

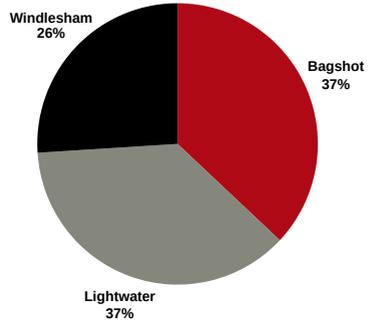


2025- 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

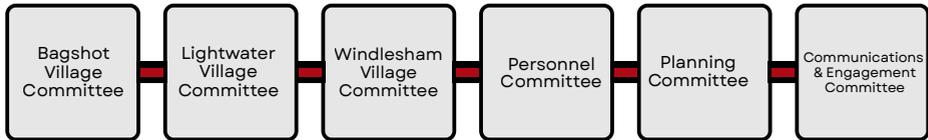
About WPC

Windlesham Parish Council, established in 1894 under the Local Government Act, is one of the oldest parish councils in England and serves the villages of Bagshot, Lightwater, and Windlesham. The parish takes its name from Windlesham because, historically, Lightwater was mainly heathland and Bagshot residents travelled to the parish's only church, St John the Baptist, in Windlesham.

Following a Boundary Commission review, the Parish Council underwent an internal reorganisation in 2021, ensuring that each village has oversight of a proportion of the precept (council tax) it generates. The financial distribution for 2025-2026 is determined based on the income generated by each village, with the allocation illustrated in the adjacent pie chart.



During 2025-2026 the main areas of the Council's work have been covered by the Full Council and six committees:



Full Council meets at the end of every month except for August and December, whilst the Committees meet once a quarter with the exception of the Planning Committee which meets twice a month to review and comment on applications. All meetings are open to the public and we encourage residents to attend.

Community Governance Review Update

Surrey Heath Borough Council has entered Stage Three of its Community Governance Review (CGR), which is assessing whether the current three village structure of Windlesham Parish Council remains appropriate.

SHBC is recommending a boundary change that would create a new, separate parish council for Windlesham village, while Bagshot and Lightwater would remain together under the existing parish council.

If implemented, assets and financial reserves would be divided based on location and population, with changes expected to take effect in April–May 2027. Windlesham Parish Council will continue to keep residents informed as the review progresses and further information is available on the Surrey Heath Borough Council website.

Your Parish Councillors 2025-2027

18 councillors represent the three villages in the Parish with elections taking place every four years. If you wish to contact one of your Councillors please email them using the following email protocol: [cllr.\(insert surname here\)@windleshampc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.(insert surname here)@windleshampc.gov.uk)

Bagshot Village Committee



Cllr White



Cllr Willgoss



Cllr Bakar



Cllr Gordon



Cllr Du Cann



Cllr Wilson

Windlesham Village Committee



Cllr Lewis



Cllr Marr



Cllr Hardless



Cllr Richardson



Cllr Wheeler

Lightwater Village Committee



Cllr Turner



Cllr Malcaus
Cooper



Cllr R Jennings-
Evans



Cllr Hartshorn



Cllr Harris



Cllr Stevens



Cllr D Jennings-Evans

Summary of 2025-2026 Achievements

New Playground at Windmill Field and Grand Opening Event - In Summer 2025, a new playground was installed at Windmill Field following an earlier consultation. The winning design featured two play frames, an accessible roundabout, a trim trail and other equipment for all ages. It opened with a hugely successful teddy bears' picnic event.

Planning Engagement - Between 1st April 2025 - 28 February 2026, the Parish Council, acting as a planning consultee, reviewed and provided comments on 242 planning applications, ensuring that the community's views were reflected in the planning process. The applications were distributed across the villages as follows: Bagshot - 61, Lightwater - 76, and Windlesham - 105.

Community Grants - All three village committees once again supported their communities through targeted grant funding, enabling local groups and initiatives to thrive.

Greenspace & Tree Management - The Council continued to maintain and enhance public greenspaces across the Parish.

