



Effingham Parish Council
Chairman's Report 2007-8

The beginning of the year saw the elections for the new Council and following the retirement of some long-standing Councillors we have welcomed some new faces on the scene. It is not always appreciated how much time and effort Councillors put in for the service of the village and in addition none more so than our Clerk Sue Morris who has worked tirelessly on our behalf throughout the year.

It has been a very busy year with such important issues as admissions to the Howard School and the Guildford Borough Council's Site Allocation plans. The following is a brief resumé of the main topics which have exercised our deliberations.

Planning

We have dealt with a whole range of planning applications, from minor extensions to contentious schemes, some of which have involved the issuing of Enforcement notices by Guildford Borough Planning Authority. The transfer of St Teresa's Prep School to their site on Effingham Hill has been given the go-ahead, although the increase of traffic in Beech Ave is still a concern, and it follows consent has been given for the development of Grove House with flats and houses.

Guildford Borough Site Allocations

This is a Borough-wide scheme in which residents and others were invited to nominate sites throughout the Borough for various types of development ranging from industrial, housing etc to gypsy sites. The main bone of contention for Effingham was the nomination of gypsy sites in Calvert Road. The response from the village in support of the Parish Council's objection to these sites was amazing both from residents in Calvert Road and the village as a whole. The public meeting in the King George V Hall was very well attended and the petition organised by our Borough Councillor Liz Hogger was extremely well supported. This will be an on-going subject and we will keep you posted.

Howard of Effingham School

I doubt if anyone is unaware of the contention caused by the County Council's policy for admissions to the Howard School. Various suggestions have been promulgated but at the time of writing there would appear to be on the table a return to the catchment area policy, which includes the whole of Effingham, with children in feeder schools who live within the catchment area in addition. Hopefully this will be confirmed, at least Effingham children will now be eligible.

Highways

Not much has changed since last year's report, except perhaps the number of potholes. The junction of Guildford Road and Dirtham Lane remains a black spot due to poor visibility. The cycle way from East Horsley to Effingham is up and running.

Allotments

The allotments are fully used and generally well-maintained.

Effingham Common

Members of the Parish Council serve on the Friends of Effingham Common and have been involved in volunteer clearing operations.

Footpaths and Bridleways

The village and its surrounds have a large network of footpaths and bridleways and each Parish Councillor has two or three of these to inspect every year. Our most common complaint is that footpaths are being used by horse-riders resulting in degeneration of the surface. Please, horse-riders, keep to the bridleways and leave the footpaths to the walkers.

King George V Playing Fields

This is the village's great asset and is in urgent need of your support. In the care of the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees, the fields are run by the Committee of Management Trustees made up of elected members and representatives of users. It is here help is required. Over the years the Committee of Management has relied on a few members to run the show and they need support in particular by ensuring there are the requisite number of elected members. Elections take place at the AGM, this year on **Friday 23 May** at the King George V Hall. Your attendance and support would be welcome.

Burial Ground

We are still looking to extend the Burial Ground which is becoming extremely full. Two trees have to be felled as they are diseased and the remainder will be cleared of dead wood.

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 5 July**. For information about having stalls, displays etc, please contact Nick Parker on 01372 457744 as soon as possible.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is your forum to discuss anything you like (within reason) with the Chairman. This year it is at **8pm on Wednesday 23 April** at the King George V Hall, Browns Lane. I look forward to seeing you there.

Edward Crouch MBE

Chairman, Effingham Parish Council

CONTACT NUMBERS

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.

Police Community Support Officer

Effingham's PCSO is Gregor Culross. 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 contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk or send a report via the form on the web site at www.surreycc.gov.uk.

Cleansing and waste

To report problems with street cleaning (litter or sweeping of gutters), collection of household waste, fly tipping, 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.