



The Local Resilience Project

The Parish Council has been listening closely to the Flood Action Group to ensure that all the lessons can be learnt from the awful floods on June 7th 2016.

We have recognised too that the capacity of the District and County Councils to respond to emergencies is limited, so we have decided that we need to set up a Local Resilience Group, with a Resilience Co-ordinator, to lead on practical action on the ground in the case of emergencies such as heavy snow, flooding, power outage and loss of mains water. We wish to ensure that there are arrangements in place to support the vulnerable and ensure their wellbeing, and also to co-ordinate a response to keep Caterham on the Hill moving and accessible.

The County Councillor community allocation of £4,000 is being used to pump prime the project and enable the purchase of vital equipment. We are looking to ensure that there is a coherent programme to ensure adequate gritting and snow clearance, courtesy of our local farmers, and a quick reaction if there is a local emergency.

This project will only be successful if members of the community support its work and respect its advice, such as the coning off of flooded sections of road, and we will make sure as far as we can that we keep residents fully informed of the work we are doing.



More responsibilities for the Parish Council?

This is a time of unprecedented pressure on all levels of Local Government. Certainly the top two tiers, Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council, face severe budgetary issues with, as you will have seen in the Local and National press, Surrey being particularly pressed.

One of the results of their constraints is that they seek to devolve some of the tasks they can no longer afford to other bodies, especially Parish Councils. Generally they wish to do this without passing on any money.

An example would be the maintenance of hedges and verges. This year SCC withdrew the funding of over £2000 for us to augment their service as we had done in recent years. This was after we had included it in our own budgeting. We took the decision to provide the service this year from our reserves.

Another reduction has been the switching off of streetlamps between 12 midnight and 5am - later changed to 1am and 5am. We offered to pay SCC to continue the service and suggested

different models to keep the lights on. Unfortunately SCC decided that it would only deal with this matter through TDC and then only on a District-wide basis. The very different needs of urban and rural areas make this an awkward decision for TDC. We shall continue to seek to find a solution to this problem.

These are only two examples of the pressures that we face and we welcome your input to the debate as to how much, if any, we should step in to protect the much valued range of services that are threatened. Please contact any of your Councillors or our Clerk with your views. Despite the extra pressures we have decided not to increase our Council Tax at band D level and will remain the second lowest of the 21 Parishes in Tandridge that raise a precept.

Your, unpaid, Councillors along with our Clerk and Warden continue to work very hard as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter. We have always 'punched above our weight' to continue to promote the sense of Community and Civic Pride that we hope add to making Caterham Hill the special place it is.

The Future of St Peter & St Paul School Chaldon



Pupils at St Peter & St Paul Infant School have for many years continued their education at St John's Primary in Caterham, but if a decision by St John's to reduce its pupil admission numbers is implemented, St Peter & St Paul's children will, from September 2019 onwards, need to find primary places elsewhere.

Funding for schools is based on pupil numbers and St John's action is understandable given the long-standing financial difficulties caused by under-subscription in their additional year three class. But their decision is already generating considerable uncertainty for pupils, parents and staff at both schools.

A solution, supported by the school governors, Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and Surrey County Council is the expansion of St Peter and St Paul into a primary school. Finding the money for the development of the school will be a challenge but it is likely that funding will come from a combination of public and private finance.

The governors will shortly launch fund-raising initiatives targeting local businesses and individuals. The hope is to establish a number of school-business partnerships with the aim of creating close and productive relationships between the school and local businesses. Individuals will also be able to contribute to an expansion fund

through donations and involvement in fund-raising activities.

If you would like to be involved in fund-raising or are interested in a school-business partnership, please contact Bob Milton through St Peter & St Paul School on (01883) 343299 or e-mail Info@stpeter-stpaul.surrey.sch.uk

Bob Milton is the Chairman of the Governors at St Peter & St Paul School, Chaldon.

Surrey and Tandridge Councils: who does what?

In our area, we have what's usually called 'two tier local government' (though actually there are three tiers - see below).

The main responsibilities of Surrey County Council (SCC) include:

- Children's and Adult Social Services
- Schools and Adult - Learning (where they are not academies or private schools)
- Highways and Footpaths, and Bus Services
- Libraries and Archives
- Fire and Rescue
- Waste Disposal and Recycling
- Minerals Planning
- Trading Standards



Details are on the SCC website: www.surreycc.gov.uk

Tandridge District Council (TDC) mainly deals with:

- Waste Collection and Recycling (and clearing fly-tipping)
- Council Housing and Benefits
- Town Planning (including the local plan, planning applications and building control)
- Licensing (including taxi licensing and food standards)
- Parking and Street Cleaning
- Parks, Open Spaces and Allotments



Details are on the TDC website: www.tandridge.gov.uk

Where does our Parish Council fit in?

Caterham on the Hill Parish Council is the third tier of local government in our area. We are community-based and our work is varied. We comment on planning applications, provide additional services (such as Christmas lights, planters, hanging baskets, flower beds, benches, bins and toilets), respond to consultations, arrange public meetings and work with other organisations to improve local facilities. Increasingly, we are also asked to fill in gaps when there are cuts in the services provided by SCC and TDC. We do all this work for an annual charge per household of just £14.20 (Band D) which is the second lowest in Tandridge.



The Playground at the Arc

We are delighted to report that the legal agreement for the transfer of the playground to the District Council went through in December. Thanks are due to all parties who persevered but most particularly to Clive Moore and Louise Round at the District Council whose efforts were invaluable.