Community Events - The Council approved the Lightwater Fete, VE Day music festival and Bonfire Night to be held on the field behind All Saints' Church. Each event was very well attended.

Allotments Provision - WPC continued to provide over 50 allotment plots at Hook Mill Lane, offering residents the opportunity to grow their own produce and enjoy community gardening.

Burial Authority Services - As the Burial Authority for Bagshot, Lightwater, and Windlesham, WPC continued to deliver and maintain cemetery services for the Parish and the wider community. Improvement works at Windlesham Cemetery were successfully completed, allowing for the allocation of additional half plots. At Bagshot Cemetery the memorial wall area was enhanced with the installation of new shingle, whilst Lightwater Cemetery benefited from autumn planting to brighten and improve the space.

Heritage & Community Events - WPC proudly opened Bagshot Chapel for two days in September as part of the National Heritage Open Days, welcoming over 150 visitors across both days. In December, the Chapel also hosted its annual Christmas carol service, continuing a much-loved community tradition.

Remembrance Day Parades - Council representatives participated in the annual Remembrance Day services across all three villages, laying wreaths on behalf of the community.

Summer Planting - Once again, Council brightened all three village centres with colourful hanging baskets.

VE Day Flags - The 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day were commemorated with the displays of flags across the three villages. The Council was proud to support these displays, providing flags for Lightwater and Windlesham and awarding a grant to Bagshot Events for the flags in the High Street. These were well received and remained in place until VJ Day in August.

Community Awards Ceremony - The annual Community Awards celebrated the dedication of local volunteers and introduced a new Junior Volunteer Award.

Parish Council Newsletter - The Parish Council continued to publish its regular newsletter and expanded its reach by making it available online, allowing residents to subscribe for updates.

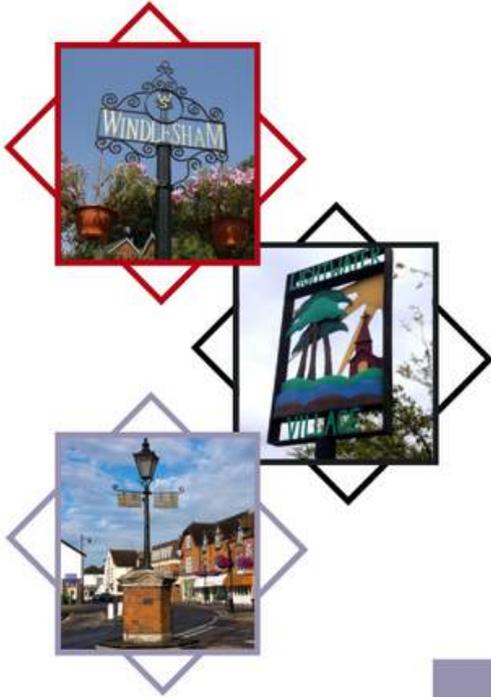
Traffic & Infrastructure Groups - Bagshot and Windlesham Committees dedicated working parties, worked in partnership with Surrey County Council on village traffic calming schemes. Including speed surveys in Windlesham.

Christmas Festivities - WPC continued to bring festive cheer by providing Christmas trees and lamp column lighting in the centre of each village.

Neighbourhood Plan Review - WPC has committed to reviewing the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan. A dedicated working party, comprising Councillors and local residents, is actively progressing this work, which will continue throughout 2026-27 as the review remains in development.



Governance



WINDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE MARCH 2026

Our Vision for Windlesham Parish

In 2022/2023, Council adopted a strategic plan covering the municipal years 2022 to 2027. This plan sets out the Parish Council's vision, purpose, values, and objectives, along with its key priorities. It aims to provide residents with a clear understanding of the Council's role, its goals, and how it works to influence other bodies - such as the Borough and County Councils - to better serve the local community.

As a live document, the Strategic Plan guides the annual budget process, helps shape upcoming activities, and enables the Council to track progress against its priorities.

Having an agreed strategy provides a consistent and coordinated framework for decision-making. It helps the Parish Council to act proactively rather than reactively and is based on Councillors' understanding of community needs gained through daily engagement with residents.

