

Windlesham
Parish Council

Windlesham Lightwater Bagshot

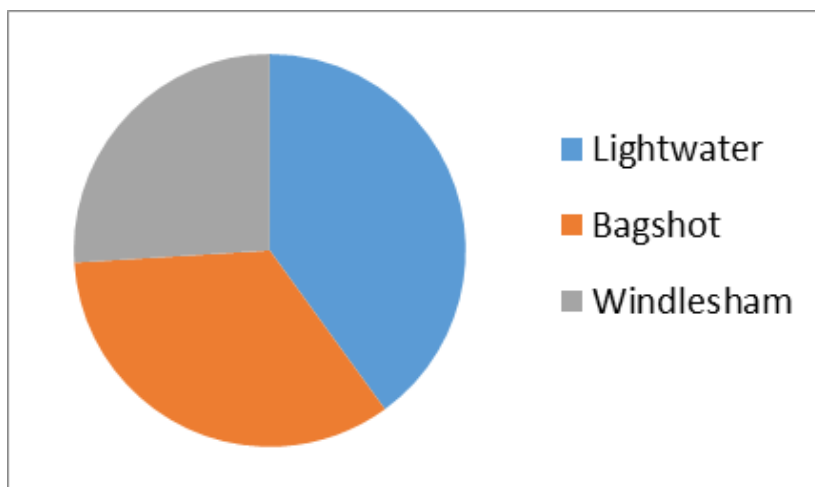
Annual Report 2019-2020

Annual Report 2019-20

This report describes the main activities of Windlesham Parish Council during 2019-20 and also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

Windlesham Parish consists of the 3 villages of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham and lies to the east of the town of Camberley in the Borough of Surrey Heath.

There are approximately 13,800 electors in the Parish with Lightwater the largest village, followed by Bagshot and then Windlesham - which is the most rural part of the Parish and set within the Green Belt.



Windlesham Parish Council is one of the oldest parish councils in England, originally established in 1894 with the passing of the Local Government Act, which took the administration of the Parish out of the hands of the Church (at the time Lightwater was primarily heathland and Bagshot residents had to travel to the only church in the parish - St John the Baptist - for this reason the parish is called Windlesham).

During 2019-20 the main areas of the Council's work have been covered by 5 Committees:

- Finance & General Purposes
- Civic Recreation & Amenities
- Planning
- Cemeteries
- Personnel

Full Council meets on the last Tuesday of the month (except for August and December) with the Committees meeting regularly. All meetings are open to the public to attend— either in person or currently, by viewing the livestream available on our Facebook page. A full schedule of meetings can be found at:

<https://www.windleshampc.gov.uk>

Parish Councillors

18 councillors represent the 3 villages in the Parish with elections taking place every 4 years. Elections took place in May 2019, with a revision to the numbers of Councillors elected per village, following the Boundary Commission review of Surrey Heath in 2017.

Our current Councillors:

Bagshot Ward

(incorporating North Windlesham)

Cllr Abu Bakar - 07753 234596
Cllr Nick Chambers – 07799 037871
Cllr Mark Gordon – 07368 429220
Cllr Colin Manley – 07808 369205
Cllr Ursula Trentham – 07810 656244
Cllr Valerie White - 01276 479233
Cllr Andrew Willgoss - 07738 099612
Vacancy

Lightwater Ward

Cllr Peter Barnett - 01276 471675
Cllr Sharon Galliford - 07592 151805
Cllr Jarmila Halovsky-Yu – 01276 479866
Cllr James Harris - 01276 471675
Cllr Christine Hartshorn - 07807 062054
Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans – 07973 549673
Cllr Katia Malcaus Cooper – 07767 455718

Windlesham Ward:

Cllr Mike Goodman - 01276 471675
Cllr Barry Stacey – 07554 019591
Cllr Helen Hansen-Hjul - 07947 871292

Very sadly, one of our newly elected Councillors, Sam Kay, passed away in January 2020. There is therefore currently a vacancy in the ward of Bagshot.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of the various Committees are elected annually in May. During 2019-20 the following Councillors held chairmanships:

Chairman of the Council

Cllr. Valerie White

Vice Chairman of the Council

Cllr. Katia Malcaus Cooper

Committee Chairmen

Civic Amenities & Recreation Committee

Cllr. Jarmila Halovsky-Yu

Planning Committee

Cllr. Barry Stacey

Finance & General Purpose Committee

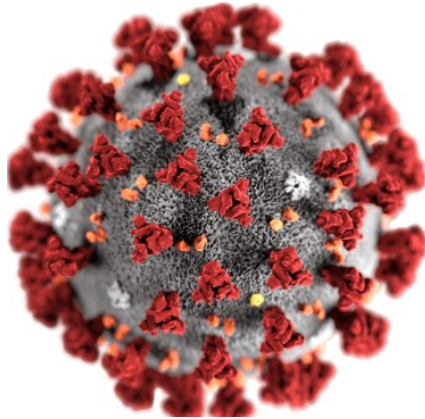
Cllr. Mike Goodman

Cemeteries Committee

Cllr. James Harris

Personnel Committee

Cllr. Rebecca Jennings-Evans



Covid-19 Pandemic

The current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic has brought a lot of uncertainty, fear and difficulties for Parish residents. It is without question the most defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge faced since World War Two.

