



NEWSLETTER

www.woldingham.com

NOVEMBER 2013

Parish Councillors:

Frank Myers, *Chairman*
(email: run31@btinternet.com)

Bob Dench, *Vice chairman*

Rodney Fuller
Nicki Howe
Susan Kurr
Sally Marks
Alistair Pirie
Ian Mathers
Clive Tucker

Parish Clerk: Karen Newman
(email: parish.clerk@woldingham.com)

See *Woldingham Directory* for full contact details.

Other Useful Contacts:

District Councillor:
Sally Marks (tel: 653134)
(email: sally.marks@surreycc.gov.uk)

County Councillor:
David Hodge (tel:0208 5418003)
(email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)

Police Community Support Officer: Rupert Kelley
(tel: 01483 630822 or 101 ext. 30822)
(email: kelley12599@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In the absence of a Jubilee Bonfire this year, what has your Parish Council been up to since April? The short answer is: the Neighbourhood Plan! We launched this project at the APM in May and we obtained a small grant from the DCLG to help meet costs. Our thanks go to those who helped us to pilot the Residents' Survey. The finished version went online at the end of August and we also distributed copies to every household. Our thanks go to the Woldingham Magazine, Neighbourhood Watch and the Village Website for their invaluable help. Soon the returns were dropping in my door by the dozen. After a slow start to the online responses, we hung a banner in the Crescent and put out lots of web address cards. In the end, over a third of the responses were made online – but not a single one via our Twitter address! As the deadline neared the return rate was nearly 50% (see Supplement for details). We held the first 'by invitation' meeting of the FORUM at my home on 3rd October. 'Read the Woldingham Magazine for updates. For more regular news or to get involved, send your email address to parish.clerk@woldingham.com and we'll contact you direct. *F. Myers*

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN : THE NEXT STAGE

We are now setting up project groups for residents to join. They cover these broad themes:

- Housing and development, village character
- Facilities: leisure, work, education
- Transport, safety, law and order

You can also offer your skills for general tasks (research, policy writing, publicity, etc). We're preparing a 'young people's survey'. If you know any young people who can help, ask them to email parish.clerk@woldingham.com or phone 01883 653371.

To drive forward on the

Neighbourhood Plan, it is vital to have resident participation in the project groups. Please consider joining in and ring 01883 653371 to discuss your interests.

FORTHCOMING VACANCIES

There will be a vacancy on the Council as Cllr Dench will step down in December. The position will be advertised for election in the first instance but may subsequently be filled by co-option. There is a further vacancy for a part time assistant to replace Kate Gardner. Please ring Cllr Frank Myers on 01883 653371 for further information and a confidential discussion on either vacancy.



PLANNING

The work of Tandridge District Council (TDC) on planning policy leads to concerns of two kinds. First, the final draft of Part 2 of the Tandridge Local Plan (previously known as the DMPDPD) deletes the saved Policy BE7 (Woldingham) despite the Parish Council's continued objections. The renewed comments we made in August have been referred to the Inspector who will judge whether the policies are "sound". Hearings about that are expected in January, and we will make our points to the Inspector again then if we are permitted to do so.

The second area of concern arises from pressures on TDC to increase its targets for new housing. TDC's Planning Policy Committee rejected a recommendation for a fourfold increase in housing targets in a report by the consultants L G Hearn, but have agreed that the 2008 Core Strategy should be reviewed. The Parish Council will be vigilant in following that review and in commenting as necessary on any threats we see either of over-development within the main area of the village or to the Green Belt areas within the parish. **We should not be complacent. Guildford Borough's consultation about a new Local Plan includes a preferred option of taking 16 villages out of the Green Belt.** The rate of planning applications has increased slightly since our last Newsletter in May. The outcomes continue to cause concern, in particular when TDC gives approval despite our objections. We have met TDC officers to try to achieve closer understanding and agreement about the way policies are being and should be applied, and will await results.

All three aspects of planning work discussed above reinforce our sense that we need a Neighbourhood Plan.

A. Pirie

MARDEN PARK : COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS FUND

With the support of local Councillors, the Woodland Trust has made a bid under Surrey County Council's Community Improvements Fund to help fund a project for within Marden Park here in Woldingham. The aim of this project is to improve access and provide some enhanced biodiversity in Marden Park by encouraging the local community to visit and enjoy its quiet ambiance, coming away with a better understanding of the area. The project will improve the signage, help to arrange events and increase the biodiversity

value of the SSSI chalk grassland by forming new grazing areas. It is hoped that there will be an increase in visitors from the local community, including all age groups, with a special focus on young school children. Another aim will be to gain more volunteers for the site, increasing the current membership of the local community volunteer group. The results of the bid will be announced on Surrey CC's website by the end of November.

