

WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT *by John Stone*



Earlier this year my wife and I took off to Athens in search of some early season sunshine. Whilst we were there, we made the obligatory tourist pilgrimage to the Acropolis and visited the dedicated Museum located nearby. The museum is spectacular but the climax, perhaps deliberately, is a bit of a disappointment as you finally reach the space pointedly reserved for the Elgin marbles removed in the early 19th century and now resident in the British Museum.

Here in Clandon it seems we are not immune from controversies concerning the relocation of historical artefacts closer to their point of origin. The National Trust is currently consulting on 'The Future of Hinemhi', the Maori house erected in the grounds of Clandon Park by the 4th Earl of Onslow following a spell as Governor-General of New Zealand from 1888-1892.

The Parish Council along with other representatives of the community in West Clandon was invited to a series of 'workshops' which aimed to ascertain the likely reaction locally to the repatriation of the original Maori carvings to a museum in New Zealand and their replacement with replicas, albeit produced by present day Maori craftsmen.

Like the Elgin marbles, which were damaged by the Venetian bombardment of Athens in 1697 before the acquisition by Lord Elgin in 1801-1805, the Hinemihī carvings had been abandoned by local Maoris after the settlement in which the house stood was destroyed in a volcanic eruption some

six years before Lord Onslow's agent paid £50 to secure them as a souvenir of his time as Governor-General.

In deciding their future, the National Trust has to balance the claims of the carving's 'spiritual' claim advanced by today's Maoris against the historical and local significance of the artefacts as perceived from a West Clandon perspective. We may learn more of their thinking on this and the restoration of the House itself at the November meeting of the Parish Council which will be addressed by members of the Project Team.

The October meeting of the Parish Council received the now customary update on the Guildford Local Plan where

attention is currently focussed on the forthcoming planning application at Garlick's Arch now not expected until November. The Council is pressing for a significant contribution from developers towards traffic mitigation measures on the A247 through West Clandon. Thanks to those who completed the anonymous survey on housing needs in West Clandon for the Neighbourhood Plan. As I write the full results are still being analysed but early returns suggested demand within the area for smaller homes and opportunities for downsizing. The full results will be posted on www.westclandonplan.org.uk when available.

Finally, you may have spotted an advertisement for the role of West Clandon Parish Clerk which is available from 1st January 2020 following my decision to step down at the end of the year. The post is part time, endlessly interesting and even modestly

remunerated. Please contact me if you would like an off the record chat on what is involved.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8.00pm Wednesday on 13th November in the Village Hall

clerk@westclandon.org.uk
01483 385187
www.westclandon.org.uk
www.westclandonplan.org.uk



If you would like to become more involved in the rural community of West Clandon, then this is your chance.

The Parish Clerk plays a pivotal role on the Parish Council acting as the main point of contact for local residents, village organisations and the Guildford Borough Council.

The Parish Clerk and the Parish Council work closely together, helping to keep the everyday operations of West Clandon running smoothly.

The Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government, sitting below the Guildford Borough Council and is responsible for the maintenance of the village's footpaths, the recreation ground with its adjoining playground, whilst commenting on local planning applications and many other matters.

The Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the West Clandon Village Hall.

If you are well organised and perhaps have some knowledge of either finance or the law and have great inter-personal skills, we would love to hear from you.

For an informal chat and more information, please contact the current Parish Council Clerk at clerk@westclandon.org.uk before December 1st 2019.