

WOLDINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

www.woldingham.com

APRIL 2009

Parish Councillors:

Greg Meekings, *Chairman*
(email: greg@meekings.co.uk)

Bobby Johnson, *Vice chairman*

Andrew Barton
Nigel Cohen
Rodney Fuller
Nicki Howe
Sally Marks
Frank Myers
Alistair Pirie

Parish Clerk: Karen Newman
(email: parish.clerk@woldingham.com)

See Woldingham Directory for full contact details.

Other Useful Contacts:

Local District Councillor:
Richard Butcher (tel:652275)

Local County Councillor:
Sally Marks
(email: sally.marks@surreycc.gov.uk)

Police Community Support Officer: Clive Harris-Ross
(voicemail: 01483 482111 + 10595)
(email: harris-ross@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

CHAIRMAN'S GREETINGS

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. A number of initiatives have come to fruition recently; including speed restrictions around the village, Crescent parking, the No Cold Calling Zone, and our new signpost on the Green! Others are in the works; including repairing the damaged footpath on Northdown Road, and rebuilding the island in Slines Oak Road. We are also looking at brightening up the Crescent with some hanging baskets. Perhaps you have other ideas – do let us know.

I would like to encourage you to actively contribute to your village community. Sadly apathy is one of the biggest threats we face. Too often it is the same small group of people who volunteer and we all benefit. In this edition there are, as always, several ways for you to contribute; i.e. respond to the station parking survey, volunteer for Speedwatch, offer a helping hand for the Glebe celebrations, or join us for the next litter pick! You never know you may enjoy it. You can make a difference. If you really can't spare any time at least give us your views.

Greg Meekings

PLANNING

A major and important part of our work is planning. Tandridge District Council (TDC) is required to consult us before approving or refusing permission. We always provide them with our views which are formulated with reference to our Village Design Statement. In the last year we assessed a total of 85 Applications, making no objection to 72% but objecting to 28%. TDC approved 77% and refused 23%. During the year there were two appeals against planning refusals from TDC. We attended both appeals and made our case for each to be refused. One appeal was upheld and the other refused. We took legal advice on the upheld appeal before deciding not to pursue further.

ROADS & HEDGES

In last year's Newsletter we reported on complaints of overgrown hedges in the Village that were restricting road width and damaging cars. We have initiated a programme of addressing the problem in conjunction with home owners. In the first phase we looked at Slines Oak Road and would like to thank the residents - who have undertaken some major pruning. This will improve the efficacy of planned resurfacing, and contribute to a much improved road from both driver and safety perspectives.

Homeowners adjacent to a public highway must clear verges off the tarmac and cut hedges to a vertical 5.4m above the verge edge.

Rodney Fuller



PERMITTED RIGHTS?

Householder's General Permitted Development Rights came into force last October. These new national planning regulations were designed to remove from overloaded planning departments many applications for the adding of conservatories, loft conversions, modest residential extensions and a number of other minor adaptations and modifications. To simplify this, the Government constructed a set of rules and dimensional tests that applications must meet in order to qualify for exemption from gaining full planning permission. However, like all regulations there are some qualifications to the basic rules that remove some of the simplicity and if you are thinking of work to your house that might be covered by these new rules you do need to be aware of these. Perhaps the most important is that if you happen to be in a flat or maisonette there are no permitted development rights at all. For any other form of housing the Permitted Rights may have been removed by earlier planning relating to your house and these withdrawals remain in force. You should also note that Building Regulation approval by Tandridge District Council (TDC) will almost certainly still be required.

If you are uncertain that work you might be planning falls within the new regulations you can apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness from TDC. This involves submitting application details and drawings to TDC who will also ask the Parish Council for their views. In their decision TDC and the PC can only apply the tests laid down in the Regulations. Planning Policy, the Core Strategy and Green Belt considerations do not apply. These factors are of great importance for our Village, making it very hard to object to work that might not have been permitted under the old regime. See <http://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning/> for details.

Bobby Johnson

NEWCOMERS' EVENING

With support from the Parish Council, the Woldingham Good Neighbour Scheme will be hosting a Newcomers' Evening at 7.30 pm on 18 June in St Paul's Church Room. Invitations will be sent to new residents who came to the village in the last 2 years, to enable them to meet each other and those who run activities in the village.

NORTHDOWN ROAD FOOTPATH

We would like to thank Surrey County Council for resurfacing the footpath and pavement running alongside the golf course and down to the Green, but we couldn't persuade them to repair the 150m still missing at the end

by Gangers Hill. We are getting quotations and are intending to do this ourselves in the next few months.

