



# NEWSLETTER

Woldingham Parish Council Newsletter, March 2023

[www.woldingham.com/parishcouncil](http://www.woldingham.com/parishcouncil)

## Your Parish Council Team:

### Councillors

Deborah Sherry, *Chairman*  
Carole North, *Vice-Chairman*  
Peter Hutchinson, *Finance Head*  
Peter Holbrook, *Planning Head*  
Alex Foulds  
Irina Hoble  
Kate Holmes  
Daniel Mann

### Council Staff

Karen Newman, *Parish Clerk*  
Terri Waghorn, *Planning Administrator*  
Julie Cornish, *Webmaster*

## Dates for your Diary:

- **WPC meetings**, last Wednesday monthly, except July/December, exceptional meetings publicised in advance on website
- **Annual Parish Meeting**, 14th April, 630pm, the Village Hall
- **The Council's Coronation Celebration**, 6 May 5pm-1130pm, on the Glebe
- **More Coronation Celebration**, 5-8th May, including the Big Lunch on Sunday (see back page)
- **The Glebe's Summer Picnic**, 2 July, details TBD
- **Woldingham Welcomes**, 30 September, 12-6pm, Woldingham Village Club
- **The Surrey Yeomanry Symphonic Wind Orchestra**, 10 November at the Village Hall - TBD
- **Christmas Carols in the Crescent**, 9th Dec. 630pm

## Stay in Touch:

Email: [parish.clerk@woldingham.com](mailto:parish.clerk@woldingham.com)  
News: [www.woldingham.com](http://www.woldingham.com)

## Letter from the Chairman

### Dear Woldingham Neighbours,

The last few years have certainly been a unique and challenging time in Woldingham Parish and in the nation.

With the pandemic hopefully long behind us, we now live in a world challenged by war and economic stress. And we all still mourn the loss of our longest serving monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, even as we welcomed with joy our new monarch, King Charles III. God Save the King.

Despite all the distractions, we have been hard at work as a Parish Council (WPC). We have worked hard on protecting the village and the greenbelt, while addressing other key priorities for the village.

### What are WPC priorities?

We comment on planning monthly, but every year brings different challenges. This year the WPC spent a great deal of time on crime and safety, as well as historic and community events.

We organised, along with many in the community, the final Jubilee of our dear, departed Queen Elizabeth II. And we are working on festivities for the coronation of King Charles III.

The Parish Council also responded to public consultations, mostly to do with planning and governance, as well as the Chalkpit Quarry consultation. We have been engaging with Biggin Hill Airport regarding flight paths and low flying planes. Vice-Chairman North has spent countless hours working to bring high-speed broadband to households in Woldingham which are underserved.

### Are you working with the police?

We meet regularly with the Police and are often joined by the Keeping Woldingham Safe and Neighbourhood Watch teams. We are briefed when there are specific criminal challenges so that we can share them with our community groups to cascade the

information. We also held a safety and security talk with the police in the village hall in January. Detailed information from this session and security recommendations are available at [woldingham.com](http://woldingham.com).

Every incident reported in Woldingham is prioritised with all crime across the District, according to the national crime prioritisation model, NDM (National Decision Model) and Thrive (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement).

In short, under-reporting crime results in less police attention than needed. Call 999 if: a serious offence is in progress or has just happened, someone is in immediate danger of harm, property is in danger of damage, or a serious disruption to the public is likely.

Report online or call 101 if you want to report a minor crime, such as: a stolen item, property damage, a civil dispute, suspected drug use or dealing, to share information about possible criminal activity in your area, antisocial behaviour, non-urgent enquiries.

### Automated Number Plate Recognition Cameras

To help catch criminals, the WPC purchased automated number plate recognition cameras (ANPRs) at a cost of £22,500. The cost would normally be prohibitive but we had excess reserves due to cancelled projects during the pandemic.

While we know ANPRs do not catch criminals in the act, they provide vital movement and vehicle recognition that help police to catch criminals. These cameras form part of the network of cameras across the County and region.



Information is shared between all police forces, enabling effective joint operations.

## How do ANPR cameras work?

As a vehicle passes an ANPR camera, its registration number is read and instantly checked against database records of vehicles of interest. Police officers can stop a vehicle, speak to the occupants and, where necessary, make arrests. The data is also useful in tracking routes criminals use. It forms part of the wider base of data that can later help lead to arrests.

