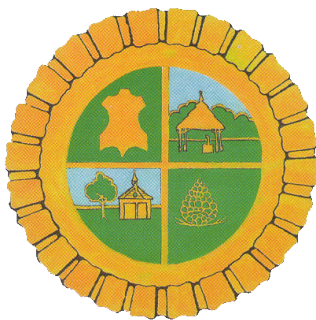


# **SHERE PARISH COUNCIL**

Serving the villages of Gomshall, Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake,  
Shere and a large part of Abinger Hammer

## **ANNUAL REPORT For the year 2007/2008**



### **How to contact your Parish Council for assistance or information**

Address: Shere Parish Council, Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road,  
Gomshall, Guildford, Surrey. GU5 9LF.

Telephone: 01483 203431

Email: [clerk2009@ShereParishCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk2009@ShereParishCouncil.gov.uk) (new address)

Website: [www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Please note that all correspondence for the Council should  
be sent to the Clerk of the Council at Tanyard Hall.**

This report is distributed to all houses in the Parish to report on the work of your Parish Council and, in particular, to give details of its activities during the past year.

For those new to the Parish I would explain that Shere Parish is easily the largest in area in Guildford Borough. Whilst most of the other 24 parishes serve one village only, Shere Parish includes four (Gomshall, Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake and Shere) and also a large part of Abinger Hammer (excluding the village centre). The total population is approximately 3,500. The Parish Council is responsible for administering local affairs. Unlike most other Parish Councils, it also owns or leases much property and land throughout the Parish.

Land around the war memorial in Shere has now been leased by the Parish Council and a renovation and improvement scheme has been drawn up and tenders sought. It is hoped that this work will be funded from the North Ward Film Account, plus, hopefully, grants from other organisations.

Meetings have been held with Surrey County Council and other authorities regarding the regular flooding of Shere village during wet weather by water and slurry from London Lane. Some improvement work has been carried out and further possibilities are under discussion.

Strong representations were made last year regarding the lack of police presence in the rural areas and this has now resulted in a Police surgery being held approximately once a month in Tanyard Hall.

Traffic issues have continued to play a big part during the year. The Community Speedwatch scheme is now operating in both Holmbury St. Mary and Peaslake. Volunteers are now being sought to enable the scheme to be extended to the other villages in the Parish.

The Council has been represented during the year on the LORD Committee (Lorries off rural detours). This committee, in conjunction with Surrey County Council, has done an excellent job so far working towards enforcing HGV weight restrictions and refinements to SATNAV systems which it is hoped will be introduced in the not too distant future.

The provision of a public car park on the Recreation Ground in Shere is now progressing following a delay caused by differing views of various bodies concerning the need for illumination. A Management Agreement with Shere Recreation Ground is awaiting implementation once planning permission has been obtained. Guildford Borough Council has agreed to contribute £70,000 with the Parish Council adding a further £5,000 and the North Ward Film account £5,000.

Unfortunately, I also have to express great disappointment at the time it can take to get some projects completed due to circumstances outside the control of the Parish Council. Two such schemes are traffic calming in Upper Street and improvements to the junction of Lower Street and Middle Street, Shere. In addition, the Parish Council has made

strong representations to Surrey County Council during the year regarding the state of the roads in the Parish and the flooding at various locations. The Parish Council has also applied pressure to Network Rail to clear their gulleys to prevent severe flooding on the A25 near the railway arch in Gomshall.

I take this opportunity of thanking all Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their work and dedication and Borough Councillors David Wright and Roy Hogben and Surrey County Councillor David Davis for their support during the last year. Also Graham Eusden and Christine Gorsuch and her team for caring for the ducks in Shere, the Council's contractors Brian Hilsdon and Graham Rapley, Judy Colebrook (for planting out the Peaslake flower troughs) and the Old Fire Station caretaker Kenny Madgwick. Thanks are also given to David Colebrook for his voluntary work each week to the surface of the Peaslake field, to enable youngsters to play on the area, and to the Council's internal auditor Malcolm Foster.

