

## West Clandon Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2013-14

During the past 12 months, the Parish Council has continued to monitor planning matters in the village. Although the Council has no control over planning, we can comment on planning applications in the same way as the public can. We only tend to comment where we believe an application raises an issue of principle or where residents have raised concerns with us. We only raised concerns over two applications, one of which was turned down and other was withdrawn by the applicant.

The major developments in the area of planning during the year were Guildford Borough Council's work preparing to publish a new local plan. This will be of great importance in setting planning policy for the coming years and determining where development will take place. The Parish Council responded to the consultation on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and will be looking carefully at the draft Local Plan, when it is published after consultation.

Last November, during the Local Plan's Issues and Options consultation, the Parish Council in association with the Clandon Society, organised a well attended public meeting in the Village Hall at which the 120 villagers attending, voiced their opposition to unwanted development in the village of West Clandon.

Subsequently, representatives of the Parish Council met with Councillor Stephen Mansbridge, the Leader of Guildford Borough Council, and Councillor Monika Juneja, the Lead Councillor for Planning and Governance, to discuss any alterations to the village's settlement boundaries that might be required in light of the Local Plan.

In March, a team of planners from Martin Grant homes requested a meeting with representatives from the West Clandon Parish Council to outline their development plans for the site in their ownership at Gosden Hill.

Construction work is expected to commence shortly on the provision of 14 dwellings in the extension to Meadowlands. The name suggestion submitted by the developers Affinity Sutton is 'Waterfields', possibly with the affix of either 'Close' or 'Gardens' being added. A significant part of the agreement between the developer, original owner and the Guildford Borough Council's Housing department is that priority consideration will be given to applications from those who live in or have an association with the village. Anyone who is interested in potential residency should contact the Borough Council's Housing department without delay.

Vehicles exceeding the 30 miles per hour speed limit on the village street has continued to be such a problem that last July, two speed checking devices were set-up by the Police in response to a request by the Parish Council. It wasn't long before the Police speed checking devices revealed that one vehicle was clocked going past 'The Bull's Head' and the School in the direction of Clandon Crossroads at 78 miles per hour! It was admitted - at long last - that our village street had a speed problem and 30 mph camera warning signs were installed just before Christmas, with the result that there are now regular speed checks in operation on our village street.

A number of residents contacted the Police Commissioner's Office during the year requesting that number plate recognition cameras should be set up at each end of the village street in an effort to track down and prevent criminal activity in West Clandon, following a number of thefts from local properties. It was hoped that these ANPR cameras would be permanently sited at each end of the village street but this has now been dismissed as impossible by the Police authorities, as it raises issues of personal liberty under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. The Police Commissioner's Office have told us that these cameras have been acquired but they will only be used at sites, where there is a pressing need for their use.

We have given particular support to the West Clandon British Legion during the year following unreasonable demands to increase the Legion's annual rent by the head office of the national British Legion. The Parish Council has always been keen to support village organisations in any way possible but has a special interest in our local British Legion, as they are the Trustees for several parcels of land upon which our Legion's building stands. Following extensive investigations by Parish Councillors and Mr Theo Wallace, it has now been successfully established that the national British Legion's demands for an increase in rent were unreasonable and a satisfactory agreement has now been reached, allowing our British Legion branch to continue trading.

A significant increase in the use by commuters of the village hall car park and Meadowlands during the year has been causing parking problems for both legitimate users and residents. The introduction of controlled parking was not thought to be an option at the present time. However, last December, the Parish Council decided to erect a notice at the car park entrance stating that the area was only for the use of visitors to the British Legion, village hall and recreation ground. So far, this seems to have had the desired effect in stopping commuters from parking there but we continue to keep the situation under surveillance.

The West Clandon Village website was successfully launched last October with sections devoted to local information on the village, its news, its events, its history, plus links to local businesses and of course the Parish Council's Agendas and minutes. You can log on to it and keep in touch at **[www.westclandon.org.uk](http://www.westclandon.org.uk)**

Back in January 2012, after a lengthy period of lobbying, the Surrey County Council spent £60,000 on a drainage scheme to stop the persistent flooding that used to occur on the approach to Clandon Crossroads. After a winter that has seen significantly increased rainfall, we are happy to report that there were no flooding problems at all at this location and the new improvements worked well.

I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman Jonathan Murphy for taking charge of all the planning applications that were considered by the Parish Council during the year and also for his continuing advice on various legal matters. Also, I would like to thank Christopher Dean for his continued help dealing with the Local Plan and our liaison with the East Guildford Residents Association.

My thanks also go to Alice Pashley for her supervision of all matters regarding the Recreation Ground and its Playground, Lorraine Merry for all her efficiency and help in looking after West Clandon's many footpaths and to Stephen Meredith for his continued help with the administration of the West Clandon Parochial Charities.

Finally, a big thank you to all our County Councillor Keith Taylor for all his help during the year and to our Borough Councillors Jen Powell, Jenny Wicks and Andrew French for setting aside the time to attend and contribute to our meetings with their help and advice.

April 6th 2014

Terence Patrick  
(Chairman)

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