## What are the current critical consultations?

### The District Ward Boundary Review

Our district representation is changing. Today Woldingham is a discrete ward with one elected Councillor - currently Carole North - representing our interests. After May 2024, we may be combined with other civil parishes into one larger ward that will together elect 3 District Councillors that represent us all.

Amongst other responsibilities, the district council determines planning.

The Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) is reviewing Tandridge District Council and its ward boundaries - the first such review in 26 years.

We are currently in consultation on ward needs and their proposed boundaries. Detailed feedback was submitted the 20th of March. It is critical that Woldingham continue to receive effective representation.

We will have further opportunity to comment on the LGBCE's proposed new wards in the next phase of consultation.

### Chalkpit Quarry Consultation

Southern Gravel Limited, owners of the Chalkpit Quarry on Chalkpit Lane, wish to close the quarry roughly 20 years before its license ends, provided that it is given permission to build a large housing estate in its place.

The parent company wishes to extract maximum value from the land. Notably, the ultimate parent is a developer.

As a reminder of the context, the quarry license expires in 20 years and under the terms of it, Southern Gravel must restore the land to its original countryside state.

The proposed housing estate, if built, would form part of the views from Woldingham and the AONB. It would also mean that hundreds of additional

cars would put pressure on our village roads as they drove through.



Southern Gravel Limited are currently working with Surrey County Council ("SCC"), as SCC have jurisdiction over minerals licenses.

It is unclear whether SCC also have jurisdiction to approve the full housing estate or whether, because it is a housing development proposal, Tandridge District Council must also be involved (although it is clear that the two Councils do not yet have a shared view).

At the moment, Southern Gravel are working on technical elements of the proposal so we are not yet at full housing proposal stage.

I have written to SCC to ensure that whatever the process, we are properly consulted on the proposed housing estate.

### National Planning Policy Consultation

The UK government has launched a consultation on changes to national planning policy. We input our feedback on the 2nd of March.

National Planning policy sets the stage for our work locally on protecting the greenbelt and ensuring development that does take place safeguards the unique beauty and tranquility of Woldingham.

And national policy can help or hinder depending upon how it is set.

For example, national housing targets were part of the existing policy until recently temporarily suspended, pending consultation. These targets were divided equally amongst, Counties and Districts nationally, irrespective of local conditions. So if a geographic area could not sustain more housing or could sustain even more than the target, this was not taken into account.

In the case of our District - Tandridge - we are 94% greenbelt. We are the district with the highest percentage of Greenbelt land in the nation. And it is no wonder that TDC struggle to meet such targets.

### Deborah Sherry

*Chairman, Woldingham Parish Council*

## Your Money at Work

Every year Woldingham Parish Council collect a precept from our residents from the Council Tax payments they make to Tandridge District Council.

From this precept the WPC pays the salaries of two part-time employees, a parish clerk and a planning administrator. There are other routine running costs such as maintenance of the Parish website, rent for rooms to hold our meetings, which are open to the public, production and distribution of this Parish Newsletter and payments for winter road gritting on the village roads not serviced by Surrey County Council.

All of these allow the WPC to operate. Our Parish Councillors are unpaid and all contribute to the other activities that the Council support.

The WPC budget year runs from April to March of the following year. This is the same for all local and national government bodies.

So let's take a look at the current year April 2022 to March 2023 to get a flavour of how we directly support the community.

### How do we invest in our community?

The annual precept for 2022/23 is £46k and running costs are estimated to be £29k. This leaves £17k this year to support other activities, which take a number of forms.

**Grants** – where we directly support local clubs or organisations that operate for the benefit of the village.

**Events** – where we finance events for all village residents.

**Assets** – where we buy items which will have lasting value to the community and be re-used on several occasions.

### Which Organisations are receiving grants this financial year?

**The Village Pantomime.** For 74 years, we have had pantomime performed at Christmas in the Village Hall. These have always been well attended and the revenue from ticket sales and refreshments has covered the costs of the production.

However, the Christmas 2021/22 panto ticket sales were negatively



© Chris Mikami The Little Mermaid

impacted by the covid pandemic and the financial loss sustained jeopardised the ability of the panto team to stage Rapunzel in 2022/23.

