

Windlesham Parish Council

Windlesham Lightwater Bagshot

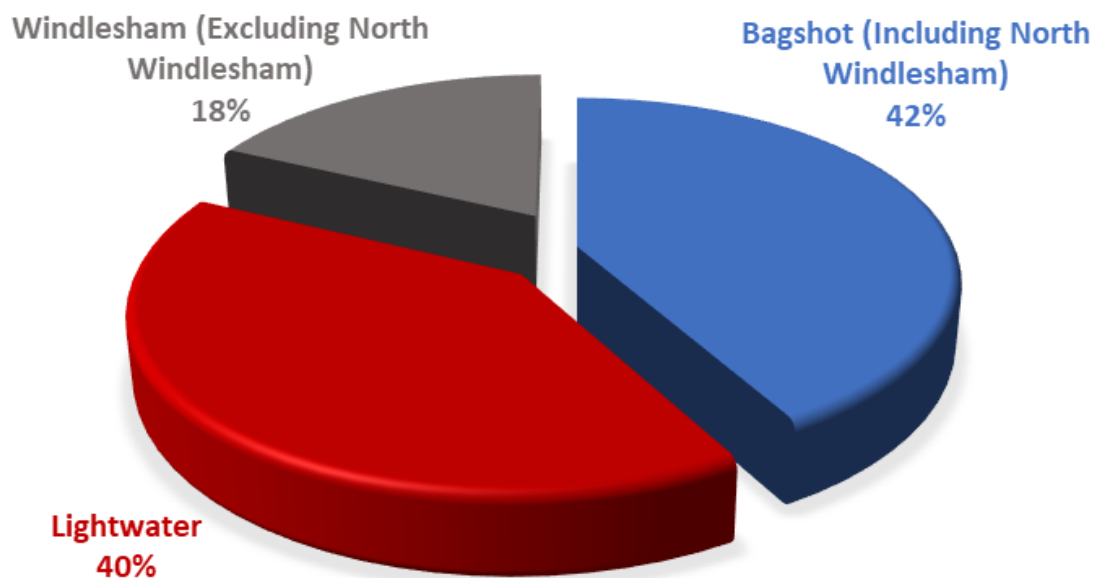


ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

Who is Windlesham Parish Council?

Consisting of 3 villages (Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham), 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 2020-21 the main areas of the Council's work have been covered by 6 Committees:

- Finance & General Purposes
- Civic Recreation & Amenities
- Planning
- Cemeteries
- Lightwater Pavilion
- 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 attending the Zoom meeting or viewing the livestream available on our Facebook page.

A full schedule of meetings can be found at:

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

Your 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, after the Boundary Commission review of Surrey Heath in 2017. Following a Community Governance Review carried out by Surrey Heath Borough Council Council in 2019-20, the Boundary Commission has now granted a request to alter the parish ward boundaries, which will come into effect in May 2023. For more detail please read the governance section of this report. Currently the Parish has 3 vacancies in Bagshot Ward (incorporating North Windlesham) with elections being held on 6th May 2021.

Your current Councillors are:

Bagshot Ward (incorporating North Windlesham)



Cllr White



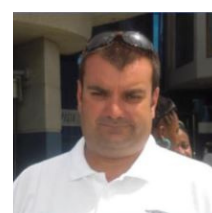
Cllr Willgoss



Cllr Manley



Cllr Bakar



Cllr Gordon



3 Vacancies

Windlesham Ward:



Cllr Goodman

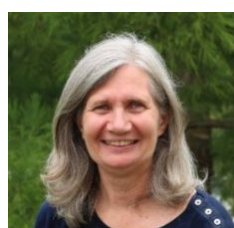


Cllr Stacey

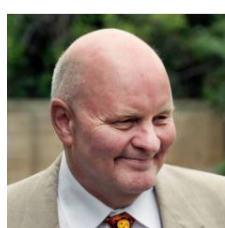


Cllr Hansen-Hjul

Lightwater Ward



Cllr Galliford



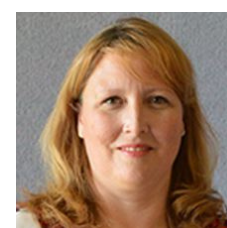
Cllr Barnett



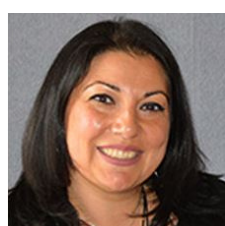
Cllr Hartshorn



Cllr Harris



Cllr Jennings-Evans



Cllr Malcaus Cooper
Chairman of the Council



Cllr Halovsky-Yu
Vice Chairman of the Council

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), alternatively call the council offices on 01276 471675.