The new equipment has been ordered and it is expected that installation will begin soon.

The Parish Council will ensure that the maintenance of the playground is up to date and that the annual health and safety checks are carried out properly so that the playground can be enjoyed safely for many years to come.



New gates for the Westway Allotments

As a result of two serious incidents of vandalism on the Allotments last year (and also perhaps to deter the person who thought it was a good idea to harvest the products of other people's hard work last Autumn) the Council has, in conjunction with Tandridge, helped purchase more secure gates. These will be installed by the time this magazine goes to press.

Meadow flower project

At the suggestion of a Westway allotment holder the Parish Council has decided to pilot a project to sow meadow flowers in the area of Westway Common bordering the allotments and also on the old air raid shelter close to the junction of Banstead Road with Townend. On the basis of how this turns out we will then look at a more widespread planting arrangement with regard to the "bunds" established by Tandridge to deter incursions in both areas. The Caterham and District Horticultural Society is helping with advice and guidance.



Thank you!

Thank you to all those who helped with the Cedar Tree lights switch on this year and to St Mary's Church for holding the Festival of Christmas Trees. Over £1,500 was raised at both events.



Former Parish Councillor David Gosling



The Parish Council was extremely saddened to learn of the untimely and sudden death in November of David Gosling.

David served as a Parish Councillor for Westway ward from May 2004 through to May 2016 when he stood down due to the pressure of his work. During his service David became Chairman for the year 2008/9 and had several years as Chairman of both Finance & General Purposes and Projects & Highways committees. Whenever the Parish Council engaged with our residents David would be there quietly working to ensure that the event was a success.

One of his great interests was public transport and he was key to the Parish part funding an evening bus link from the station to the Hill. To mark this we shall place a small plaque to his memory on one of our benches (another David Gosling initiative) by the bus stand in Westway.

David was a warm, kind, gentle and generous man who gave to our community at a consistently high level. He is a huge loss to us all and we miss him.

PLANNING REPORT

Caterham Masterplan



The Parish has responded to the latest round of public consultation on Tandridge District Council's new Masterplan for the Hill and Valley centres (the full version is available on our website). Fresh ideas are certainly needed to rejuvenate Caterham. We would welcome a more organised and forward-looking approach to town planning.

We support strongly the considerable efforts of local people in creating the Neighbourhood Plan, Town Centre Design Statement and Caterham Flood Action Group. As a result there is now a clear agenda of the main challenges and opportunities for Caterham. It needs to be translated into action. The Caterham Masterplan presents an opportunity to do so.

Our response emphasises priorities such as creating a more supportive environment (including affordable premises) for small independent shops, services and businesses of all kinds. That includes better quality design in buildings and public spaces along the High Street, keeping the best of the old character buildings whilst driving up standards for the new. It is also important that new buildings have adequate on-site parking, so as not to worsen street congestion.

The centrepiece of the Masterplan is redevelopment of Church Walk precinct in the Valley for shops and flats (details currently awaited). On the Hill there are also ambitions for the main focus around Townend and the Raglan Precinct. However that area is effectively on hold pending longer-term solutions to the drainage and flooding problems. A report by the Lead Local Flood Authority (Surrey

County Council) is awaited. The Parish Council is though opposed to the idea in the Masterplan that TDC's Townend car park could be built on. Retaining adequate public parking is vital to the future of the northern end of town.

We welcome the Masterplan (with some reservations) but feel that whilst the aims are good there is still much to be done in delivering them.

Other Planning Matters

The Parish Council shares the concerns of many residents about Tandridge District Council's emerging Local Plan, especially any proposals to build on our remaining green spaces. We will continue to make our views known. We are also closely involved in the new Neighbourhood Plan, produced by and for local residents. It will give us all a stronger say in planning our own future. In order to make sure that it meets legal requirements, the draft Neighbourhood Plan is about to be sent to Tandridge District Council for specialist review and then to a government Planning Inspector. Wish us luck!

The Parish is a statutory consultee on planning applications being considered by Tandridge District Council. Our Planning Committee meets monthly in Westway Library and local people are welcome to attend. We are active in making representations about development applications, especially any schemes that are complex or in sensitive locations. That includes areas at risk of flooding where we continue to press for better assessment of existing capacity and more self-sufficient site drainage. We have close links with the Caterham Flood Action Group and can draw on their expertise.

The Parish Planning Committee is currently arranging a meeting with TDC planning officers to discuss issues where we feel that a more proactive approach is needed. This includes concerns about the ongoing loss of mature trees; about the incremental risk of flooding posed by the ongoing smaller infill developments; and the possibility of issuing advance planning briefs for sites that have not yet come up for redevelopment but are likely to.

Beating the Bounds

Saturday 26th May

Starting at St Mary's church car park at 11.00am and finishing at 3pm with a break at the Fox pub.
Call 01883 708310 for more details.

Annual Parish Meeting

11th April 7.30pm
at the Library, Westway

Speakers are from the Caterham Horticultural Society and residents can raise issues.

Parish Council Meetings

Dates and times of upcoming Parish Council meetings can be found
caterhamhillparishcouncil.co.uk

Councillor surgeries are held on the last Saturday of the month at Caterham on the Hill Library (with the exception of December) from 10am to 12 noon.

If you have an issue you would like to discuss with your local representative please come along.



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/caterhamhillpc

Caterham Valley lights switch on and Christmas market.

Saturday 24th
November 2018