

Effingham Parish Council



EFFINGHAM

Chairman's Autumn Report 2018-2019

VACANCY for Parish Councillor - There is a vacancy on the Parish Council and we invite anyone interested in being co-opted as Councillor for the period to May 2019 to contact the Parish Clerk, Jon Short.

VACANCY for EVRT Trustee – There is a vacancy for a Trustee for EVRT, the charity which runs the King George V Hall and Fields. If interested please contact the Parish Clerk, Jon Short.

Commoners Day: 12.00 – 16.00 Sunday 30th September on Effingham Common

This is an important day in the village calendar when we exercise rights which continue to protect the Common. There will be games and attractions for all ages and The Mayor of Guildford Cllr. Mike Parsons will be in attendance.

All change at the Parish Council

I should like to start by thanking Arnold Pindar for his excellent service to Effingham as parish council Chairman. Arnold stood down at our Annual meeting in May, though happily he remains a parish councillor. He was Chairman for nine successful years during a period of great change for local councils with the Localism Act which led to Effingham developing its own Neighbourhood Plan. Arnold steered the Parish Council ably through the difficult and controversial topic of the Berkeley Homes planning application and appeal which was in the end decided by the Secretary of State. Arnold was a very popular, hardworking and approachable Chairman. He will be a hard act to follow.

We say goodbye to David Martland who is moving to Inverness. David has been a very diligent parish councillor and he will be missed.

At the May meeting I (Ian Symes) was elected Chairman and Paula Moss was elected Vice Chairman.

King George V Hall and Fields (KGV)

The Parish Council welcomes the recent improvement works at the KGV, which is managed by the charity Effingham Village Recreation Trust (EVRT). We are pleased to have been able to assist towards some of these improvements with contributions from the Community Fund, for example the new play-tower in the small children's playground, the new flooring in the Village Room (used by EPFA Village Club in the evenings and available to others during the day), and the rebuilding of the steps at the eastern pedestrian gate from Guildford Road.

One silver lining from the Berkeley Homes / Howard School decision is that £2.645 million will be paid by Berkeley Homes towards rebuilding the KGV Hall, under a 'Section 106' legal agreement which provides for increased community facilities to enable the village to cope with 295 extra

Jon Short – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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homes. The KGV Hall is 50 years old and increasingly hard to maintain. The Parish Council is discussing with the EVRT Trustees how we can assist them with the redevelopment project.

Local volunteers have raised the incredible amount of over £30,000 towards the cost of enlarging and refurbishing the small children's playground at the KGV. We applaud their community spirit. There is still time to contribute if you haven't done so far: see the KGV Playground Appeal Facebook page, or ask the KGV Manager for details.

Under the EVRT Charity Scheme, the Parish Council is responsible for appointing 4 of the 7 EVRT Trustees. Three of those Trustees have recently retired, and I would like to thank Gill Bowerman, Liz Hogger and Chris Hogger for their many years of outstanding voluntary service to the charity.

Volunteering

Volunteering can make a difference to the lives of those around you and can also give you a new set of friends. We are asking for volunteers in two areas:

1. As a Trustee for EVRT, the charity which runs the King George V Hall and Fields.
2. To become a parish councillor. With David Martland moving to Scotland we have a vacancy on the parish council.

If you are interested in either or both roles please contact Jon Short, Parish Clerk.

Howard of Effingham / Berkeley Homes

Many of us were deeply disappointed by the decision of the Secretary of State to agree with the Planning Inspector's recommendation and allow the appeal by Berkeley Homes / Howard of Effingham School. This permits a new expanded school to be built on land at Effingham Lodge Farm, paid for by 295 new homes on Effingham's green belt. However the Parish Council's duty now is to make sure that our community gets the best possible outcome from this development, including good design and appropriate highways works. To that end parish councillors are participating in a liaison group with Berkeley Homes/The Howard, co-ordinated by our borough councillor Liz Hogger, and including representatives from Effingham Residents Association. We all aim to make sure that residents' views are taken into account.

At present we expect the detailed (reserved matters) application for the new school to be submitted by the end of September this year, with a target opening date for the new school of September 2020. The housing on Effingham Lodge Farm is expected to be commenced in the same timescale, with the homes on Browns Field being started once the new school playing fields are available for community use, e.g. for the rugby club 'minis'.

Parish Council Services

The parish council precept which is added to your council tax bill allows us to provide various services to Effingham residents, ranging from the allotments and burial ground, funding recreational facilities including playgrounds at the KGV Hall and Fields, preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and providing grants from the Community Fund for projects benefiting local residents. In April this year we circulated a summary with the Chairman's report which set out how the precept will be spent in the 2018/19 financial year (see website: effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk 'Village Newsletters' link), explaining that the average cost per household for parish council services is about £92 per year (£70 for a Band D Property).

