

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

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



ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013

Chairman's Report

Your Parish Council's continues to work on your behalf to make the Parish a more pleasant place in which to live and work. This Annual Report not only tells you what your Parish Council has done in the past year but also gives details of some important projects that the Council hopes to progress in the current year. Information on the role, structure and contact details of the Council appears at the end of the report.

The Current Year:

Traffic calming and reduction through Shere

It was in his 2010/11 Annual Report that the then Chairman, Roger Newman, reported that funding had been obtained to prepare a feasibility study for a Shere Traffic Scheme to slow traffic in the village; this was a prerequisite for any 20mph limit through the village. Now - three years on in September 2013 – we will all be able, as a community, to consider some detailed proposals from Surrey County Council Highways for addressing the problems. The Parish Council is consulting on two sets of options:

1. Traffic calming measures aimed at sufficiently slowing vehicles entering and leaving the village to enable a formal 20mph limit to be established.
2. Proposals for a one-way road restriction on one of the approach roads (Upper Street) together with necessary calming measures and changes in road signage and directions aimed at slowing traffic and reducing the volume of traffic through the centre of the village, especially HGV's.

There will be the chance for all residents of Shere, and indeed, the Parish, to consider and comment on these options in Shere Village Hall on Saturday, 31st August and also on the evening of Tuesday, 3rd September, when detailed plans for the options will be displayed. This is your opportunity to influence Shere's future 'relationship' with the cars and lorries that travel through our village.

Please make yourself aware of this important and long awaited response to our long standing pleas for action to help maintain Shere as a pleasant and safe traditional village – a village for all its residents, and visitors, not the speeding commuters and long distance lorries.

The current proposals are available on our web site – www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk We expect amended proposals shortly and these will be put on the Parish Council's web-site in time for the consultation.

(Note to printer – please put in lorry and bus photos here with captions as per e-mail instruction.)

Lobbying and planning for a balanced relationship with cyclists

If there's problems are with motor vehicles, then road-racing bikes are now thought by many in Peaslake and Holmbury (and residents along the A25) to be equally as threatening to their environment and freedom to travel. Surrey County Council's enthusiasm to encourage the Surrey Hills to be seen as the Mecca for all serious cyclists in the South of England, and Boris Johnson's plan to use the 'Olympic cycling legacy' as the vehicle for establishing Surrey as the venue for London's cycling marathons, are attitudes that the Parish Council believes are not shared by the Parish's residents. Therefore Chris Carlisle, the Parish Council's Vice Chairman, together with other Holmbury and Peaslake ward councillors will be working closely with other local Parish Councils to lobby and impress upon the organisers of such events, and the 'bodies' that give them 'official' permission to impose themselves upon us, the strength of our feelings and the remedies and safeguards we feel are called for.

Skate-ramp Proposal

This facility was proposed last year, to provide something for that section of the community which the Council felt was less well catered for than most – older children and teenagers. The Council responded to comment and concerns expressed by some residents by scaling back the design to ensure that whilst appealing to our children it would not act as a draw for teenagers from outside the Parish. Professional independent noise assessment has been carried out as promised, and the



results will be available on the Parish web site, as will details of the size, construction etc of the ramp being proposed. The proposal is therefore now at the stage of being ready to go out for tender, and to be put forward for planning permission. The intended location is Shere recreation ground, between the Tennis Courts and the Nursery play area. The Council is aware of continuing concerns regarding this project and there will be an opportunity for these concerns to be presented again when the planning application comes forward for consideration by the planning authority, Guildford Borough Council. But

the Parish Council hopes that the results of the requested noise assessment might reassure people that this new facility for the youth of this Parish will not prove detrimental to anyone's enjoyment of the recreation ground and its environs.

Photo - showing full size skate ramp. The Parish Council would start by building a scaled-down version.

Web site development

The Parish Council has begun the process of developing a greatly enhanced web site. We are conscious of the difficulty in talking to and informing the community about the Council's work and the projects and issues it is involved with. Similarly the opportunity for residents to comment and give feedback to the Council is limited. We see development of what we envisage as '**A COMMUNITY WEB SITE**' as offering a practical and valuable solution to this problem. An attractive and easy to access site that will encourage and sustain better communication and conversation between Council and residents – and support interaction between residents and clubs and interest groups, etc - is something the Council thinks will represent a good investment.

Investment in Village Halls and exercise facilities

The Council has already allocated funds as a contribution to helping improve the Holmbury and Peaslake Village Halls. It also hopes to obtain grant monies for specialist outdoor exercise equipment. Designed for those of 'any age' who wish to keep fit but do not want to go to an indoor gym, this equipment is to be located around the sports fields within the Parish.