The Parish Council underwrote that loss to ensure the continuation of this important village tradition. In 2022/23, Rapunzel was a great success and all costs were covered.

**Woldingham Horticultural Society.** Every year the Horticultural Society undertakes planting and maintenance around the village, in addition to annual competitions, lectures and plant sales.

The Horticultural society are another essential ingredient of village life and the WPC make a small annual contribution to it for plants and trees to support village beautification.

**Woldingham Cricket Club.** For many years cricket has been played on the Glebe. The club had an urgent need to renovate its over 15-year old practice nets which were dangerous to players. The Parish Council made a grant to part fund the renovation, and the cricket club funded the balance.

**St Agatha's Churchyard.** All residents of the village have a right to be buried at St Agatha's Churchyard and the Parish Council makes an annual grant to the Parochial Church Council to meet part of the costs of upkeep of the Churchyard.

**Woldingham Neighbourhood Watch.** Our local Neighbourhood Watch provides information to residents on crime prevention and safety. The WPC made a small grant to the group to cover administration costs in recognition of the valuable service they give to our community.

**Keeping Woldingham Safe.** Similarly, KWS provide invaluable communication services and education to the village on crime prevention and safety. The WPC gave a small grant to KWS their administration costs.

The Council has an annual budget of £8k to cover grants and details of how to apply can be found on the Parish website, Woldingham.com.

## What events do we support?

**The Platinum Jubilee.** Who can forget the fantastic range of events organised to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our dear late Queen Elizabeth II. These ranged from the Beacon Lighting, the establishment of the Jubilee walking route, the car show, the dog show, the picnic lunch, live music, and much more. It really brought the community together in celebration. The WPC supported these events at a cost of some £16k in total.



© Marie-Ange Bouchard

**Carols in the Crescent.** Every year the WPC organise and fund our community carols event.

## What have we bought?

This year we have bought replacement sign boards to advertise village events.

These were made for us by a Ukrainian tradesman new to the area and will last many years. In the previous fiscal year we purchased a part share in the new grit and salt spreader (along with Tatsfield PC and Church Farm Services) and although it wasn't needed during winter 2021/2, it has seen much active service this winter.

## Is the budget balanced?

The total budget for all our activities this year will actually exceed the precept revenue by some £10k. We are in the fortunate position of having reserves available from earlier years which we have used to cover the shortfall.

## Will we raise the Precept?

Although there will be exceptional costs in the upcoming year, such as the Coronation celebrations, we have decided to maintain the level of precept for 2023/4 at the same level as 2022/3, with any excess costs covered by transfers from reserves.

For more detail on the budget and our expenditure, you will find all of our accounts posted on woldingham.com.

# We Need You



## Parish Council Vacancies

The Woldingham Parish Council have one vacancy. We are a 9-seat Council with 8 roles currently filled. New Councillors can be co-opted at any time and we welcome volunteers.

## Speedwatch

Speedwatch is a Parish Council run initiative. Volunteers work in teams with speed guns to check the speed of passing cars and the police send a notice to those caught speeding. Speedwatch volunteers are trained by the police, and post-pandemic, training

is back. We would like to resume Speedwatch. Please reach out if you are willing to volunteer.

## Coronation Events

We need volunteers for the Coronation weekend festivities - to help plan, to work as stewards, to litter pick before and after the event, to organise charity work for The Big Help Out on Monday, the 8th of May.

**To learn more about the Council or to volunteer, please contact Karen Newman, Parish Clerk – [parish.clerk@woldingham.com](mailto:parish.clerk@woldingham.com)**

## The Village Litter Pick

At the autumn litter pick on November 12th, we had more than fifty people working with us. The WPC provide all the tools for the litter pick.

This twice-yearly community effort, in addition to the regular efforts of our litter angels, ensures the streets and common areas of the village are cleared of any rubbish. It is also a great way for residents of all ages to meet each other



and enjoy lovely teas, coffees, hot chocolates and homemade cakes.

## Community Spirit and Celebration

Your WPC hosts, plans and supports a wide variety of village events. Every year we fund and organise **Carols in the Crescent**. We regularly support the Village Picnic and we organise and support ad hoc events.