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Next year we want to carry out a full consultation with residents about what services you want from the parish council, so that we can meet residents' aspirations for Effingham. We would welcome any thoughts you have at this point. Please let us know if there are any other parish council services we should be providing from the precept, so we can include questions about these in the consultation.

Effingham Neighbourhood Plan (ENP)

The policies in the ENP are now being used by Guildford Borough Council in determining planning applications. In recent planning decisions a number of ENP policies have been cited as reasons for objection or imposing conditions on a planning approval. Developers and householders considering planning applications in Effingham should have consideration for the policies in the ENP.

Former Wisley Airfield Planning Appeal

The Wisley Planning Appeal was dismissed by the Secretary of State. It was dismissed for a number of reasons, the most important being: impact on highways and local roads, impact of the development on the character, setting and landscape of the area, and that the prospective development, being so dependent on the car, did not constitute sustainable development.

The site is still proposed for development in the GBC Local Plan but given this judgement the developer has some significant issues to overcome before planning permission can be given.

Local Plans Guildford and Mole Valley

At the recent Guildford Borough Council Leader's meeting held in Effingham, Council Leader Paul Spooner reported that the Inspector evaluating the Local Plan had recommended several changes. Whilst finding the plan basically sound the Inspector has made it clear that he expects these changes to include a substantial increase in housing provision over the plan period and that the increased housing numbers should contain an allocation to allow for a proportion of Woking Borough Council's unmet housing need. The Local Plan is now in the hands of the Inspector and his powers in this situation are such that he can override the wishes of the borough council and its elected representatives. The Parish Council is working with our borough councillor Liz Hogger to monitor the situation here in Effingham so that we do not find ourselves with more development sites.

As a formal consultee the Parish Council is keeping an eye on the Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) Local Plan process which is underway. MVDC has adopted the 'Expansion of Villages' approach as one of their policies for meeting their housing target and we are aware of potential sites selected for development in The Bookhams. We are monitoring the situation as we are concerned about possible developments on green belt on our border with the Bookhams. We shall be making comments to this effect during the forthcoming public consultation scheduled for early 2019.

Village Newsletter

Cllr Cliff Hackett is leading our efforts to establish a community magazine for Effingham and the surrounding area. Groups throughout the village have been providing content for the magazine and initial approaches to potential advertisers are underway. Cliff would like to widen community participation in producing the first issue and is seeking your help. He would particularly like to hear from anyone with experience of setting up a "not-for-profit" organisation. Additionally if you have: ideas about what you think the magazine should cover, are running events you would like listed, want to advertise, are prepared to help with distribution or perhaps would like to write an article then please contact Cliff on 01372 459113.

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Conservation Area Appraisal

Cllr Alison Mayell is leading an initiative on behalf of the Parish Council to get Guildford Borough Council (GBC) to undertake a Conservation Area Appraisal. GBC have agreed to make the Effingham Conservation Area Appraisal its priority due to recent planning decisions and the clear pressure for development in and around the village which threatens our treasured heritage.

What is it and why does it matter? Much of Effingham village is designated a Conservation Area, an area recognised by Guildford Borough Council as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.

Without a Conservation Area Appraisal there is no formal document that explicitly explains why Effingham’s architectural history, character and appearance are important. A Conservation Area Appraisal sets this out in black and white – the important buildings, listed and non-listed, the important green spaces, views, trees, materials and everything that contributes to the special architectural and historic interest of Effingham. The production of this document is vital for the village, as it will be used by the Local Authority to make decisions on applications either within the Conservation Area or those that may affect its setting. Guildford Borough Council have agreed to start this process in September 2018.

Locating Problem Areas in Effingham

The Parish Council would like to identify problem locations on public thoroughfares in Effingham. Such as a near miss when walking when a lorry speeds past, poor signage or over grown vegetation affecting the footpaths and pavements. Please contact the Clerk if you have noticed any problem areas and we will take them up with landowners or the authorities – Clerk’s details below.

Community Fund

We welcome applications to the Effingham Parish Council Community Fund from organisations situated in Effingham and supporting local residents. In the first instance please contact the Clerk for an application form.



Ian Symes,

Chairman, Effingham Parish Council

Clerk and Parish Councillors

Cllr Ian Symes, Chairman	Cllr Tony Jones
Cllr Paula Moss, Vice Chairman	Cllr Alison Mayell
Cllr Keith Cornwell	Cllr James Nicholls
Cllr Cliff Hackett	Cllr Arnold Pindar
Cllr Liz Hogger (also Borough Councillor)	Councillor Vacancy
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Jon Short; telephone: 01372 454911; email: clerk2010@effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk ; See also web site: effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	

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