However, in the face of such adversity, as is very often the case, the communities in the Parish have come together to help and support each other in a variety of ways. Each village established its own volunteer support network—in Bagshot a coordinated response was managed by Stefan Nahajski and St Annes Church; in Lightwater the Lightwater Resilience Plan was set up by Katia Malcaus Cooper and Windsor Rackham and Windlesham Caring, supported by a wider volunteer effort coordinated by Victoria Wheeler. All have provided services such as shopping, prescription collection, a weekly phone call to those alone and isolating etc, carried out by an amazing number of volunteers across the villages. These volunteer groups also worked with the Borough-wide response to Covid-19, Surrey Heath Prepared.

The Parish Council were very happy to provide funding to each village group to help them with the services they set up and have been delighted to see the positive impacts made on the communities based on respect and willingness by all to work together to support every single resident that has needed help.

As the country starts to emerge into a “new normal” there will inevitably be new and different challenges to face. The Council has taken advantage of the new legislation afforded to it to be able to conduct meetings remotely and is moving towards “business as usual”. By embracing new technology we are now able to livestream our meetings to Facebook and the Council has been really pleased to see the increased engagement from residents who view the meetings in real time using this platform.

The coming year is unlikely to look like any other the Council has faced before but it will continue to work for the benefit of the three villages and look to support the community whilst adjusting and adapting to “post-pandemic” life.

Community Governance Review



In May 2019 a petition raised by Windlesham residents was presented to Surrey Heath Borough Council to request a Community Governance Review in order to create a separate, devolved Parish Council for the village of Windlesham only. This would see the current 3 village arrangement disbanded, with a separate Council for Windlesham and potentially a joint Bagshot and Lightwater council.

Consultation led by Surrey Heath Borough Council took place over a 12 week period between August and October 2019. In response to this consultation, a total of 668 individual responses were received, which equates to 5.0% of the electorate of the Parish area. Of these, a total of 507 responses were received from Windlesham residents (a figure which equates to 14.7% of the electors registered in Windlesham).

Surrey Heath concluded that as overall 95% of the residents of the Parish area chose either not to respond or sought to retain the status quo, there was no demonstrable evidence of a real wish for change. Their recommendations to not take the CGR process any further were not supported by Borough Councillors and the process is now currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Parish Council have agreed to look at their internal functions and committees to see if a move to a "village" committee system will provide a level of autonomy that those who wished for Windlesham village to have its' own council would find acceptable.

The formal CGR process needs to be brought to a conclusion and there is likely to be a final round of consultation by Surrey Heath Borough Council in the future.

Council Facilities—Play areas

The Parish Council owns and manages 5 recreation grounds: School Lane Field and Freemantle Road in Bagshot; Lightwater Recreation Ground and Windmill Field and Kings Lane in Windlesham.

This year the Council replaced the play equipment at Kings Lane, installed new fencing and a new noticeboard. We were very pleased to welcome Grace the Hedgehog and Anne Brummer from the Save Me Trust to officially open the new playground.



The Council will continue with its program of playground refurbishment in the coming year.

Council Facilities - Open Spaces and Allotments

The Council grants free of charge access to Lightwater Recreation ground for the Lightwater Fete and Lightwater bonfire and fireworks each year. Both are very popular and well-attended local events.



The Council also owns the south side of High Curley in Lightwater, which is a heathland area of special scientific interest; Bagshot Chapel, Lightwater Memorial Gardens and numerous small open spaces throughout the Parish.

The Council provides allotments at Hook Mill Lane for more than 50 residents of the parish. We now have an extensive waiting list of prospective plot holders.



Council Facilities—Cemeteries

Windlesham Parish Council owns and manages three burial grounds. Bagshot is a closed burial ground but ashes are accepted for interment at the memorial wall. Lightwater and Windlesham are popular choices for the final resting place of many residents, ex-residents and non-residents. Between April 2019 and March 2020, we have managed 25 burials and 17 ashes interments.

