

Headlines from the January meeting of West Clandon Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

This month we were joined by representatives of West Horsley Parish Council to share their experience in submitting a Neighbourhood Plan. They confirmed:

- The Plan could not be used to overturn the number of housing starts planned for the village in the Guildford Local Plan.
- West Horsley decided not to use the plan to identify particular sites in the village for development as this could pit one part of the village against another.
- A comprehensive survey of residents helped identify other issues which were of interest locally and were addressed through policies within the Plan.
- These included the mix of housing in an area with not enough smaller or starter homes available.
- The use of inappropriate architectural styles.
- Issues such as garden sizes and the preservation of hedgerows also featured
- Areas with neighbourhood plans are entitled to receive a greater share of the levy which developers will have to pay towards community infrastructure projects, examples of which could find their way into the Plan.
- West Horsley, which is approx. twice the size of West Clandon spent about £20,000 on putting its plan together and also accessed a government grant of £9000.

In Clandon any decision to go ahead will be influenced by the availability of suitably qualified volunteers to help take the work forward. Those with analytical and administrative skills, knowledge of planning and land, history and preservation, ecology and more will be needed. Please let us know if you might be able to spare the time.

Restoring the Clandon Dragon

Following the article in the Parish Magazine a small group of enthusiasts organised a site visit to try and locate the Clandon Dragon, a chalk figure beside the A246 on the road towards Guildford. They found it lurking in the undergrowth beneath a layer of accumulated vegetation and overgrown with moss. Their first objective will be to organise a spring clean before assessing whether further work is necessary or possible. They could however do with some more help so if this is of interest please let me know.

Parish Precept

As reported last month Surrey County Council have reduced the amount of footpath maintenance effectively putting more of the onus on the Parish Council to keep the core network in good order. Following consideration of the feedback we received the Council has decided to apply for precept increase which amounts to £3.02 per annum on the average Band D property in the Parish. This will help provide an additional £2000 for footpath clearance in the next financial year.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 14th February at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

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John Stone