

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

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



ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011

Chairman's Report

Parish Councils are the first tier of democratic Local Government. Geographically we are the largest Parish in Guildford Borough with a population of 3,500 plus many visitors, cyclists and school groups. We are a non political Council.

Routine services provided by the Parish Council

- Maintenance and safety management of land and buildings in the Parish which the Council owns or leases (including 4 village centres, 5 play areas, 5 recreational areas, Tanyard Hall and 4 car parks).
- Upkeep of bus shelters, seats, notice boards and village signs.
- Operation of the public toilets in Shere.
- Residents' helpline and tourist information.
- Statutory consultee on planning applications in the Parish.
- Liaison with other authorities e.g. Police, Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council.
- Consultee on a whole range of policy documents from other authorities.

In addition various projects are carried out as and when required.

Car Park

Shere Car Park, funded by contributions from both Guildford Borough Council and Shere Parish Council, opened in June and received

one of the 2010 design awards from the Guildford Society in the environmental improvement category. Many thanks to Shere Recreation Ground Association and the Trustees for the provision of the land for the car park and Keith Childs for all his assistance with the project. The car park is being very well used by both visitors and locals alike. Severe damage has, however, been caused to the specialised surface of the new car park by tear-away drivers during the hours of darkness despite a watch being kept by the Police, Councillors and local residents. This has finally resulted in the Parish Council having to install fencing to prevent "wheelies". Not only has this meant the loss of several car parking spaces but also incurred considerable expenditure.



Speed Watch

The Community Speedwatch scheme has been successfully operating in Holmbury St. Mary and Peaslake. We need more volunteers though to extend it across the rest of the Parish. If interested in assisting please contact the Parish Clerk.

Schools Admissions Strategy

Representations were made by the Parish Council regarding admission arrangements for George Abbott Secondary School and the disadvantage to children living in rural areas, other than Ripley Parish. This has had an effect and the present arrangements will not therefore be carried forward to 2012.

However, as many schools are seeking Academy status no assurance can be given of future admission arrangements as Academy Schools will be permitted to set their own criteria.

Rights of Way

Major work has been carried out to the soakaways in London Lane by the Rights of Way Department. A second soakaway has been discovered which has eased the flooding situation slightly in the centre of Shere. However, SCC has insufficient funding to empty these as often as is required but some limited funding has been found from other sources. The Parish Council is still continuing the battle to get London Lane closed to traffic as it contributes considerably to flooding in the village. (Recent news is that it may be closed for certain periods of the year).

Playgrounds

The phasing out of bark and replacement with rubberised safety surface has continued. New safety surfacing has been installed in Peaslake and Holmbury St Mary.

Peaslake Playground



Holmbury Playground



Extensive repairs have also been carried out to the aerial runway in Gomshall Playground.

Shere Traffic Scheme (Stage 2)

Surrey County Council has obtained some funding towards a feasibility study and talks have been held with the Parish Council and the Shere Traffic Working Group. Once a feasibility study has been carried out, which the Parish Council may have to contribute to financially, this will go out to consultation to local residents.

Thanks to:-

- Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their time, hard work and dedication
- Guildford Borough Councillors Roy Hogben and David Wright and Surrey County Councillor Keith Taylor for their regular attendance at meetings
- David Colebrook for ongoing repairs to the playing field in Peaslake
- Judy Colebrook for maintaining the flower tubs in Peaslake
- Christine Gorsuch (and the team) and Graham Eusden for caring for the Shere ducks
- Malcolm Foster, internal auditor
- Brian Hilsdon and Graham Rapley, the Council contractors.

Finance 2010/11 and Plans for 2011/2012

The amount raised by the Parish Council through the Council Tax is known as the Precept and for 2010/11 this was £115,919 – approximately £59.73 per Band D property. Most of this was allocated for the maintenance and services that the Parish Council carried out during the year together with management and insurance costs. However, the Council's total income for the year is over £150,000 as this includes grant aid from Guildford Borough Council for various projects and small amounts from other sources.