This year we have renovated the memorial wall at Lightwater, replacing the grassed area in front of the wall with shingle. This will help with maintenance and keep the area looking neat and tidy.



Heritage

In September 2019, as in previous years, Bagshot Chapel was opened to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days weekend and received much interest from the public. Bagshot Community Events were again given permission to hold their informal carol service in December.

When the interior of the Chapel was refurbished 4 years ago, the Council were advised that the exterior roof would need replacing within the next 3-5 years.



This work has been completed this year, using tiles that sympathetically blend in with the rest of the building.



War Memorials and Remembrance

All three of the war memorials in our villages are Grade II listed. This year, after a considerable delay due to the lack of correct stone available, restoration work to the Bagshot memorial was completed. The next stage will be to have the memorial fully cleaned, which we hope to have completed before Remembrance Sunday this year (2020).

The silent soldiers and the large lamp-post poppies were displayed again in each of the villages for Remembrance Sunday.

Councillors Malcaus Cooper, Kay and Hansen-Hjul were very pleased to lay wreaths on behalf of Windlesham Parish Council at the Remembrance services held in the villages.



The Community Reception

Sadly, due to the situation with the Coronavirus pandemic, the Council took the decision to postpone the annual Community Reception which was due to be held on 14th March. The event recognises the important role played by the many volunteers within the 3 villages and although it was due to be held before the period of lockdown was announced, due to the demographic of the attendees at this event, the Council felt it was safest course of action.

We hope to reschedule the event when circumstances allow so we can celebrate those who were nominated to receive awards, as listed below:

Suzanne Sharman - in recognition of all her hard work and dedication to the pavilion project at the Field of Remembrance

Susan Towlson—in recognition of all her hard work to set up and co-ordinate the volunteer litter picking events in Lightwater

Mike Sheard—in recognition of his work in the role of Chairman of the Windlesham Pram Race Committee

Geoff Mitchell and Dave Richardson—in recognition of their work to design and install the Christmas lights in the centre of Lightwater

Chapel Lane Action Group—in recognition of the huge amount of work and dedication given to the Save Chapel Lane campaign

Honorary Freeman of the Parish

This is the most honourable distinction which it is within the power of the Council to bestow upon an individual and is awarded to

June Green

in recognition of her outstanding and devoted service to the community as longstanding Chairman of the Trustees of Windlesham United Charities and involvement with various other organisations including Bagshot Women's Institute and Bagshot Society.

Grants

Each year the Council sets aside a sum of money which can be given as grants to local groups or voluntary organisations requiring financial support.

During 2019/20 the Parish Council has awarded over £41,500 to support 20 local organisations with a wide variety of projects or requirements.



Open Spaces Maintenance Grants:

Curley Park Rangers	£3,500
Windlesham Field of Remembrance	£3,500
Bagshot Playing Fields Association	£957

General Grants:

Bagshot Playing Fields Association—towards pavilion renovation	£15,000
Windlesham United Charities— conversion of bedsit into a one-bed property	£3,000
Windlesham Youth FC—new goals, balls, coaching & creation of a girls' team	£2,750
Harper Asprey—towards costs of a new hedgehog enclosure	£2,500
Bagshot Infant School —towards costs of setting up a school apiary	£1,000
The Hope Hub—towards training volunteers, branded uniforms, & mobile phone	£1,000
Bracknell & District Parkinsons Branch—to help subsidise costs of services such as hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, dance, Nordic walking etc,	£1,000
HEART—opportunities for children to develop their love of literature & reading	£800
Windlesham Darby & Joan – towards cost of coach trips for their members	£800
Bagshot Good Companions – towards the cost of trips for their members	£500
Windlesham Womens Institute – towards hall costs and outside speakers	£500
Windlesham Ladies Fellowship– towards costs of hall hire and meetings	£500
WC Lees Almshouses—extension work to properties	£500
Neighbourhood Watch - towards costs of newsletter “Heathwatch”	£450
St John’s Over 60’s Lunch Club—towards hall rent & purchase of new freezer	£250

A grant of £1,000 per village was also given to the volunteer groups set up in each village to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Community Pride Grants

As well as the general grants Council give, for the second year running Councillor Community Pride grants were available. £6,000 per village was allocated to be used by Councillors to support projects or initiatives in their own villages. Below is a list of how the money was spent:

Windlesham— £4,600 total

Cllr Goodman—3 village Dementia Action Alliance group and Harper Asprey to build a new hedgehog enclosure

Cllr Hansen-Hjul —WC Lees renovation work

Cllr Stacey – WC Lees renovation work and a donation to Frimley Health Charity

Lightwater - £6,000 total

Cllr Barnett— Lightwater Scouts new climbing wall project and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Lightwater

Cllr Galliford—Lightwater Scouts new climbing wall project and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Lightwater

Cllr Halovsky-Yu—LBA Christmas Light Switch On event, 3 village Dementia Action Alliance group, Lightwater LIVE and the Lightwater Improvements Project

Cllr Harris—Lightwater Scouts new climbing wall project and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Lightwater

Cllr Hartshorn— to fund the set up of Lightwater Community Cinema

Cllr Jennings-Evans—to fund the set up of Lightwater Community Cinema

Cllr Malcaus Cooper—Lightwater Scouts new climbing wall project and fund equipment for the volunteer village litter pick.