The Plan also helps clarify the Council's role and responsibilities, highlighting what it can directly influence and what falls under the remit of other authorities like Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) or Surrey County Council (SCC).

To view the most current update of the plan, please visit our website.

Precept information 2026-2027

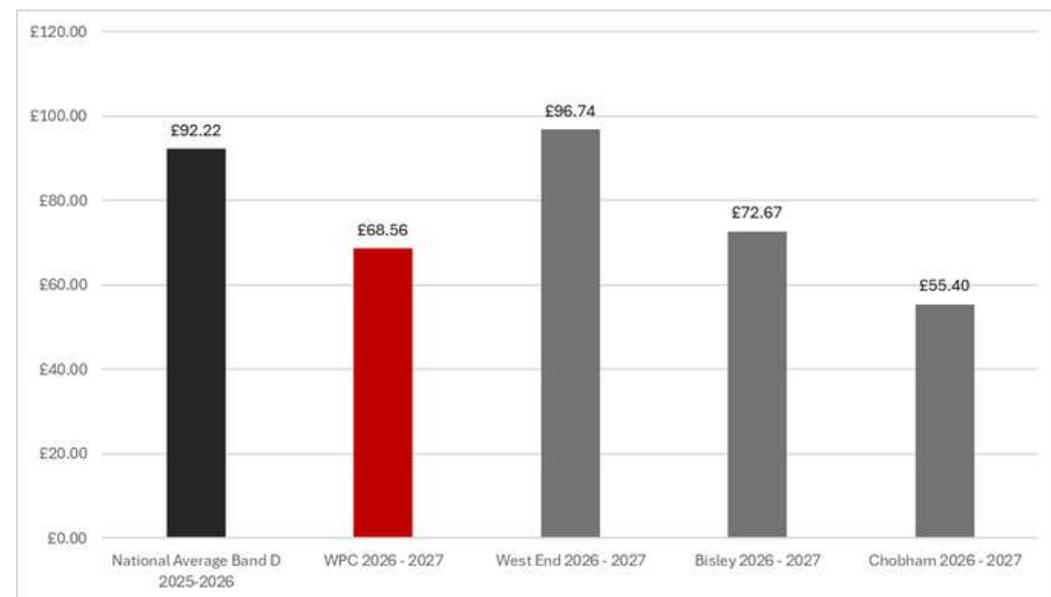
How your money is spent

Each year, typically in January, the Parish Council sets a budget for the upcoming financial year, which includes the amount to be raised through Council Tax (known as the precept).

For the 2026-2027 financial year, the net budget is £720,511. Of this, £581,189 will be raised via the precept, forming part of the overall Council Tax bill. This represents a 5% increase from the previous year and results in an annual charge of £68.56 for a Band D property.

In 2025-26, there were 8,911 precepting parishes in England. Windlesham Parish Council is among the larger councils (defined as those with a precept exceeding £250,000). The average Band D Council Tax across all local councils in 2025-26 was £92.22.

See how Windlesham Parish Council compares below:



**Please note that at the time of going to print, not all 2026-2027 data was available*

Figures for West End, Bisley, and Chobham as documented in SHBC papers for the meeting held on 18 February 2026

Partnership Working

The Parish Council plays a vital role in collaborating with other local authorities and community organisations. Over the past year, we have:

- Worked with Surrey Heath Police to address community concerns including burglaries, fly-tipping, and anti-social behaviour.
- Continued working closely with Surrey County Council (SCC) and SCC Highways on the upcoming delivery of traffic calming schemes in Bagshot and Windlesham. In Windlesham, the Village Committee has funded speed surveys to inform the scheme with up-to-date data. In Bagshot, the Committee's traffic calming proposal was approved by SCC Highways. WPC is waiting for confirmation of a start date.
- The Parish Council continues to act as a key local voice, advising both SCC and SHBC on matters of community interest, infrastructure needs, and environmental concerns.

What do you get for your Parish Council Tax?

