

Parish Magazine – October 16 issue

Shere Surgery – visitors to Shere surgery should be pleasantly surprised by the ease of dropping off patients outside the surgery, soon. This area gets very muddy in the autumn and winter and is difficult to negotiate, particularly for elderly or disabled people. So this autumn, Surrey Highways will be tidying it up. There will be a new pavement and kerb to the road along the full length of the surgery and car park frontage and also a kerbed dropping off bay. The Parish Council has contributed towards the cost by purchasing the conservation granite-style kerbing which will match the rest of the kerbing in the village. The Parish Council will also tidy up the messy verge.

Vine Cottages, Shere – some of the kerbing bought by the Parish Council (see above) is being used to raise the pavement outside Vine Cottages, at the junction of Middle Street and Gomshall Lane. Together with associated drainage works, this should help to prevent flooding outside Vine Cottages. Currently, after a heavy downpour, those properties are left with a sea of mud and debris that washes down from London Lane, outside their houses, so the Vine Cottages owners particularly welcome this scheme.

HGV routes – see Village Voices for a progress report on action to prevent HGVs travelling through Shere.

Disabled parking bay in Middle Street, Shere – you may have noticed that there is a new parking bay for disabled people, in Middle Street, just down from the Co-op. Thanks to Guildford Borough Council's parking team for installing the bay. It will help disabled people enormously when visiting the shops in Middle Street. Let's hope that it is respected by all drivers.

Well in Middle Street, Shere – the ownership of this popular village feature is being transferred from Shere Manor Estate to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will then be able to look into repairing the structure of the well before it deteriorates further.

Memorial bench in the pound – there will be a third memorial bench in the Pound, in Shere, shortly. The bench will allow locals and visitors alike to enjoy this pretty location by the stream. The bench is in memory of Roger Woods who lived happily in Gomshall with his family for many years.

Prudential Ride London 2017 – this event will be on the weekend of Friday 28 July to Sunday 30 July 2017.

Retirement of Dick and Elaine Collins and Dr Tyrell – the Parish Council wishes Dick and Elaine and Dr Tyrell a well-earned, long and happy retirement and thanks them for their invaluable contribution to the local community.

Peaslake Farm challenge – over the last couple of years or so, the Parish Council has been defending the assertion by the Peaslake Protection Group (PPG) (via an application from the PPG to the Land Registry) that there is a restrictive covenant on Peaslake Farm, meaning that the Parish Council can't build houses on Parish Council owned land at Peaslake Farm. The Parish Council did not agree with this assertion as it was originally left the land in trust for the benefit of the poor of the Parish. Also, given that the Parish Council had a responsibility to protect its land asset for future generations and its wish to provide a modest affordable housing development (for the benefit of the poor of the Parish), the Parish Council felt that it had to defend this action by the PPG. In doing so, successfully, it incurred legal costs of around £10,000. As a public body funded by taxpayers, the Parish Council owed a duty to those taxpayers to try to recover its costs by making an application for them to the Land Tribunal. The PPG also made an application to the Tribunal for the recovery of its costs from the Parish Council. The Land Tribunal did not accept PPG's arguments and did not make any award of costs in their favour, so the Council had no liability to meet PPG's costs. Instead the Tribunal made an award in favour of the Council, requiring PPG to meet the Council's costs from 21 October 2015, namely when the Parish Council asked PPG to withdraw its application on the basis of a Deed transferring any rights, covenants, liabilities and estate from the Bray Estate to the Parish Council. The total amount paid to the Council by PPG was therefore, £3,966.

Next Council meeting – Tuesday 11th October, starting at 7.30pm at Peaslake Village Hall.

Reporting local problems - contact details

- **roads**, including drainage issues, potholes, overhanging trees, uncut verges, lighting, footpaths and bridleways issues - **Surrey County Council** tel: 03456 009009 or www.surreycc.gov.uk, click on **roads and highways**.
- **leaking pipes** - **Thames Water** tel: 0845 920 0888 (free) or www.Thameswater.co.uk.
- **planning** - **Guildford Borough Council** tel: 01483 505050 or www.guildford.gov.uk or email enforcement@guildford.gov.uk.
- **flooding** – refer to the **Environment Agency** website www.environment-agency.gov.uk
- **crime** – ring 999 for real emergencies and 101 to report a crime or look for information on www.surrey.police.uk.
- **power cuts** and damaged power lines – ring 501 for UK Power Networks who will connect you to your local electricity network operator. Further information is on www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk