



EFFINGHAM

EFFINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 12th April, 8 pm

King George V Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham

Open to all village residents

www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

This has been another very busy year for your Parish Council with further progress made on the development of our Neighbourhood Plan, and a recent decision on the planning application submitted by Berkeley Homes/Howard of Effingham School, along with our many regular activities. I sincerely thank all Councillors and those villagers that have worked so hard with us during the year, ensuring that all matters have been fully investigated and decisions taken on sound evidence. Thanks also to everyone who has responded to our informal consultations and meetings on the Neighbourhood Plan. In the coming year you will be formally asked to comment on our emerging Neighbourhood Plan and also on a revised Guildford Borough Local Plan. **Please give time to respond to both consultations.** We need your views in order to make sure both plans meet the needs of Effingham residents.

Council Election

Council elections took place in May 2015. We welcomed Cliff Hackett to the Council and the return of Keith Cornwell and James Nicholls. I am delighted that we have a very strong, committed and diverse Effingham Parish Council to work for the village for the next four years. (For the full list of Councillors see over-page.)

Neighbourhood Plan

I am delighted to report great progress on the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. We began the year by hosting a series of public meetings and events to give every resident the opportunity to input to the development of the plan. By late summer, following events in March, May, and June the key elements began to emerge. You told us that you want smaller, more affordable homes in the village, but not so many that it would endanger the unique and beautiful character of our environment. We have worked hard in consultation with residents to identify potential sites for residential development that balance the need for those homes with the heartfelt desire and commitment to safeguard our heritage.

We set up the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (ENPAG), a team of parish councillors and volunteers chaired by Paula Moss, to direct the Neighbourhood Plan process, and working groups have developed policies covering Housing, the Environment, Heritage and Village Character, Landscape, Community facilities, Roads and cycle ways, and the Local Economy. These ideas have been open for consideration by all residents in a series of Workshops and 'Drop in' sessions held over the last few weeks.

We have also consulted extensively to ensure that the draft Neighbourhood Plan will meet the very strict criteria required for a legitimate Plan in a Green Belt area. Meetings with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Natural England, and the Planning Team at Guildford Borough Council, as well as a 'health check' by an expert Examiner, have all helped to shape and improve the draft Plan.

Following publication of the new draft Guildford Local Plan, we will review the draft Neighbourhood Plan before launching a final version for consultation with every household in Effingham. This is YOUR plan, and we hope everyone will take the opportunity to tell us if we are getting it right. We absolutely guarantee that NO plan will go forward without the support of residents. We want to deliver the best possible Neighbourhood Plan for the village, for all residents both now and in the future.



Berkeley Homes / Howard of Effingham

On 9th March 2016 Guildford Borough Council's Planning Committee refused the controversial Berkeley Homes planning application for 295 homes plus a replacement secondary school for the Howard of Effingham. The application was refused for an almost unprecedented eleven planning reasons. Members from Effingham Parish Council, ENPAG and EFFRA all spoke on behalf of residents to oppose the application. Effingham's Borough



Councillor, Liz Hogger, spoke with great skill to summarise why the application should be refused, winning the support of fellow planning councillors who voted unanimously (with one abstention) to reject the proposals.

The Howard of Effingham School has been part of our village for over 75 years, and we are pleased that it is an outstanding school. We want to be able to support it. An application to improve the school facilities on an appropriate site, with some extra houses to meet the needs of our community, would probably receive local support. Unfortunately that wasn't on offer. For further information go to www.effinghamvillageplan.com.

Guildford Borough Council Local Plan

At time of writing we are expecting a first sight of the "substantially revised" draft Guildford Local Plan in early April. A public consultation on the Plan is expected in June/July. We are optimistic that we shall receive nothing like the shock we had when the previous Local Plan was published in 2014. Only time will tell but it appears that the Borough Council has listened to the representations made by the villages and that a more reasonable draft will be proposed. Your Parish Council will scrutinise the new draft Local Plan very carefully, and will ensure that you are made aware of our opinions before the consultation deadline.

Financial

Households will recently have received details of payments required for Council Tax 2016-2017. Looking at the detail you will see a substantial reduction in the percentage of tax that will go to Effingham Parish Council (the Precept). You may remember that last year we made a substantial increase in the Precept to create a fund that is ring-fenced for any legal or technical actions that could be required due to the Berkeley Homes planning application and/or the Guildford Local Plan. That fund is being held in case it is still needed, but there was no reason to maintain the Precept at this exceptional level for a further year. Hence, it has been brought back to be more in line with the previous year's Precept, allowing for a small increase in costs.

Community Fund

We are pleased to report that during the year funds have been provided for audio/visual equipment at the King George V Hall, to refurbish the KGV clubroom and for St Lawrence Church Hall. Display boards were provided to the Effingham Local History Group, new notice boards provided for the burial ground and allotments, and signage at KGV. In addition a new burial ground bench and salt bins have been purchased. Effingham organisations can apply at any time for support from the Community Fund. Further information is available on the website www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/community-fund/ or from the Parish Clerk.

Arnold Pindar
Chairman, Effingham Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Arnold Pindar, Chairman	Liz Hogger
Ian Symes, Vice-Chairman	Andrea Lightfoot
Hilda Brazil	David Martland
Keith Cornwell	Paula Moss
Cliff Hackett	James Nicholls

Effingham Common
Commoners' Day will be held
on Sunday 2 October 2016.
All are welcome to enjoy the
fun on the common!