reduce any harm that might occur to the reputation of the West Clandon Parish Council. It was decided that this register would be reviewed annually.

### **Comings and Goings**

We welcomed Sam Wreford as new Parish Councillor during the year and said au revoir to Steve Meredith, who is not seeking re-election because of work commitments. We thank Steve for all his work on the Parish Council's financial matters and especially the West Clandon Parish Charities. We also thank our retiring Borough Councillors Tim Anderson and Chris Barrass for their help, advice and support over the past four years.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Clerk and my fellow Parish Councillors for their help in successfully running the Parish Council during the past 12 months.

May 2023

Terence Patrick  
(Chairman)

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