



EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S HALF-YEAR REPORT OCTOBER 2010

Your Parish Council exists to represent and work in the interests of everyone in Effingham. To be effective we need to tell you what we are doing and to seek your views and at times your help and participation. Hence, we are introducing this half-year report, which we hope you will find of interest.

Effingham on the Web!

Effingham Parish Council now has its own website, with links to a variety of local organisations and information. You can check who represents you on the Council and how to contact them, dates of Council meetings, how and where to report problems; you can check Council decisions on a variety of subjects, research local footpaths and find news of local events. We hope that anyone organising public or local group events will use the Diary to widen the publicity given to activities. The website, which is hosted by surreycommunity, can be accessed at <http://www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

We are pleased that the local history item in the Chairman's report earlier this year has resulted in a flourishing Effingham Local History Group, and you will find a link to their pages on the website.

Effingham Parish Council

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Advertisements /

- "A Celebration of Effingham Common" on Sunday September 26th — see poster
- Effingham Fireworks Display on Saturday October 30th — see Diary

Welcome to our website

We want to help you better understand what the Parish Council is, how it works, and what it does in the village. We also hope it will be a useful point of contact for residents who want to keep in touch with each other.

On this site you can

- find out who your parish councillors are, and how to contact them
- look up the decisions that the Parish Council has made about different topics
- locate contact numbers for reporting problems, for instance potholes
- research where your local footpaths and bridleways are
- pick up news of forthcoming village events
- add yourself to the community email group
- read about the activities of the local history group

Spread your own community news

You will also find on the web-site a link to a safe Effingham community email group that is hosted by our Neighbourhood Police Team. The police host it to improve community awareness and they send out alerts from time to time or requests for information. Very usefully, however, it is a way of sending out more general community messages potentially to all Effingham residents – for instance, about your forthcoming fund-raising event. The more people sign up, the more use it is for us all. Anyone can join but be assured that you will not be inundated with emails. To read more about how it works and / or to join, go to the above web-site.

Have your say

Effingham Parish Council has been discussing how the Police and the Parish Council can avoid duplication of effort and at the same time improve connection with residents. Up to now the Police have held quarterly Neighbourhood Panel meetings at the King George V Hall but these have often been poorly attended. We have agreed to hold short more closely targeted meetings just immediately before the monthly Parish Council meetings. Special invitations will be sent in advance to individual roads / groups of roads in Effingham inviting residents to attend and discuss any concerns or issues, and we hope you might like to stay on for some or all of the Parish Council meeting afterwards. In one evening, on one spot, potentially* you have access to the Police, Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor and County Councillor. The meetings are of course open to **all** Effingham residents should you have an urgent need to raise a particular issue.

* always remembering that illness, unexpected events etc can strike at short notice and call people away

Forward planning

Ten years ago as a millennium project a residents' group produced *A view of the village at the turn of the 20th Century*. With wide consultation throughout the village, the report described Effingham's past; people, households and employment; housing need in the village; education; services; information and communication; environment; transport and highways; and leisure and recreation. In its conclusions the report questioned the impact of, for instance, an ever increasing local population and more vehicles on the road. It recognised the beauty and tranquillity but fragility of our environment and was concerned that this could become "just a memory".

Your Parish Council believes it is time to reflect on what has changed since 2000 for better or worse, and to re-consider our vision and values for the future of our village. This will be a long job and we do not plan to rush it. We will send more news.

Parish Council Budget 2011-2012

During the autumn we need to think about budgetary needs for April 2011 to March 2012. At this time of severe financial constraint on the public purse, we shall of course be very careful in setting next year's budget. Hence, we would welcome your views on where the money should be spent. Have your say!

Home Farm Estate

Your Council has been very active, working with our Borough Councillor to persuade Borough Council officers to resolve a number of issues relating to the Borough-owned areas of the Home Farm Estate. We are pleased that residents living on Calvert and Chester Roads are working closely with us and with the Protection of Home Farm Coordinating Committee to achieve environmental improvements to the Home Farm area. There has been some success, for example achieving a normal refuse and litter collection service for the residents at long last, but work continues to get the Borough to act on its responsibilities for the roads and general amenity of the area.