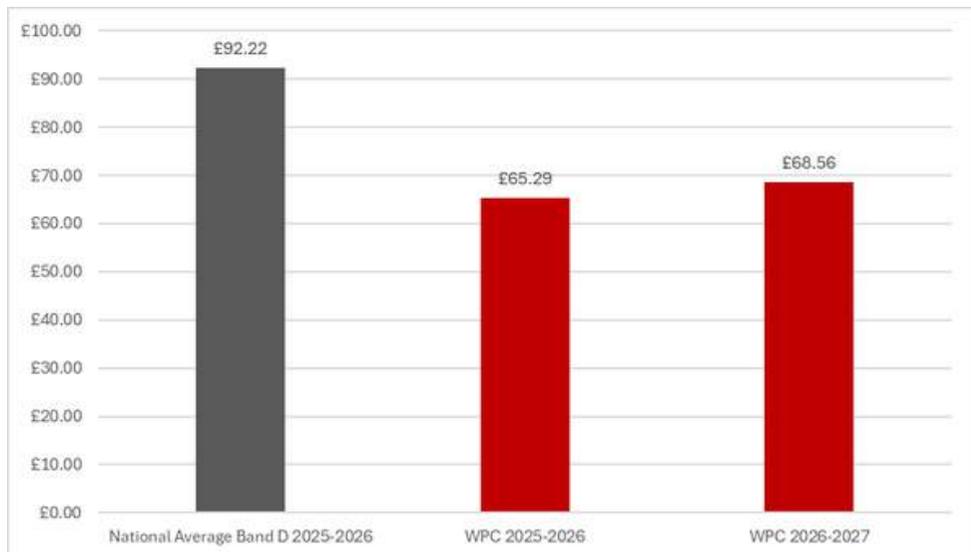
Windlesham Parish Council's (WPC) budget and precept for 2026-27 has now been agreed.

How much will each household pay?

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Weekly	£0.88	£1.03	£1.17	£1.32	£1.61	£1.90	£2.20	£2.64
Per Annum	£45.70	£53.32	£60.94	£68.56	£83.79	£99.02	£114.26	£137.11
Annual Increase from 2025-2026	£2.17	£2.54	£2.90	£3.26	£3.99	£4.71	£5.44	£6.52

How do we compare nationally?

In 2025-26 there were 8,911 precepting parishes in England. The average Band D council tax for all local councils for 2025-26 was £92.22



*Please note that at the time of going to print, not all 2026-2027 data was available

Precept information 2026-2027

How is your Parish Council precept invested in the community?

Open Space and Tree Maintenance

We maintain approximately 55,364 sq meters of grass and vegetation, and 5000 trees across various sites. Each year we also supply the villages with stunning hanging basket displays during the summer months, as well as fallen soldiers and lamp post poppies for Remembrance day.

Allotments

Council provides allotments at Hook Mill Lane for more than 50 residents of the parish.

Community Grant Funding

We provide grants to local groups and charities to support their activities which benefit the residents of the Parish. During 2025-2026, we have supported various community groups.

To apply for a grant, please get in touch.

Playground & Outdoor Gym Maintenance

We maintain five outdoor play areas, two outdoor gyms, and a multi-use games area. All of which have been upgraded in recent years.

