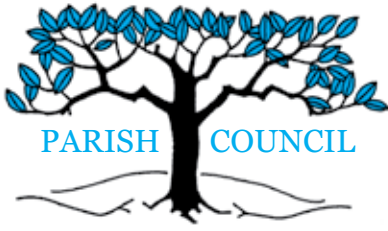


WOLDINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

www.woldingham.com

NOVEMBER 2009

Parish Councillors:

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

Alistair Pirie, Vice Chairman

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

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 our autumn Newsletter. Your council has been busy over the last few months. Behind the scenes we have reviewed a veritable avalanche of planning applications and we continue to try and ensure that our voice remains influential in the new planning regime. More obviously a number of initiatives have made it to fruition. We installed flower tubs in the Crescent for the summer, the footpath along Northdown Road has been restored, and we have rebuilt the Slines Oak Road Island. Sadly having renewed the sign at the viewing point on the Ridge it has been vandalised – again. Please do be vigilant and report anything suspicious that you see.

We are now considering other initiatives that we could undertake in the next year or two – do let us know of any ideas you may have. Finally I hope that despite the economic situation, or perhaps because of it, you will join us for Carols on the Crescent and some mulled wine and mince pies.

Greg Meekings

**BY POPULAR REQUEST,
OUR CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS RETURN!**

**AT THE CRESCENT
ON FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER
AT 6PM**

DON'T FORGET YOUR TORCH!

Join us again to turn on our Woldingham Christmas lights followed by a short Carol Service. The shops will be open and we are again stocking up on mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate – one thing different this year we will be asking for donations towards "The Help 4 Heroes Fund". The Salvation Army and Guides are booked to lead some hearty singing so do come along with your family, friends and neighbours to start our Christmas Celebrations in style! Everyone is welcome.



LITTER PICK

Over forty volunteers gathered on the Green on a gloriously sunny morning for this autumn's Litter Pick Day. It was pleasing to see half a dozen enthusiastic young helpers joining their parents.

The usual car parts were collected along with half a shopping trolley, television aerial, unused inflatable paddling pool (reclaimed by the young finders) and an antique brass blowlamp. Everything, including a kitchen sink in the Gangers Hill car park!

There were fewer bags than usual so thanks to those of you keeping our village neat and tidy all year round. Well done and thank you to all involved!

Andrew Barton



TDC CAR PARK CCTV

I am pleased that Tandridge District Council has responded to resident's concerns regarding safety and security and will have a CCTV camera in operation in their car park this autumn. A contribution from your PC ensured priority installation before nights start drawing in too far.

Andrew Barton

CAR PARKING AT THE STATION

Thank you to all those that completed the questionnaire enclosed with the last edition. Some of you will have read the article in the WPM on the survey results and at <http://www.woldingham.com/PC/parking.pdf>. Your opinions varied widely on possible action and there was little difference between the views of regular and occasional

users. As a result the PC has no mandate for taking action but will continue to monitor the situation and investigate any opportunities that present themselves.

Surrey County Council, responsible for on-street parking, is however taking action on potentially dangerous parking in Woldingham Road. They have issued the appropriate notices and will be marking out additional yellow lines in the station entrance "bell mouth" and from the TDC car park entrance round the bend towards Caterham both for line of sight and safety reasons.

Andrew Barton

SLINES OAK ROAD – ISLAND

Earlier this year it became apparent that the island was deteriorating fast and could become a safety hazard as well as an eyesore. We did of



The rebuilt Slines Oak Island - ready for planting

course speak to SCC. However mindful of our experience with Northdowns footpath, and being concerned that SCC's response to a safety threat may have been to tarmac it over, we decided again to take action ourselves. The reconstruction was completed in late October and we are now working on getting the re-planting done. It already looks much better and when planted will look very good.



PLANNING

The Regulations on 'permitted development' have continued to cause us concern. These were introduced on 1st October 2008. They relax the controls on what needs planning permission. Unfortunately, what now qualifies as permitted development also applies to the Green Belt. We have been seeing Green Belt developments that would not have been permitted if subject to traditional planning procedures. Moreover, applications for a 'certificate of lawfulness', which confirms that a proposed development is permitted, do not trigger notifications to neighbours. Tandridge Council asks us for our comments on applications

for certificates of lawfulness. However, the Council cannot take our views into account if the application meets the requirements for permitted development, as the criteria are meant to be completely objective. We are contacting other parish councils in Tandridge to find out whether they share our experience and concerns gathered over the first year of operation of the Regulations. If so, a joint approach may be warranted to a representative body such as the Local Government Association. We welcome your views.