S. Marks

SIGN CLEANUP!

Cllr Howe has surveyed the state of signage around the Village. Here's what her gentle lobbying can do!





WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Ian Mathers, from his perspective as a 'new' councillor, offers this snapshot of his experience. Ian characteristically makes light mention of his invaluable work on 'roads' and other tasks. (*Editor*)

"I was very pleased to join the Council in May 2012. I rather expected that a lifetime of lawyering might come in handy and that has been well borne out. In particular, a large part of the agenda is made up of the consideration of planning applications and commenting on them to Tandridge District Council. The planning legislation is complicated and always

changing, and at first it's quite daunting to pin down all the considerations for a particular case. But by and large the regulations have preserved the character of Woldingham over a long number of years. It has been very rewarding both to discover how that has been achieved and to play a part in maintaining the village character. We have started work on the Neighbourhood Plan and I hope to play my part in strengthening local policies still further. I enjoyed helping to prepare the Residents' Survey. It seems clear from responses that a number of interesting and challenging projects are likely to emerge. I'm looking forward to being involved."

I. Mathers



SNOW CLEARANCE

With the heavy snowfalls we have had, particularly over the last two years, the task of keeping the village roads clear has become both high profile and quite complex. Surrey has reverted to using local contractors to maximize their speed of action on key through routes. In Woldingham, Church Farm Services now hold a number of separate contracts for snow clearance. Their clients include Surrey County Council, the Parish Council and individual road associations. It can be unclear to the newcomer who is responsible for keeping a specific road or junction clear and how the contractors' priorities are set for the work to be done. We would draw the reader's attention to David Locket's very useful article on this subject in the Woldingham Magazine (December issue).

Last winter's snow clearing operations around Woldingham received very positive feedback. A few points are worth repeating in case of further snowfalls this coming winter. First it is helpful if residents can (so far as safety allows) drive outside the main tracks made on each side of the road: this helps to spread the salt. This applies particularly to private roads where there is comparatively little traffic. Secondly, there are several stretches of unmade road which fall outside the arrangement with Church Farm Services. Some work was nevertheless attempted last winter but it had little appreciable impact and is unlikely to be repeated. Gangers Hill is also difficult to work and only the top part falls within the Parish, so arrangements are being made for advisory signs to be posted when the road becomes impassable.

Finally, could we remind residents not to park their cars on the road when it snows heavily or at least to make sure that they do not impede the passage of the snow ploughs.

If you have any questions about the operations, please contact Cllr Ian Mathers on 01883 653172 or at IKMathers1@googlemail.com

I. Mathers



WOLDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN
THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS
AT THE CRESCENT
ON SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER
AT 6PM

Join us again to turn on our Woldingham Christmas lights followed by a short Carol Service. The Salvation Army are booked to lead some hearty singing so do come along with your family, friends and neighbours to start our Christmas Celebrations in style! Everyone is welcome.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TORCH!

***FASTER BROADBAND
ON THE WAY***

The Parish Council has been investigating how and when faster broadband might come to Woldingham. The Survey has also documented the need for it. This article is contributed by Katie Brennan, who works for Surrey County Council to deliver the rollout of superfast broadband to areas such as ours which are not in the BT programme.

You may soon see Openreach vans and contractors working around the Woldingham Parish, installing new roadside cabinets and upgrading the local network. This is as a result of the Superfast Surrey programme, a project funded by Surrey County Council, BT and The Department for Culture Media and Sport. The cabinets servicing the

majority of the Woldingham postcodes are anticipated to be upgraded to the fibre network by the end of June 2014. As more of our services are delivered on-line, having access to fast, reliable broadband is increasingly important to homes and businesses. It's not just about being able to surf, upload or download data quickly. Even when several users are on the same connection, it will be possible to upload photos, video files or complex graphics to the internet in seconds. For the family, that means more people can go online at the same time, able to stream HD movies and sport, or watch catch up services like BBC iPlayer, with fewer interruptions. If you are running a business from an office or home environment, fibre broadband means you can be productive wherever you are using on-line

file sharing, video conferencing, with no more lags or pauses for heavy media files. For more information, to keep up to date with the programme's progress, use the post code checker, or to find out if you can benefit from the new fibre service, visit www.superfastsurrey.org.uk.

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 14th December
Carols in The Crescent 7.00 pm

Parish Council Meetings:

Last Thursday of the month,
Village Hall 7.30pm (No
meeting in December)

November 28th*
January 30th*
February 27th
March 27th*
April 24th
May - APM date to be confirmed
May 29th*
June 26th

*preceded by Community
Police Action Group (7pm)