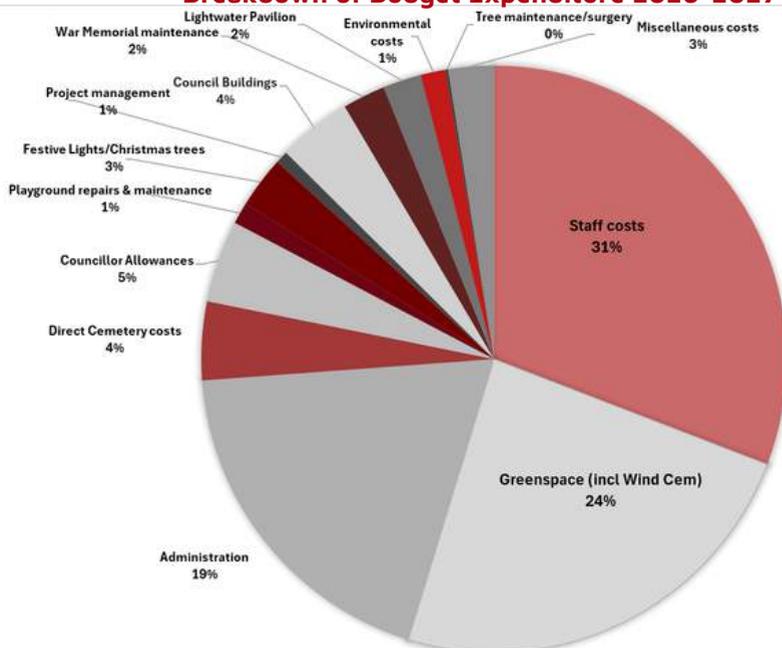
Maintenance of 3 Cemeteries

WPC is responsible for managing and maintaining 3 cemeteries; complying with legal regulations, overseeing interment services, and maintaining financial sustainability to fund future burial spaces and unexpected costs.

Christmas Trees & Lights

We install, illuminate and decorate Christmas trees in Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham village centres and provide all the Christmas lamp column lighting.

Breakdown of Budget Expenditure 2026-2027



Grants



Each year, the Council allocates a budget to provide grants to local groups and voluntary organisations in need of financial assistance. During 2025/26, the Parish Council awarded **£46,274** to support a range of local organisations with various projects and needs. This included grants funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), generated from developments within each village.

Bagshot Committee - £31,726

Includes CIL funding

- **Bagshot Cricket Club £10,000** - Contribution towards new training nets (*Community Infrastructure Funding*).
- **Bagshot Society £280** - Contribution towards summer and winter planting and 'Meet The Councillor' events.
- **Bagshot Events £584** - Contribution towards VE day flags for the village.
- **Curley Park Rangers £3000** - Contribution towards pitch maintenance.
- **Earlswood Estate Management Group £17,500** - Contribution towards a new play park at Gomer Road, Bagshot (*Community Infrastructure Funding*).
- **Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC) £177.60** - Contribution towards the SALC unitary model engagement report.
- **Air Ambulance KSS (Kent, Surrey, Sussex) £185** - Contribution to help towards operating costs including the helicopter emergency medical service, rapid response vehicles, medical equipment, and crew.

Lightwater Committee - £8612

- **Air Ambulance KSS (Kent, Surrey, Sussex) £185** - Contribution to help towards operating costs, including the helicopter emergency medical service, rapid response vehicles, medical equipment, and crew.
- **Briars Centre £2000** - Contribution towards a hearing loop system.
- **Lightwater Society £5500** - Contribution towards the fayre in the square events and the Summer 2026 musical festival.
- **Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC) £177.60** - Contribution towards the SALC unitary model engagement report.
- **Lightwater Connected £750** - Contribution towards Lightwater Village publication and towards the 2026 Lightwater fete.

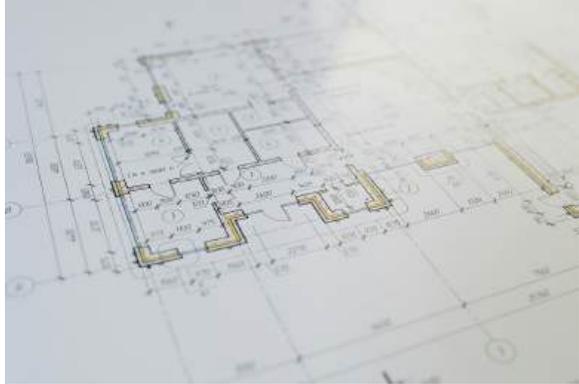
Windlesham Committee - £5936

- **Air Ambulance KSS (Kent, Surrey, Sussex) £130** - Contribution to help towards operating costs, including the helicopter emergency medical service, rapid response vehicles, medical equipment, and crew.
- **Royal British Legion £1600** - Contribution towards VE day celebrations.
- **Over 60's luncheon club at St John's £1000** - Contribution towards activities for the over 60s.
- **Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC) £124.80** - Contribution towards the SALC unitary model engagement report.
- **Windlesham Derby & Joan - £1000** to support the groups coach outings and social events.
- **Windlesham Field of Remembrance £1000** - Contribution towards waste collection.
- **Windlesham Fete Committee £1082** - Contribution towards flags for use at the fete.