*Roger Newman (Chairman)*

## Council

**Chairman:** Roger Newman. **Vice Chairman:** Dr. Candace Brooke

**Present Council:** Councillors Bob Andrews, Chris Carlisle, Raymond Smith (Holmbury/Abinger), Marion Taylor-Cotter, John Tenner, Michael Urban, Jane Williams (Peaslake), Candace Brooke, Roy Davey, David Hall, James Hutton, Roger Newman, Sally Nielson (Shere/Gomshall). The Council is not party political.

**Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer:** Lesley Childs.

At least 9 Council Meetings are held each year. In addition to full Council meetings approximately 30 other meetings were held during the last year for the Council's Finance, Health & Safety, Parish Maintenance, Planning, Playgrounds and Tanyard Hall Committees and the Shere and Holmbury St. Mary Traffic Working Groups.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the Parish which means that Guildford Borough Council have to consult the Parish Council on approximately 150 planning applications in the Parish each year. Sometimes applications are not controversial and no comment is made but representations were made on many applications during the past year.

All Council/Committee meetings are open to the public and there is an adjournment during each meeting to enable members of the public to ask questions or to address the Council. Meetings are held in the Council offices at Tanyard Hall. Dates and times of these are published on the village notice boards and on the website. A short report of each Council meeting is published in the Parish magazines and the full Minutes of all recent Council and Committee meetings are available on the website together with the contact details of individual councillors.

## Finance

During the year expenditure was incurred on the following:- 50% of the maintenance costs of 3 cemeteries in the Parish, maintenance and provision of 5 play areas & 6 recreational areas, maintenance of land and also street furniture in all villages, much grass cutting, a proportion of the operational costs of the public toilets in Shere, insurances & legal fees, staffing and contracting costs.

**Projects** during the year included repairs to the fence surrounding the village pump and fencing of the front of Felday Chapel grounds, Holmbury St. Mary, the purchase of a digital projector & laptop for use by local organisations, purchase of a large climbing tower for the play area at Peaslake. Funds were also set aside for the Peaslake Village Centre improvement scheme and the stream bank work in Shere. It is hoped that both these schemes will be carried out this year.

**Beneficiaries of donations** given this year included the Hurtwood Control (£800), Shere Museum (£1,000), Shere Village Hall kitchen project (£1,000 plus £750 from the North Ward Film account), Peaslake Village Hall improvements (£1,000), South West Surrey Mobile Physiotherapy Service (£600), Holmbury Emergency Help (£150), Crimestoppers (£35), WASP Bus (£1,000), Surrey Air Ambulance (£250).

**The Precept for 2008/09** has been set at £107,459 (£1.09 per week for a Band D property). Projects for the current year include the installation of greatly improved safety surfaces for the Millennium play area at Goose Green, Gomshall, the provision of front doors for the new museum in Shere, protection of the Village Green and completion of new fencing for Felday Chapel in Holmbury St. Mary, the remainder of the funding required for the Shere stream bank project, repairs and repainting of the exterior of the Old Fire Station in Shere and also exterior redecoration of Tanyard Hall in Gomshall, installation of sleepers to protect the grassed island at Burrows Cross, Gomshall, other environmental improvements plus all the regular services that the Parish Council normally provides. In addition it is hoped to carry out an improvement scheme to the land around the Shere War Memorial using funding from the North Ward Film account and construction of the public car park in Shere.

**The Council** strongly encourages suggestions from members of the public for schemes to improve areas of the Parish. These should be submitted to the Clerk of the Council before 1st September 2008. Local voluntary organisations requiring assistance should also request and then return an application form before this date.

### **Wonderful venue for parties, meetings, functions, classes**

Residents are reminded that Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall, is a beautifully renovated beamed building, which was originally a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Hall House. It is owned by the Parish Council and is available for hire for functions, meetings, classes etc. It is especially ideal for children's parties or gatherings of friends or family. The parking situation has been improved and more parking is now available. Please contact the Parish Council office (01483 203431) to book or view the building.