The Year Past:

People

The greatest change in the year was the retirement of Lesley Childs from the role of Parish Clerk, a role Lesley had very much made her own over her many years of service to our community. It was her dedication and knowledge that earned us the 'Quality Parish Council' status, and her contacts and experience that managed to secure for us 'extra funds' from various Borough and County 'pots'. These additional funds have enabled us over the years to help fund or provide extra facilities for the Parish. Lesley retired with our sincere thanks.

We were pleased, and relieved, however to be able to recruit a new clerk – Joy Millett - who like Lesley is an enthusiastic resident of the Parish, and Joy has already begun to establish herself in this complex and demanding role.

Sally Neilson, one of our North Ward Councillors resigned during the year for personal and work commitment reasons – and we extend our thanks for her enthusiasm and efforts during her time as a Parish Councillor. We hope she might be persuaded to come back one day. As a result of her departure we were pleased to be able to co-opt Brian Grover , who lives in Shere, to replace Sally on the North Ward (Shere & Gomshall) team.

Shere Diamond Jubilee Library

The latest addition to the Community's facilities - The Shere Diamond Jubilee Library - was opened by our Lord of the Manor, Handa Bray, in September. Run by volunteers and supported by Surrey County Council's Library service it has well stocked shelves, housed in a specially refurbished room at the rear of Shere Village Hall. It opens three times a week and now lends books to over 120 regular borrowers from throughout the Parish. Classes from Shere school also regularly use it. Have you used it yet?

Celebrations

The year was one of national events and celebrations – the Parish Council were able to support street parties: celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and 'hosting' the Olympic Torch as it passed on its way to London, and the Olympic Road races – to mark which, Tony Reid was asked by the Council to plant a commemorative tree at the start of Gomshall Lane.

Gomshall Station

To try to help improve local services and the environment, the Parish Council has during this year met several times with the local rail authority. There has been some success in gaining a modification to the schedule for stopping services and in establishing that there will be a new footbridge built at Gomshall station, after which the pedestrian crossing will be closed.



Photo: Gomshall station – existing pedestrian crossing

London Lane, Shere

In supporting the efforts of our Borough and County Councilors, regarding the problems associated with London Lane, Shere, the Parish Council has achieved a more regular emptying of the soak away and a repeat winter closing of the lane to 4x4s. This has seen a reduction of silt flooding into the village and of vehicles abusing the recreation ground and car park.

Thanks to:

- Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their time, hard work and dedication
- Guildford Borough Councillors Richard Billington 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.

ROY DAVEY (Chairman)

Parish Council Information

Its role

Parish Councils are the first tier of democratic Local Government. The Parish of Shere is the largest Parish in Guildford Borough in area with an electorate of 2,840 plus many visitors, cyclists and school groups. We are a non political Council and Councillors are not paid.

At least 9 full Council Meetings are held each year as well as many other Committee meetings. **All Council/Committee meetings are open to the public and there is at least one 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's 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's website together with the contact details of individual councillors.

Finance

The Precept is the money raised by the Parish Council through the Council Tax. It funds the Clerks salary costs and all the routine costs of 'maintaining' the Parish - plus all Donations given to support local organizations, and the funding (sometimes with the help of additional Grants obtained) of all projects and additions to the Parish facilities that the Council agrees to undertake. For 2012/13 the Precept was £116, 085 – a figure £415 less than the previous year, and £166 more than the year before that.

Donations given included:

- South West Surrey Mobile Physiotherapy Service - £750
- Gomshall Veterans Club - £250
- Surrey Air Ambulance - £300
- Friends of the Hurtwood - £1,000
- Jubilee celebrations in Holmbury St Mary - £250 (from the SE ward account)
- Citizens Advice Bureau (Guildford) - £400
- WASP Bus Project - £1,000
- Victim Support - £100
- Shere Village Nursery - £110

Routine Services provided by the Parish Council

Much of the Councils work each year involves the management of ongoing services across the Parish and involvement in statutory consultation processes.. This entails:

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). The upkeep of bus shelters, seats, notice boards and village signs within the Parish. Grass cutting of 34 different areas and the provision of the public toilets in Shere

The Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the Parish and liases with other authorities e.g. Police, Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council. It is also Consultee on a whole range of policy documents from other authorities.

How to contact Shere Parish Council for assistance or information:

Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer -: Joy Millett

Council Office: Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LF. Telephone 01483 203431

Email – clerk2009@ShereParishCouncil.gov.uk website – shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please note that all correspondence for the Council should be sent to the Clerk, Ms Joy Millett, at Tanyard Hall.

Councillors (as at 1st August 2013):

North Ward (Shere & Gomshall)

Candace Brooke:

The Old Netley Mill, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9HA. 01483 203267,

Candace@sonofthebear.com)

Roy Davey, (Chairman):

Fernside, Upper Street, Shere, GU5 9JE. 01483 202443, Roymdavey@easymail.rmplc.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

Brian Grover:

Ivy Cottage, Middle Street, Shere GU5 9HF. 01483 203428 bgrover@talktalk.net

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 (Vice-Chairman):

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