BIGGIN HILL

In the last issue, we reported our continuing concern about possible developments at the airport that might result in increasing nuisance and risk from low and noisy flights over the village. Cllr Harwood, the Tandridge District Council representative on the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee, addressed our February meeting. We have since resolved, with Cllr Harwood's support, to seek our own place on the Consultative Committee which would enable us to most effectively reflect Woldingham residents' views.

Frank Myers



NEW SIGNPOST

Did you spot the arrival of our new elegant village green signpost recently erected by the Parish Council?



SPEED WATCH

Following the recent widely publicised and long awaited introduction of the new 30mph zones in and around the village, I am pleased to report that there has been a reduction in the number of people exceeding the local speed limits. It would appear that the new signage, possibly combined with the national TV advertising campaign, has made people more aware of the need to drive at a lower speed.

There were 50 yellow warning letters and one more serious red letter sent, as result of our own camera wielding speed watch volunteers, during the last 9 months of 2008. So far this year, there has been a marked decrease in the number of letters required. But we must remain vigilant and we need more volunteers. Would anyone interested in helping with Speedwatch please get in touch.

Nigel Cohen



STATION PARKING

As train users will be aware parking near our station has become increasingly difficult over the last ten years. The situation is only likely to get worse as commuter parking elsewhere becomes more difficult through development and yellow lines. Economic factors and parking problems at neighbouring stations have put pressure on the railway and TDC car parks as well as "free" parking areas such as the lower end of Church Road and Woldingham Road. SCC is responsible for on street parking and TDC for off street parking. There is no provision for reserved resident's parking. We have no control over the present situation but there may be possible solutions which are likely to prove neither cheap nor guaranteed or even environmentally desirable. The PC would like some feedback from you before embarking on potentially unpopular projects, so please take the time to complete the enclosed questionnaire and give us your views.

Andrew Barton

FINANCES

This year the Parish Council were pleased to support the following organisations with grants as indicated:

Craigmyle Glebe £1,000; Good Neighbours Meeting £200; Horticultural Society £200; Leonard Stokes Directory £500; St Agatha's Churchyard £1,000; Surrey Crimestoppers £60; Woldingham Cricket Club £1,400.

We welcome 2009/10 grant applications from any village organisation. They should be made to the Parish Clerk.

The draft accounts for 2008/09 will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May. The precept for 2009/10 has been set at £12,840 a 36% reduction on last year or about £20 per household.



YOUR INVITATION TO OUR

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.30 P.M. THURSDAY 21st MAY 2009
WOLDINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Report
2. Parish Councillors' Reports
3. Your questions answered
4. **Guest Speaker:**
Tim Harrold from Campaign to Protect Rural England on
'Surrey in Crisis'
5. Vote of thanks and close

Refreshments will be served from 7 p.m.

GLEBE CELEBRATION WEEKEND

Preparations continue for events on 11th and 12th July to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the recreation facilities on the Glebe generously donated by Lord Craigmyle.

The late Chairman John Cox sadly passed away last year, and we are delighted that Mark Tapley has taken over this role and are sure he will carry on the good work.

The Parish Council is pleased to provide support to the Glebe for this summer event for everyone in the village. The intention is to celebrate sport and recreation with a Junior Football Tournament and a Tennis Competition on Saturday, followed by junior cricket and the traditional President's Cricket

Match on Sunday. There will be side shows, refreshments and music on both days. Local organisations expected to take part include the Village Club, Guide and Scout troops, History Society and North Downs Golf Club. Please mark in your diary and join in the fun. *Andrew Barton*

CROCUS WALK

In memory of Jill Meekings and in support of Breakthrough Breast Cancer a walk, cake and book sale will be held on Sunday 10th May in Woldingham - a repeat of the Mother's day Crocus walk that Jill so successfully organised in 2007. The 1 - 2 hour Woldingham walk will start at 1pm at the Village Hall and encompass the hopefully blossoming bluebells, followed by tea and a cake and book sale - a perfect opportunity

to show off your cake baking skills and to purchase some exciting new reads! To offer help please get in touch with James at james@meekings.co.uk or 07740354033.

Dates for your Diary:

Thurs May 21st Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm village hall

Sat September 26th Autumn Litter Pick Village Green 9.45am

Parish Council Meetings:

Village Hall 7.30pm except July, Oct (Garden Village Peace Centre)

May 28 *

June 25

July 30 *

August 27

September 24 *

October 29

November 26 *

*preceded by Community Police Action Group (7pm)

December 11th Christmas celebrations (6pm)