Bagshot - £6,000 total

Cllr Bakar— Chapel Lane Action Group's traffic survey and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

Cllr Chambers – Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

Cllr Gordon— Bagshot Methodist Church with their toilet refurbishment, Chapel Lane Action Group's traffic survey, to support provision of childrens play days after closure of Surestart and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

Cllr Kay— prior to his passing, Cllr Kay supported Bagshot Methodist Church with their toilet refurbishment and Chapel Lane Action Group's traffic survey. Council agreed to donate the remainder of his Community Pride Allowance to the two charities nominated by his family in his memory—Crisis and The British Liver Trust

Cllr Manley—Chapel Lane Action Group's traffic survey and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

Cllr Trentham—Bagshot Methodist Church with their toilet refurbishment, Chapel Lane Action Group's traffic survey, 3 village Dementia Action Alliance group, and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

Cllr White—Bagshot Methodist Church with their toilet refurbishment, Bagshot Big Bash road closure, 3 village Dementia Action Alliance group, and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

Cllr Willgoss—Bagshot Methodist Church with their toilet refurbishment, Chapel Lane Action Group's traffic survey and the Covid-19 volunteer response in Bagshot

How your money is spent

Each December, the Parish Council sets a budget for the next financial year which includes the amount to be raised via Council Tax (precept).

The net budget for 2020/21 is £388,700 of which £309,370 will be collected through the precept as part of the overall Council Tax demand. There is no increase for residents on last year. Each household contributes 73p per week to the Parish Council's expenditure.

There are over 8,800 precepting parishes in England, of which Windlesham Parish Council is one of just 540 larger councils (i.e. with a precept over £250,000) With a precept demand of £37.76 (2019/20) per household compared to a national average of £113.17 for larger precepting councils (2019/20), Windlesham Parish Council offers exceptional value for money. Windlesham ranks 16th of all larger councils for the lowest precept demand per household in England.

Consultation

The Parish Council plays an important role in consulting with the public, other local authorities and organisations. During the last year we have raised public awareness, worked with other local authorities and organisations and responded to consultations on the following proposals:

Government Consultation—Strengthening Police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments

Surrey County Council—Surrey Fire and Rescue Consultation

Heathrow airport expansion consultation;

ESSO Pipeline consultation;

Collaborated with SHBC on Christmas tree recycling for the fourth year;

Surrey Heath Police—on burglaries, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

We have had the added requirement this year of collaboratively working with multiple agencies with regard to the traveller incursion at Lightwater Recreation Ground. Surrey County Council is responsible for highways matters and Surrey Heath Borough Council for planning matters and the Parish Council advises both authorities on matters of local interest.

Planning

The Parish Council has the power to be notified of all planning applications in its wards. As such, it is responsible for commenting upon all these applications and raising concerns. These comments are passed to Surrey Heath Borough Council who take them into account when reaching planning decisions. In the last 12 months we have reviewed 281 planning applications.

In May 2019, the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan finally went to referendum after 4 1/2 years hard work by the volunteers on the Steering Group. The Neighbourhood Plan passed referendum, obtaining 76% of votes in favour of adopting the Plan. The Plan now legally forms part of the local planning framework that all applications must be assessed against.

Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets were again supplied to the 3 villages and provided beautiful displays of dazzling colour throughout the summer months



The Council are always delighted to hear the lovely comments from residents about the displays.

Christmas Trees

This year the Council again organised 3 beautiful Christmas trees for the villages. All were beautifully lit and gave each village a real focal point for Christmas celebrations.

Lightwater Village Centre



Bagshot Village Centre



Windlesham Village Centre

The Council welcomes views from residents and people working here on any aspect of life in the 3 villages.

Please contact your local Councillor if you have any issues you wish to discuss.

The Parish Council Offices & Chamber
The Avenue, Lightwater, GU18 5RG.

Tel: 01276 471675

Email: clerk@windleshampc.gov.uk

Website: www.windleshampc.gov.uk



Windlesham Parish Council



@WindleshamPC