We are keen to involve more local people in planning matters. We are very happy to be approached on general concerns or on individual

applications. Tandridge Council invites our comments on every application and we make a point of responding, even if just recording 'no objection'. Sometimes we ask the Council to include conditions if minded to approve an application.

Frank Myers



Flower tubs installed at
The Crescent by Woldingham
Parish Council

TANDRIDGE COUNCIL PLANNING WEBSITE

We are fortunate to have the use of a very efficient Tandridge Council planning website, <http://planning.tandridge.gov.uk/eaccess/sitemap.asp>, which has been much improved over the last year. Using this website, it could not be easier for any Woldingham resident to keep up to date generally with applications, or to make or comments on individual ones. Here is a brief description of what the website does:

- lists all applications made over any specified period;
- lists all applications pending decision over any specified period;
- lists all decisions made by Tandridge on applications over any specified period;
- gives the history of applications relating to an individual property;
- lists appeals to the Planning Inspectorate pending determination and determined
- lists cases where enforcement notices have been served.
- allows members of the public to lodge online comments on any current application.

The active search facility covers the period since 2000. There is also an archive section for the period 1948 – 1999. With each search result, a link is provided for viewing and printing key documents, such as plans, comments received, decisions made, etc. (but periodically these documents are cleared off the site).

We hope that, by making use of this website, more Woldingham residents will become actively engaged in planning matters and, where appropriate, will support the Woldingham Village Design Statement by making reference to it in their comments to Tandridge Council.

Frank Myers



HAVE YOUR SAY

It is time for the Parish Council to think about our 2010 budget and what we want to achieve. This led us to spend some time considering our major priorities and objectives. We obviously have some ideas but we certainly don't have a monopoly on them. Further, if we are to undertake 'bigger' things then we think more consultation would be appropriate. We are therefore drafting a discussion paper which identifies our objectives, what we have done, and possibilities for what we could do in the future. We would welcome your own views to help us produce this paper. Subject to sufficient interest we then intend to organise an informal event over a few glasses of wine at which we would invite residents to participate in a workshop on the discussion paper, with a view to trying to build a consensus on what our future objective and priorities should be. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating in such an event and if you have any specific projects you think we should consider. You can do so through any councillor or by registering and using the Parish Council topic in the discussion forum on woldingham.com.

FLEET OF FOOT – EVENTUALLY

In 2008 a resident suggested that the Parish Council get Northdowns footpath repaired. In particular the missing 150m at the end near Gangers Hill. We duly considered the matter and agreed it made sense. A site visit showed that once upon a time there was a path there, bits and pieces of Tarmac survived – but very little indeed. We contacted Surrey County Council, whose responsibility it is, and requested them to repair it. They declined. "No budgets, not a priority, etc etc". Further they observed that since there was no path there it wasn't a maintenance issue anyway! Sally Marks our SCC councillor continued to press our case. Eventually this led to an agreement that SCC could work this maintenance into their schedule of works. Result! However, when they came to carry it out, they

resurfaced the 1km from the Green up to Gangers Hill but NOT the missing 150m section we wanted done. In the end we decided that we would have to undertake and fund the work ourselves if it was going to happen. This started the process of getting permission from SCC to enable us to do the work, appointing a contractor and eventually the work being carried out in October, nearly 18 months after we got the suggestion. Thus turn the wheels of local government...



The rebuilt footpath alongside 2nd fairway North Downs G. C.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday December 11th (6 p.m.)
Christmas celebrations

2010

April 24th Litter Pick, Village Green 9.45 a.m.
Sept 25th Litter Pick, Village Green 9.45 a.m.

Parish Council meetings:

held on the last Thursday of each month except December.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall except for July and October when they are held in the Garden Village Peace Hall

Jan 28th*
Feb 25th
Mar 27th*
Apr 29th
May 27th*
June 24th
July 29th*
August 26th
September 30th*
October 28th
November 25th*

*preceded by Community Police Meeting (7pm)