Planning

The Parish Council is a consultee on all planning applications within its wards. As part of this responsibility the Council reviews each application, providing comments and raising any concerns on behalf of the local community. These representations are submitted to Surrey Heath Borough Council, which considers them as part of its planning decision process. Between 1st April 2025 and 28th February 2026, the Parish Council reviewed a total of 242 planning applications.



Community Infrastructure Levy

When new housing developments take place within the Parish, the Parish Council receives a portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This levy is paid by the developer to the Borough Council, and a percentage is then passed on to the Parish Council. For developments in Bagshot and Lightwater the Parish receives 15% of the CIL. In Windlesham, where there is an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, the share is 25%. CIL funds must be used to support the development of the local area by either:

1. Providing, improving, replacing, operating, or maintaining local infrastructure; or
2. Addressing any other needs or pressures created by new development.

CIL funding offers a valuable opportunity to enhance our villages and provide a wider range of amenities for people of all ages and interests. The Parish Council has agreed that any CIL funds generated in a particular village will be kept in a dedicated reserve, to be used for projects within that village.

Projects funded from CIL:

- Allotment Purchase for the Parish – £100,000
- Grant for Gomer Road Playground, Bagshot – £17,500
- Windmill Field Replacement Project - £15,835
- Bagshot Cricket Club - funding towards training nets - £15,000

Committed CIL Expenditure:

- Traffic and Infrastructure Improvements for Bagshot Village – £140,000 committed
- Bagshot Chapel Maintenance Works – £20,000
- School Lane pathway, Bagshot – £22,000
- Traffic & infrastructure in Windlesham – £13,627

Open Spaces & Allotments

The Council is proud to continue providing free access to Lightwater Recreation Ground for much-loved community events.

In 2025, the ground hosted the Lightwater Fete and the annual bonfire and fireworks display. It also held the VE80 Festival, marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This event was proudly supported by a parish council grant.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Parish Council is excited to once again welcome the annual Lightwater Fete, organised by Lightwater Connected, along with a brand-new addition to the village calendar: LightFest, a summer celebration to be delivered by Lightwater Society in July.



The Council also owns the south side of High Curley in Lightwater, a heathland designated as an area of special scientific interest. In addition, it is responsible for Bagshot Chapel, Lightwater Memorial Gardens, and numerous small open spaces throughout the Parish. The Council also provides allotments at Hook Mill Lane, benefiting more than 50 parish residents.



Hanging Baskets & Summer Planting

Once again, hanging baskets were provided across the three villages, bringing vibrant bursts of colour and charm throughout the summer months. The Council is always pleased to receive positive feedback from residents.



VE Day 80 - Flags across our villages



Union Jack flags brought colour and pride to our villages in the summer as part of our commemorations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day, creating a striking display that celebrated both community spirit and national remembrance.

The Parish Council was pleased to provide flags in Lightwater and Windlesham, and to support Bagshot's display through grant funding awarded to Bagshot Events.



The flags were displayed ahead of VE Day on Thursday 8 May and remained in place until the end of August to also mark VJ Day, honouring the end of the Second World War.



Residents shared many positive comments about the displays, showing how strongly this tradition is valued across all three villages.

Council Facilities

Play Areas

The Parish Council owns and oversees five recreation grounds: School Lane Field and Freemantle Road in Bagshot, Lightwater Recreation Ground, and Windmill Field and Kings Lane in Windlesham.

In Summer 2025, the Parish Council proudly unveiled an exciting new play area at Windmill Field in Windlesham, replacing the old playground with a vibrant, inclusive space for children of all ages and abilities. The launch was marked by a grand opening event, which proved a huge success - drawing many families and children who enjoyed the new equipment during a delightful Teddy Bears' Picnic.

