



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman's Report 2023 – 2024

A247 Village Street

As in past years, the West Clandon Parish Council has repeatedly expressed the concerns of residents regarding safety, the excessive speeds and the potential risks of accidents on the A247 village street. With the help of our Surrey County Councillor Bob Hughes, we have continued to lobby, like many other Surrey villages, for a 20 mph speed restriction on several sections of the A247. Accidents and near misses continue to occur, particularly near 'Summers' on the street's narrowest section, where the carriageway is only 14 feet wide and large vehicles continue to mount the pavement seemingly oblivious of the reality that it is continually being used by pedestrians and children walking to and from the village school.

Another dangerous section of the A247 receiving our attention has been the exit from Clandon Station, where a motorist's view of oncoming southbound traffic is obstructed by the parapet of the railway bridge. With further help from our Surrey County Councillor, meetings with Surrey County Council Highways continue to take place to make this busy exit safer.

At the northern end of the village, the A247 and A3 slip road junction has now been successfully modified with the result that accidents at this 'T' junction seem to have been reduced. Nearby, further requests to Surrey County Council highways for better signage and a 40 mph limit on Tithebarns Lane have so far proved unsuccessful.

A survey of sunken manhole covers on the A247 was undertaken during the year and the results reported to Surrey Highways, who repaired the damage to these metal covers, much of it caused by heavy goods vehicles.

Last October, the Parish Council wrote to the DVSA (Driver & Standards Agency) to express concern about the dangers of using the A247 through West Clandon for HGV driver testing. The DVSA conducted an inspection on the route and agreed our request to completely remove the A247 from the HGV testing route. Furthermore, they have advised test instructors to avoid the road completely.

Planning

During the year, the Parish Council has continued to consider planning matters that affect West Clandon. Although the Parish Council has no control over specific planning applications in the Village, which are decided by Guildford Borough Council as the planning authority, we can and do comment on planning applications that raise concerns. During the year, we have objected to several applications for additional houses in the Parish, where we thought the sites were too cramped or would harm the openness of the Green Belt.

The development at Garlicks Arch - now renamed Allium Park - is now well underway and the associated footpath to the SANG off Tithebarns Lane has now finally been completed.

The planning application for development of the Wisley site has been the subject of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate but remains undecided at the present time.

It was expected that there would have been a public consultation on the proposed development of Gosden Hill in the early part of this year but this still seems to be some months away.

Parish Council representatives had a meeting with the Guildford Borough Council's Head of Planning, who stated that in view of material changes to circumstances since COVID and the period of time that had elapsed since the adoption of the Local Plan, this development would probably have to be rethought.

Recreation ground

The grounds, football pitch and play areas have been well used during the year and our contractors have diligently attended to all the necessary maintenance, leaving the whole area in good shape. All the toddlers' play equipment has been inspected and is in safe working order. Major capital expenditure was authorised from Parish funds to erect a new fence along the entire length of the roadside border with the village street and this has greatly enhanced the appearance and safety of the Recreation Ground. Several dead trees and old stumps have also been removed and a number of sapplings planted.

Footpaths

The village's footpaths have remained fairly incident free during the past 12 months. Last Summer, the very narrow Footpath 69 between Lime Grove and Green Lane became completely blocked by a collapsed bramble hedge, which took several weeks to be cleared. During the Winter, footpath 82 from the Church to the Clandon Regis golf course drive was also blocked by fallen trees, which the Parish Council managed to clear. All footpath vegetation cuts were also undertaken.

Comings and Goings

Our Vice Chairman Christopher Dean has decided to step down from the Parish Council. His knowledge on proposed developments and the local plan have been second to none and we thank him for all his service, help and guidance over the past 11 years.

We also thank our Surrey County Councillor Bob Hughes and our Borough Councillors Catherine Anne Young, Dawn Bennett and Ruth Brothwell for their help, advice and support over the past year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Clerk and my fellow Parish Councillors for their help in successfully running the Parish Council during the past 12 months.

May 2024

Terence Patrick
(Chairman)