Governance



Following on from the petition raised by Windlesham residents in 2019 that triggered a Community Governance review of the Windlesham Parish area, we received excellent news In March from the Boundary Commission that draws the formal Community Governance review process to a close.

The request made by Surrey Heath Borough Council to the Boundary Commission to alter the parish ward boundaries has been accepted and will become effective from the parish elections taking place in 2023.

What does this mean? This means that at parish level, the village of Windlesham will be electorally re-united. The number of Parish Councillors representing Windlesham village will increase from 3 (as it is currently) to 5 and all Windlesham residents will vote for their own representatives (and the Snods Ride area of the village will no longer be classed as part of Bagshot, voting for Bagshot representatives).

The Council has now completed discussions to change its internal workings to move to a village aligned committee structure, where each village group will be largely responsible for its own budget and focus solely on their own issues, important to their residents. Alongside the now agreed changes to the boundaries, this will deliver a new model of working that reflects the wishes expressed by residents through the consultation process. The new Committee structure will take effect after the annual full council meeting in May.

The Council extends its thanks to all those who have been involved in the process. Tony Murphy, the lead petitioner who sought to right a wrong “imposed” on Windlesham residents; the working party who spent a considerable amount of time in negotiations regarding the new operating framework for the Council and the residents who took the time to engage with the formal review process conducted by Surrey Heath Borough Council.

Council Facilities

Play Areas

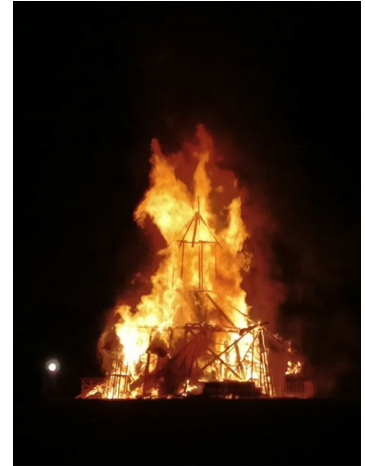
The Parish Council owns and manages 5 recreation grounds: School Lane Field and Freemantle Road in Bagshot; Lightwater Recreation Ground and Windmill Field and Kings Lane in Windlesham.

Throughout the pandemic Council has, where possible, endeavoured to keep the playgrounds open and safe for use. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both parents and children for observing the guidance in place over the last year.



Open Spaces & Allotments

The Council grants free of charge access to Lightwater Recreation ground for community events. Unfortunately this year, due to the pandemic, neither the Lightwater Fete or the Lightwater bonfire and fireworks were able to take place. Both are very popular and well-attended local events which we hope to be able to host in the future.



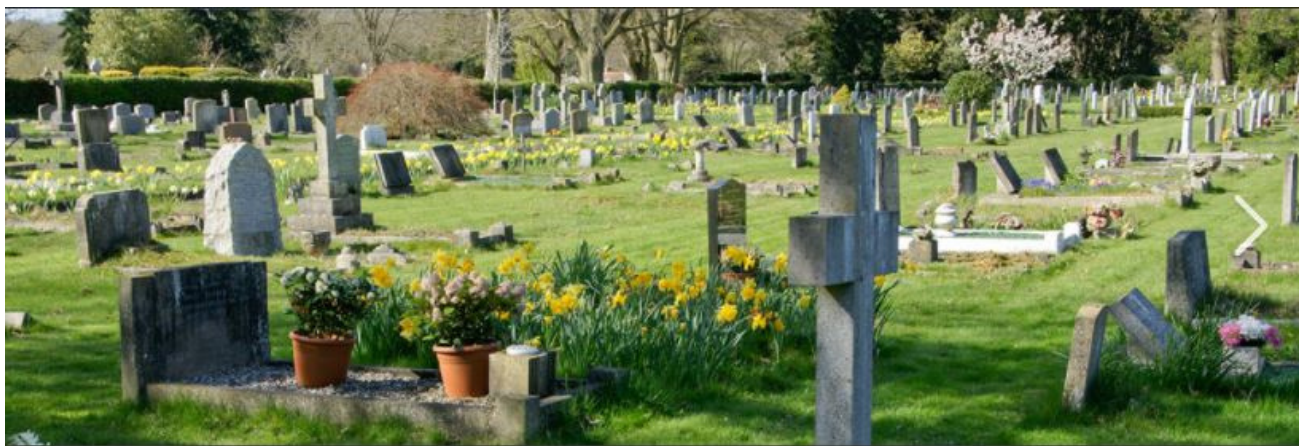
The Council also owns the south side of High Curley in Lightwater, which is a heathland area of special scientific interest; Bagshot Chapel, Lightwater Memorial Gardens and numerous small open spaces throughout the Parish.



