

Shere Parish Council warmly welcomes two new members of staff. During the interview process for the new Assistant to the Clerk, it became apparent that there were two excellent applicants. It was therefore decided to employ both candidates and to push forward with a planned project, to start two drop-in mornings a week for the elderly and lonely.

The drop-in mornings will be downstairs at Tanyard Hall, where there is full disabled access. It is hoped that the Council will be able to coordinate with other organisations to provide transport if necessary. Social activities will be run during the morning with light refreshments. It will also be an opportunity to find out about all the other wonderful services around the parish and help individuals make contact with people and organisations they may not have been aware of. The drop-in mornings will begin in the new year and more details will follow shortly in the parish magazine, on notice boards and on the parish council website.

So, the parish office is now a team – with myself as the Clerk, Samantha Robins as the new Assistant to the Clerk, who has recently settled in Shere with her family from Dubai and Hami Sura as the Drop-in Coordinator and Parish Administration who lives in Dorking. The Councillors and myself are looking forward to working with both Sam and Hami.

A25 traffic scheme – Surrey County Council (SCC) Road Safety & Active Travel Team Manager gave a presentation at the November council meeting, of the proposed traffic works on the A25; to reduce speed and increase safety on the stretch of road from Gomshall to the junction with Upper Street, Shere. The proposal included a new right turn bay from the A25 to Gomshall Lane, Shere and two-metre-wide cycle lanes from the new right turn bay to the junction with Coombe Lane, to reduce the width of the driving lanes. These works will take place in this financial year.

It is hoped that speed will be reduced from approximately 50mph to nearer 40mph. A speed survey has already been carried out and a new one will be conducted after the works have taken place. If the speed of traffic has been reduced, a new speed limit will be proposed. If speeds have not reduced further methods could be considered.

Litter picking – staff at Ogilvy carried out litter picking in Shere on the 22nd October 2019, using equipment from the parish council. It was a great success and they are holding onto the equipment to carry out further events in the future around the parish. The council send thanks to all at Ogilvy for their hard work.



Peaslake Farm – the affordable housing development on the farmyard is still progressing. The contract and lease for the development are nearly finalised and it is still hoped that the plans will be submitted for approval to Guildford Borough Council before Christmas. The delay is unfortunate but sometimes the legal work takes longer than anticipated. More news will follow in the New Year.

Prudential RideLondon – the parish council wrote to the leader of Surrey County Council regarding the future of the race through the Surrey Hills and in particular Shere Parish and the disruption it causes. Tim Oliver replied that SCC was in discussion with Transport for London with regard to the continuation of the event beyond 2020. He further confirmed that ‘Once discussions have concluded, we will go out to public consultation to ensure that the views of residents inform the report to Cabinet for decision on the continuation of the event’. As soon as the public consultation is announced it will be advertised by the parish council for the public and the council to respond.

Parish Council’s budget - funding for 2020/21 – Shere Parish Council gets its annual funding by receiving a small amount of local Council Tax from Guildford Borough Council. This funding is called the parish precept and that figure translates to the parish ‘levy’ on your council tax bill. The parish council has approved an increase of the precept of 9p a week for a Band D property, for the next financial year 2020/21, to cover the basic ongoing running costs of the parish. The rise reflected the increase in services carried out on behalf of Surrey Highways, the cost of maintaining the Council’s existing services, the possible loss of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and general inflation.

Christmas - the parish council office will be closed over Christmas from Monday 23rd December 2019 to Thursday 2nd January 2020

Christmas Tree Collection points – after your Christmas festivities, you can leave your Christmas tree at the usual collection points of:

WI Hall, Felday Glade, Holmbury St Mary
Shere Recreation Ground car park
Pond Lane car park, Peaslake

Next Council meeting – 8pm on Wednesday 8th January 2019, at Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF

Finally, the Chairman, Councillors and all the parish staff wish you are a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 