Windmill Field, Windlesham



Play areas & Outdoor Gyms



Lightwater Recreation Ground



Lightwater Outdoor Gym



School Lane, Bagshot



School Lane Outdoor Gym



Freemantle Road, Bagshot



Kings Lane, Windlesham

Lightwater Recreation Ground and School Lane Field have both had outdoor gyms installed in the last three years which are regularly enjoyed by members of the community.

Burial Grounds



Windlesham Parish Council owns and oversees three burial grounds.

Bagshot Cemetery is now closed for new burials, but ashes can still be interred at the memorial wall.

Lightwater and Windlesham Cemeteries are frequently chosen as final resting places for residents, former residents, and non-residents. From April 2025 to the end of February 2026, WPC facilitated 10 burials and 24 ashes interments. Specifically, this included 8 burials and 18 ashes interments at Windlesham Cemetery, 2 burials and 6 ashes interments at Lightwater Cemetery.



In the spring of 2025, an area of Windlesham Cemetery was re-landscaped to accommodate additional half-plot burials. This work ensures that council can continue to provide a peaceful and well-maintained resting place for the community.



In July 2025, the surroundings of the memorial wall at Bagshot Cemetery were improved with new stone dressing, enhancing the appearance of the area.

Additionally, in the autumn of 2025, the bedding area around the holly trees in Lightwater Cemetery was brightened up with new bedding plants, helping to keep the grounds looking welcoming.



Heritage Assets

Bagshot Chapel

Bagshot Chapel and Cemetery have been cared for by Windlesham Parish Council since 1962. Although the Chapel is not a listed building, it is recognised for its architectural interest and is included on Surrey Heath Borough Council's list of locally significant historic buildings.

In September 2025, the Parish Council was delighted to welcome over 150 visitors to Bagshot Chapel as part of the nationwide Heritage Open Days. Those who came along thoroughly enjoyed discovering the Chapel's history and having the rare opportunity to explore inside.

The 2025 Christmas carol service at Bagshot Chapel was also a great success. Many people joined us for the occasion and commented on how much they appreciated the Chapel's warm, intimate atmosphere.



War Memorials & Remembrance

All three of the war memorials in our villages are Grade II listed, and each year the Parish Council marks Remembrance Sunday by displaying silent soldiers and large poppies on the lamp-posts in the villages.

In November 2025, Councillors were honoured to lay wreaths on behalf of Windlesham Parish Council at the Remembrance services held in each village.



Chairman's Community Award Ceremony 2025

The 2025 Community Reception held in April, was once again a wonderful success. Hosted by the then Vice Chair and now Chair of Council, Councillor Valerie White, the afternoon provided a heartfelt opportunity to recognise those who have made an outstanding difference in our community through their volunteer work, generosity and kindness.

A new honour was introduced this year: the Junior Award, presented for the first time to 11-year-old parish resident Isla. Her achievements are nothing short of remarkable. Despite living with the rare and debilitating condition FOP (Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva), Isla has demonstrated extraordinary determination and compassion. With the support of her family and friends, she has raised over £100,000 for FOP Friends, £5,000 for Quest RDA, and £1,500 for Shooting Star Hospice. Hearing about Isla's achievements left everyone feeling incredibly inspired, and it was wonderful to recognise all she has accomplished.

The reception was a truly uplifting afternoon celebrating the individuals who help make our community such a special place.

We look forward to celebrating more of our local heroes at the annual parish meeting this spring.



Christmas 2025

The Council spread festive cheer across all three villages with beautifully lit Christmas trees and sparkling lamp column decorations. In addition, Bagshot Chapel opened its doors for the annual Christmas carols, which continues to be a much loved event enjoyed by the whole community.

Bagshot



Lightwater



Windlesham





Contact Us

The Council welcomes views from residents and people working within the parish on any aspect of life in the three villages.

The Parish Council Offices & Chamber
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