

SUMMER



Blackheath • Shamley Green • Wonersh Newsletter • 2016

WELL ATTENDED PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY IN BLACKHEATH

Parish Council Chair Councillor Peter Neve reported that he was delighted with the attendance at the Annual Parish Assembly, held this year in Blackheath. Some 60 people heard Cllr Neve report on how the Council had been active in the community; A precis of the report is overleaf.

Diane Savage reported Wonersh United Charities (WUC) had been very active and, in particular, had been able to help families suffering from fuel poverty in the Parish. Diane enthused about the work of the WUC during a busy year. Graham Healy reported on the Wonersh Foundation and Neil Scott gave a detailed report on the Wonersh Woodland Group.



MANY OF THOSE ATTENDING TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS OLD & NEW



SOME 60 LOCAL PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT IN BLACKHEATH VILLAGE HALL.

As reported in the Winter Newsletter Cllr Rod Weale is liaising with the local Police and gave a brief report on the changes that came into force in April. A more detailed summary of these changes is to be found overleaf.

Waverley Councillor Michael Goodridge attended as did Surrey County Councillor Victoria Young. Cllr Young informed the meeting on the Footpaths and Bridleways Volunteer Warden Scheme and how local people are being encouraged to keep these trails free of foliage and rubbish.

The final presentations were made by Waverley Countryside Warden Steve Webster and James Caldwell. Steve works in Frensham and gave a well-received talk on the work on the heath and around the ponds that protects local wildlife and fauna whilst allowing full enjoyment by the public of the open spaces. Closer to home James informed the meeting on the work being done on Blackheath; clearing saplings to allow the heath to prosper.

A series of questions from the floor enabled those attending to express their views and comments on the reports, presentations and other matters in general before everyone enjoyed a small buffet.

SUMMARY OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was my 1st annual report since being elected as Chairman of the Parish Council in November 2015. This is a summary of the report that was delivered at the Annual Assembly:

- ◆ Last May we had the local elections and although several of our long-standing councillors resigned, we were fortunate to fill all the vacancies.
- ◆ We have recently expanded the system where each councillor takes the lead on specific responsibilities to help make us more efficient and effective.
- ◆ Special thanks to Kevin Garvey who tendered his resignation as Clerk last October and Anne Powell-Evans who stepped down as Chairman in November.
- ◆ We are working to make the Parish Budget easier for everyone to understand.
- ◆ The Council has asked our Risk and Audit committee to develop a policy on the financial reserves held by the Council with the aim of releasing more of these funds for future Parish projects.
- ◆ We are currently updating the Council Website to make it easier for visitors to find out more about the activities of the Council.
- ◆ The Parish Council has been heavily involved in the Dunsfold housing application where we have worked with other local councils to fund 3 reports into the impact of the proposed planning application on local infrastructures. We plan to hold a public meeting on the Dunsfold planning application.

BLACKHEATH

- ◆ The Parish Council has been involved with various initiatives in Blackheath, including Commons Management, drainage issues relating to the carpark at the top of Blackheath Lane and the initiative to reinstate a pub in the village.
- ◆ The Council has continued to support additional traffic calming measures in the village, such as new tree planting and white lines.

SHAMLEY GREEN

- ◆ We have been successful in persuading Waverley Borough Council to fund the creation of additional parking on the Green.
- ◆ Longacre School was of particular importance to the village, especially due to the traffic issues that this continues to create. The Parish Council opposed the expansion plan on the basis that the traffic issues should be resolved first.
- ◆ We have funded repair work to Shamley Green playground to keep this up to a high safety standard. We will be fitting new "No Dogs" signs to both Shamley Green and Wonersh playgrounds.

WONERSH

- ◆ We made major improvements to the bark chip safety surfaces and edging of Wonersh playground and gained significant funding from "Fields in Trust" to add 2 table tennis tables for older children.
- ◆ Surrey County Council have agreed to fund our suggestion of installing a new raised triangle at the junction of Chinthurst Lane with The Street to help reduce traffic speeds and make this entrance to the village look more attractive.
- ◆ We are also hopeful that Surrey County Council will resurface The Street between Chinthurst Lane and the centre of the village as this road is in very poor condition.
- ◆ Other pedestrian safety initiatives include the clearing of the pavement from Chinthurst Lane into the village back to its full width.
- ◆ We have also approved funding for similar pavement clearing work on either side of Wonersh Common Road between the village shop and Blackheath Lane and also the path across the common to the playground which is even more overgrown.
- ◆ We have recently set up a new "Vision for Wonersh" Working Party to look at the centre of the village to try to find new solutions to parking, pedestrian safety and the overall appearance of the village centre.

Along with a good number of other Councillors from across Waverley, Cllrs Graham Payne and Rod Weale attended a briefing from Surrey Police on the new way in which the Borough will be policed.

Inspector Mark Bridge presented the briefing and explained the new model which is named "Policing in your Neighbourhood". He stated this is a pro-active response to the new picture of crime in the UK. Across Surrey offences of burglary and car theft are down but there are increases in offences like child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and cybercrime.

Inspector Bridge informed the meeting how the demands on the local Policing team were changing and these areas needed additional resources. However, the new model of Policing will see 24 hr cover across the Borough of Waverley with a dedicated team of 70 Officers. These front line officers are aligned to Boroughs and will be responsible for responding to crime and anti-social behaviour and if appropriate they will retain these cases from start to finish, giving victims continuity of care. Inspector Bridge assured those present that the philosophy of policing remained to protect life and property and that the new Policing model has been introduced to ensure Surrey Police continues to be a modern, well equipped and well prepared force – ready to meet the new demands placed on Surrey Police. PIYN also aims to reduce demand by helping residents of Surrey find the right help rather than phoning 999 on initial impulse.



Inevitably these changes will mean that some of the responsibilities that the Police previous engaged will pass, or have already done so, to other agencies. For example; Waverley BC now are responsible for complaints regarding noisy parties and parking. A full list of "who does what" is being prepared and will appear on the Parish Council Web Site in the near future. Inspector Bridge said he was determined to ensure that victims of crime receive the best possible service.