

## Parish Magazine – September 2023 Issue

**Old Fire Station** Public Conveniences in Shere – so this lovely grade II listed building has been undergoing an external facelift and I am sure many people want to know what is happening with the inside of the toilets but first a little background. The building was leased by Shere Manor Estate to the parish council in 1977 to be converted into public toilets as part of the Silver Jubilee celebration, hence the nickname ‘jubiloos’. After much lobbying a support grant was obtained from Guildford Borough Council (GBC) to help with the running costs and this £4,680 was in place for many years. As part their costs cutting initiative this was stopped in March 2022, despite them being one of the most used public toilets in the Borough.

The council is very aware the inside is in need of refurbishment but here is the dilemma; since covid, visitor numbers have been increasing and usage of the facilities is greater, they cost £12,000 - £13,000 a year to run, including the maintenance of the building, cleaning and supplies, so how can the council make improvements given the substantial costs involved with refurbishment. At the moment they are financed through the precept, which is the money collected on the council’s behalf through your council tax but in order to make a substantial improvement to the toilets (not just a lick of paint), a much larger sum is needed and this is what the council is investigating.

The Council would like visitors to pay for the costs of maintaining facilities for them, hence the council’s desire to charge parking fees for visitors but this is still being discussed with the trustees of the car park and we are starting the adjudication process. There may be the opportunity to charge a small fee for usage of the toilets but that is not possible until after any refurbishment. So please bear with the council, we are open to suggestions and in the meantime, we are monitoring the cleaning, which is done once a day in the evening.

Finally, a big thank you for the Dabbling Duck for opening the toilets each morning.

### **The Square, Shere - Surrey County Council to engage with residents over possible changes to The Square. Surrey County Council Planning and Placemaking has provided the following information.**



Surrey County Council (SCC) are investigating possible changes that could be made to The Square in Shere. This follows a request from SCC Councillor Robert Hughes to investigate pedestrianising a small area of The Square, as seen in the 2021 lockdown trial. Surrey County Council carried out further research in the area to determine whether restricting car parking could be done in a safe, feasible way. Residents may have seen survey work being carried out earlier this year.

An engagement session will be held in the Autumn to share the proposed options and to determine if this were something residents would like to see in the village. As a Shere Village resident, your feedback and insight into the changes you’d like to see in The Square is hugely important, so keep an eye out for further details on the date, time and location of the engagement session. Further details will be sent to your home via letter and will be shared online.

**Peaslake Farmyard Affordable Housing** – Following the request for renegotiation of terms by Greenoak Housing Association (GHA) now part of Stonewater Housing Association, the parish council has commissioned an independent valuation and indication of costs for the remediation of the low-grade contamination on site. The council is now in a more informed position to speak with Stonewater regarding their request for a renegotiation of terms.

It is still the council’s intent to get the best possible outcome for existing residents and any future residents of the new homes. The council still wants truly affordable rents in high quality, energy efficient homes which will benefit our community for decades to come. It is hoped that we can come to a mutual agreement with Stonewater to progress the project as soon as possible.

**See what your Parish Council does** - view the minutes from every council meeting since January 2012 by going to:

<https://www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-meetings/>

**Next Full Council meeting – 7.30pm Wednesday 6th September 2023** at Shere Village Hall, Gomshall Lane, Shere.

All meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity at every council meeting for members of the public to address the councillors.

Dates for the meetings can be found on our website - <https://www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk/meeting-date-diary/>  
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