



**EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**2006-7**

It seems a strange turn of fate to find oneself in the position of writing the annual Chairman's Report for the Parish Council since retiring after 50 years as Clerk.

This is an election year with voting in May. At the last election, Effingham had the highest percentage turnout of voters in the villages of Guildford Borough – let's see if we can take the lead again! Following the election your newly elected Parish Council will be in place. My thanks therefore go to my fellow Councillors without whose hard work and support the Parish Council would not function, and special thanks to Jessica Page and Michael Bray who are not seeking re-election. Mrs Page has served the village over many years as Parish Councillor and Chairman, as well as Rural District Councillor. She has been an ardent campaigner for the village on many issues for which we are all very grateful. In all the thanks not forgetting our Clerk, Sue Morris, for her dedicated service to the village.

It has been a busy year and here briefly are the main topics that have exercised our minds.

### **Planning**

Apart from the usual round of extensions and modifications there have been two major issues. Vacated by the nuns, the Convent on Lower Road, a Lutyens house worthy of preservation, has been purchased by a development company who have been given consent to convert the main house and build 6 units in the grounds. The second major project is a proposal by St Teresa's School to relocate their preparatory school, currently at Grove House, to their Effingham Hill site and develop Grove House by conversion of the house into flats and build housing in the grounds. Negotiations on the matter are ongoing.

### **Highways**

Hopefully by the time this report is circulated, the 30mph speed limit for Beech Avenue will be in place, and a cycle way along the bridleways connecting Ockham Road South in East Horsley through woodland to Orestan Lane in Effingham will be ready for use. The latter is a result of co-operation between the Parish Councils of Effingham and East Horsley, the County and Borough Councils, and the cycling charity Sustrans.

The Council has been discussing with the Police and interested parties the problem of parking in the village on Sunday mornings when there is a large influx of sports folk to the Playing Fields. Suggestions have been made which we hope will alleviate the problem. Finally on highways, the Council receives many complaints regarding the state of the paths and verges and so could we encourage your neighbourly instincts? If you have a hedge bordering a footway or a road it is of course your responsibility to keep it trimmed back inside your boundary. Please do not dump green waste in the hedges and verges, and if you go horse-riding, use only the bridleways and leave the footpaths for the walkers.



### **Effingham Common**

There has been much discussion as to the use of the Common following adoption by the Borough Council of a policy of reserving special protected areas for ground-nesting birds and therefore identifying other areas for dog-walkers. Effingham Common is one of the areas put forward for improvement for use by dog-walkers. The Borough owns the bulk of the Common whilst the Parish Council owns two small areas, one of which is used by the Cricket Club. The Parish Council has reservations regarding the Borough policy and discussions are on-going.

### **Burial Ground**

This year has seen the consecration of the back of the Council-owned cemetery by the Bishop of Guildford. The burial area is becoming full and we are anxiously looking to extend it in the not too distant future.

### **King George V Playing Fields**

The Committee of Management continues to refurbish the Hall and maintain the Fields whilst balancing the books. It is our greatest asset and needs our wholehearted use and support.

### **Allotments**

The allotments are fully used and generally well-maintained. The fencing to the western boundary was renewed this year.

### **Smith's Charity**

The Parish Council has set up a group of Trustees to manage this charity.

### **Parish Room**

A reminder that the Parish Room is open on Mondays and Tuesdays, 11:00 – 13:00. Our Clerk will be pleased to see you, show you plans of current planning applications and, within the powers of the Parish Council, deal with any problems you may have.

### **Village Day**

Again with the support of the Rotary Club, a village day will be held on the King George V Playing Fields on **Saturday 7 July**. This is your day; your ideas and suggestions would be welcomed and the organisers pleased to hear from you – see the contact details overleaf.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

This is your forum to discuss anything you like (within reason) with the Chairman. This year it is at **8pm on Tuesday 10 April at the King George V Hall**, Brown's Lane. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Edward Crouch MBE  
Chairman, Effingham Parish Council*

## **Effingham Parish Council**

c/o The Clerk

The Parish Room, 3 Home Barn Court, The Street, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5LG  
Tel / fax 01372 454911.

The full list of Effingham's ten Parish Councillors, along with the Borough Councillor and the County Councillor, is on the noticeboard by the Post Office. Details of the election procedure will be posted there as prescribed.

## **Village Day**

For information about stalls, displays etc, please contact John Miles on 01483 222739.

## **KGV Hall**

To book the hall, contact the Manager, Cheryl Warren, on 01372 451925.

## **Police Community Support Officer**

Effingham's PCSO, Gregor Culross, is co-ordinating efforts to alleviate parking congestion in the village centre. For this, or other local policing matters, he can be contacted via the number for Surrey Police, 0845 125 2222.

## **Smith's Charity**

For further information or to make an application, you can contact the Trustees in confidence via the Parish Council's address as above.

## **Highways defects**

To report highways defects or highways maintenance problems such as potholes, blocked drains, street lamp problems, damage to footways (pavements), overhanging vegetation, blockage of footpaths and bridleways etc:  
telephone Surrey County Council contact centre on 08456 009009  
or e-mail [contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk)  
or send a report via the form on the web-site at [surreycc.gov.uk](http://surreycc.gov.uk).

## **Cleansing and waste**

To report problems with street cleaning (litter or sweeping of gutters), collection of household waste, flytipping, abandoned vehicles etc:  
telephone Guildford Borough Council cleansing hotline on 01483 444499.

## **Rights of Way**

You can look up the exact routes of Effingham's public footpaths and bridleways in the Roads and Transport section of Surrey County Council's web-site (address above). You need the Surrey Interactive Map; footpaths and bridleways are under 'Other Searches' on the map's menu. Alternatively there is a map in the Parish Room.