Donations given by the Parish Council during the year have included the following:-

£ 35 Crimestoppers,
£300 to the Citizens' Advice Bureau,
£250 Gomshall and Shere Veterans Club,
£800 Friends of the Hurtwood,
£600 Mobile Physiotherapy,
£250 Air Ambulance,
£400 for the use of the Shere Surgery car park at weekends,
£1,000 Wasp Community Bus,
£2,043 being 50% of the upkeep of the Shere and Peaslake cemeteries (Holmbury St. Mary's donation was requested and paid after the year end).

This current year the Precept is £116,500. Although a rise of £581 above last year, it actually amounts to slightly less per household at £59.71 due to an increase in the number of occupied properties in the Parish. Projects for the year include assistance with the Holmbury St. Mary Football Pavilion roof repairs and improvements to the area around the telephone box in the centre of Peaslake and the field adjacent to the Swimming Pool in Shere.

Localism Bill

This Bill, which is continually evolving at present, proposes revolutionary changes for local communities and the organisations that

serve them. Under the Bill many of the changes will require subsequent regulations, guidance or further legislation. However, the Bill aims to decentralise significantly, to move from a top down approach to bottom up. From a Parish Council point of view the Bill seeks to diversify the supply of public services – for example the community right to challenge (parish councils can seek to take over some local services from other authorities if they feel they can run them better) and/or Parish Councils will have the right to halt a sale of certain buildings for 6 months whilst they raise finance and consult with other authorities if they feel that a certain building would be beneficial for local community use e.g. the saving of a local shop, pub etc. There will also be planning reforms at Parish Council level.

Tanyard Hall

Wonderful venue for parties, meetings, functions, classes.



Residents are reminded that Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall, is a beautifully beamed 15th Century building. 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. Please contact the Parish Council office (01483 203431) to book or view the building.

Roger Newman (Chairman)

Shere Parish Council

The Parish Council was voted into office in May with one change and Brian Cohen is welcomed to the Council. Our grateful thanks to Jane Williams who retired from the Council this year.

At least 9 full Council Meetings are held each year as well as many various Committee meetings. 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 meetings are published on the village notice boards and on the Council 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 Council website together with the contact details of individual councillors.

How to contact Shere Parish Council for assistance or information:

Council Office: Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LF

Telephone 01483 203431

Email – clerk2009@ShereParishCouncil.gov.uk website - www.ShereParishCouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Lesley Childs

Please note that all correspondence for the Council should be sent to the Clerk, Mrs. Lesley Childs, at Tanyard Hall.

Councillors

North Ward (Shere & Gomshall)

Roger Newman, (Chairman)

18 Leather Lane, Gomshall GU5 9NB (01483 205429, roger.newman45@yahoo.co.uk)

Candace Brooke, (Vice Chairman)

The Old Netley Mill, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9HA (01483 203267, Candace@sonofthebear.com)

Roy Davey,

Fernside, Upper Street, Shere, GU5 9JE (01483 202443, Roymdavey&easymail.rmpc.co.uk)

David Hall,

Pantrys, The Square, Shere GU5 9HE (01483 229122, Davidhall@culpanandhallconsulting.com)

James Hutton,

Netley House, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9QA (01483 203800, ei@handr.co.uk)

Sally Nielson,

21 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LQ (01483 209526, simonandsally@gmail.com)

South East Ward (Holmbury St. Mary & a large part of Abinger Hammer)

Bob Andrews,

Ansells Cottage, Pitland Street, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6NP

(01306 730693, bobaandrews@btinternet.com)

Christopher Carlisle,

Upfolds house, Holmbury Lane, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6ND

(01306 621209) CCarlisle@savills.com

Raymond Smith,

7 Felday Houses, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6NJ

(Raysmith.Holmbury@envirohistory.waitrose.com)

South West Ward (Peaslake)

Marion Taylor-Cotter,

9 Fulvens Cottages, Peaslake, GU5 9PG (marionptc@yahoo.com)

John Tenner, Oak Hill, Hoe Lane, Peaslake, GU5 9SW

(01306 731783, JohnLTenner@aol.com)

Michael Urban,

Woodhouse Farm, Rad Lane, Peaslake, GU5 9PB

(01306 731760 Michael@urban.net)

Brian Cohen, Rosedene, Peaslake Lane, Peaslake GU5 6NJ (01306 730639

briancohen@rosedene.org)