### The Platinum Jubilee

Last year we ran events for the Platinum Jubilee and funded facilities for community events across the Platinum Jubilee weekend.

To mark her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, the 70th and final year of her reign, Woldingham came together to deliver an incredible tribute and celebration across every day of the long weekend. In fact, we were the only community in Surrey to hold events every day of the weekend.

The festivities began on the Friday with tennis club events and finished with the Council's tribute - including piper, trumpeter, beacon lighting, the North Downs Consort and a party with rock band Randy and the Rockets.

On the Saturday, the Scout's opened the Woldingham Jubilee boundary path. Then the Woldingham Association sponsored the traditional village photo, followed by Horticultural and Local Artists shows. The North Downs Consort capped off the day with their summer concert.

On the Sunday, the Big Jubilee Lunch took place. It included a classic car show and a dog show, accompanied by rock and indie band Parallel Sky.

### The Coronation Celebration

For the next budget year, we are organising the Coronation Celebration, with events once again taking place across four days.

## Woldingham Celebrates the Coronation, 5-8th May

### Calendar of Events to Date:

**May 5 Woldingham Players** perform "The Fat Lady Sings in Little Woldie", afternoon and eve at the Village Club.

### May 6 The Council's Coronation Celebration

**5PM Food and Drink** (Bar, southeast Asian bao buns, hog roast, spit roast chicken, giant sausage baps, vegan sausages, roast potatoes and gravy)

**530-8pm Barn Dance** Moves Afoot band and caller

**9pm-1130 Rock and Indie Band** Parallel Sky

**May 7 Thanksgiving Eucharist**  
**10am for the Coronation**  
**St Paul's Church**

**1130am Woldingham Association**  
**Treasure Hunt**

**1230pm The Big Lunch**  
*Bring a picnic, large marquee available for shelter; burgers, bar and soft drinks, ice cream; Brass band, 2-4pm*

**May 8 The Big Help Out**  
*details to follow*

**History Society exhibition on the Village Green throughout the weekend: The Royal Beasts and King Charles III portrait**

## Snow Clearing and Grit Spreading

Every year the WPC procure grit to ensure our roads are safe in winter.

Surrey Highways only grit publicly adopted highways: Halliloo Valley Road, Lunghurst Road, Northdown Road, Slines Oak Road, Station Road, The Ridge, and Woldingham Road. Your Parish Council grits all other roads.

We contract with our local farmer, Church Farm Services, to plough and grit our roads as needed. We store the grit at Warren Barn Farm and move it to Surrey County Council premises every spring for off-season storage.

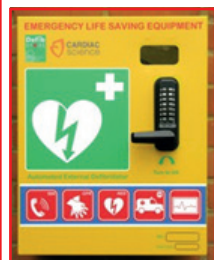
We watch the weather forecast and Surrey Highways activity to determine when to grit. Weather is hard to predict accurately, but if grit is spread too soon it may simply be washed away by rain or if too late, our residents will have difficulty driving.

In the winter season, we inspect the roads regularly to ensure all roads have been gritted. If you ever spot problems, please be sure to contact parish.clerk@woldingham.com.

## Ukrainian Refugees

As you may recall, residents in Woldingham hosted many Ukrainian refugees in their homes. Much of this was coordinated by local resident Claire Dunn. Many people now have jobs in the wider area and children in local schools and are looking for permanent homes.

Flats in the area are urgently needed, so if you own a flat anywhere in the commutable vicinity and would be willing to rent to a Ukrainian refugee and their family, please get in touch with Claire at dunnorris@gmail.com.



**Public Life Saving Equipment.** As a reminder, your Parish Council maintain two defibrillators in Woldingham. They are located, lit and clearly visible, outside the main entrances to:

- ❖ Woldingham Village Hall (left-hand wall adjacent to main entrance)
- ❖ Garden Village Peace Hall (on the front wall)

You need to have your phone to hand to call 999. The defibrillator is easy to use; no training is required. After pressing one button, it talks the user through the operating sequence with a series of voice prompts. If you have a special training need, please contact: Karen Newman at parish.clerk@woldingham.com.

The Cricket Club also provide a portable defibrillator at matches and this equipment is available for loan as well.