Station and rail user group

The state of Effingham Junction station* is of great concern. There are proposals to establish a local group to tackle the various 'powers that be' and try to improve matters. If anyone would like to represent the Parish Council on the group please do get in touch.

*Effingham Junction station is actually over the boundary, in the parish of East Horsley

“Sprucing up” Effingham village

We are very fortunate to live in such a pleasant village in the Surrey hills. But can we make more of our village? Are the public spaces as well cared for as we would like? Even before these times of severe financial constraints your Parish Council, Guildford Borough and Surrey County Councils have had very limited resources to support what are largely cosmetic improvements. We feel making some improvements is now long overdue, but that we can crack this by working together as a community.

The Parish Council is proposing an initiative to “spruce up” parts of the village that currently do not do justice to our village landscape. For example, in The Street, just opposite the Methodist Church and entrance to the Parish Room, there is an area where the grass is backed by brambles and other self-seeded species that detract from what could be an attractive corner. In another location, I see a tree has sent suckers up from the base of the trunk which is now a vigorous bush, making visibility very difficult for cars in that area (see photo). Elsewhere generally, street footways (pavements) have narrowed, either from encroaching hedges and overhanging trees, or from vegetation at ground level.

Firstly, we would like to hear of any areas within the Parish of Effingham that you think could be “spruced up” to further enrich our village, with ideas about what might be done to achieve improvements. Of course there is no restriction on ideas, so requests for larger projects are welcome, accepting that the larger the works the more difficult it may be to achieve in the short term. Once we know what wants be done, we will come back to you with our ideas for achieving this. For ideas (and of course any offers of help) please contact Sue Morris, our Parish Clerk at the address given on this report.

MAP YOUR GROUSE!

**All residents are warmly invited to
a social evening
in the KGV Hall, Browns Lane at
7.30 pm on Tuesday 23 November**

**We will have large plans of the
village and coloured pins.
Come and stick them in the sites
that call out to you for a tidy-up,
and help us map out our campaign.
If you like, bring photographs or
descriptions which locate exactly
what / where you mean. The more
pins, the higher priority the site in
our forward programme (but we
will aim to tackle them all).**

*An early mince-pie and a seasonal glass
for all who come*



Effingham Commoners Day 26 September 2010

I am writing this before the event, and we are all hoping for a most enjoyable day (please let the weather be good-ish!). It is always tricky running an event for the first time and doubtless there will be some teething problems. The Parish Council, The Friends of Effingham Common and of course the Borough Council have all contributed according to their special talents and capacities. Afterwards, we will be collecting comments very carefully – please do get in touch to tell us what you thought. However, whatever the outcome on the day itself, and setting aside all the hoped-for benefits of a happy village occasion, exercise of important rights, Sunday fresh air for families etc, you might like to know that this project has provided excellent value for money. Even before it has taken place the project has *already* generated the following benefits:

- Much better shared knowledge of property and commoners' rights which will ensure the Common can be managed and used wisely in the future
- More members for The Friends of Effingham Common, a key volunteer group absolutely essential for the continued 'well-being' of the Common
- Clarification of existing Rights of Way issues on the Common leading to more, and more accessible, routes
- A fund-raising opportunity for some local and some larger charities: Effingham's Cricket Club, Scouts and First Responders; the Army Benevolent Fund, children's orphanages in Kenya
- Formation of the Effingham Local History Group, which (since only mid-April) has researched and collected an enormous amount of information about the Common. Some of this is already published (web-site) and much more will soon be in print for all to share
- Greater awareness of the Common's ecology and history by local schools and hence Effingham families
- Discovery of the individuals who set up the Parish Council web-site
- The website!

How much has this project cost the Effingham Parish Council precept (*ie you*)? Incredibly, about £150. See what we can do when we try.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arnold Reid", with a horizontal line underneath.

Contact the Parish Council

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