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.



Burial Grounds



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 2020 and March 2021, we have managed 35 burials and 19 ashes interments.

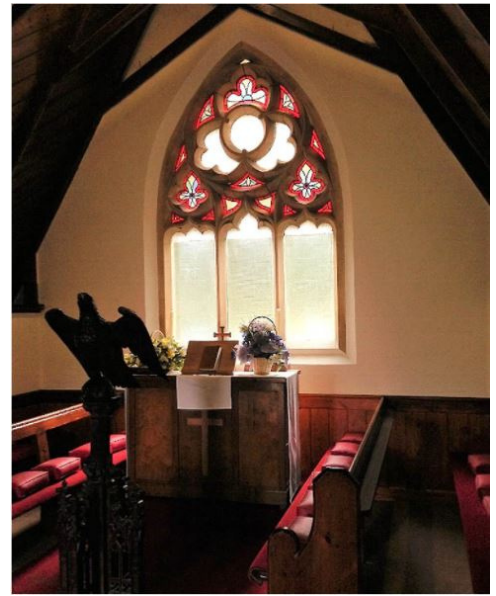
This year we have carried out a medium term repair to the main footpath in Windlesham cemetery and next municipal year councillors from each village will assess the cemeteries to devise a comprehensive maintenance plan.



Heritage - Bagshot Chapel



Unfortunately due to the pandemic, this year it was not possible to open Bagshot Chapel to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days weekend. However we were still able to showcase the Chapel via a digital presentation which was very well received.



War Memorials & Remembrance

All three of the war memorials in our villages are Grade II listed.

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

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



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.



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 2020/21 the Parish Council has awarded £61,974 to support 15 different local organisations with a wide variety of projects or requirements.

Open Spaces Maintenance Grants

Curley Park Rangers £3,500.00

Windlesham Field of Remembrance £3,500.00

Bagshot Playing Fields Association £1,656.00

Lightwater United FC £1,750.00

General Grants

The Hope Hub - £1,000.00 towards the extension of an outreach project supporting vulnerable people affected by homelessness and poverty.

Windlesham Darby and Joan – £400.00 contribution to help with the cost of providing companionship to the over 60's including Summer and Christmas lunches and afternoon teas.

Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch - £450.00 contribution towards production costs of the quarterly Heathwatch magazine.

Lightwater LIVE - £750.00 contribution towards the resumption of services after COVID, as well as new communications and computer systems as part of Lightwater Connected.

Lightwater Care - £750.00 contribution towards the resumption of services after COVID, as well as setting up new communications and electronic recording of journeys.

Lightwater Resilience Plan - £750.00 contribution towards the cost of capital expenditure required to set up Lightwater Connected.

Windlesham United Youth FC – £2,500.00 to purchase new goals and first aid equipment and training courses.

WC Lees Resthouses – £1,000.00 to replace the gas boilers at the resthouses.

Harper Asprey – £3,500.00 towards running costs due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lightwater United FC – £2,500.00 to develop a permanent hard standing area by the side of the pitch to facilitate a multi-purpose technical area.

Bagshot Scouts – £15,000 to build a new secure storage facility behind the parish hall.

Chapel Lane Action Group - £21,360.00 towards barrister's fees, to enable them to become a Rule 6 party in the appeal inquiry relating to the CALA homes application to develop the Woodside Cottage site at Chapel Lane, Bagshot.

Site Security Grants

Windlesham Field of Remembrance – £1,608.52 for the installation of security bollards and lights.

Councillor Community Pride

As well as the general grants Council give, for the third 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— £6,000 total

Cllr Goodman - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning and a contribution towards Christmas Hampers for families in need across the Parish.

Cllr Hansen-Hjul - Purchased a marquee for Windlesham Village Fete, made a contribution towards the installation of rubber matting at the Windlesham Field of Remembrance and supported the set up of a youth club for Lightwater.

Cllr Stacey - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning and a donation to Frimley Health Charity.

Lightwater - £5,696.64 total

Cllr Barnett - Supporting the set up of a youth club for Lightwater.

Cllr Galliford - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning and supporting the set up of a youth club for Lightwater.

Cllr Halovsky-Yu - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, a number of contributions towards plants for the Lightwater improvement project and a contribution towards the cost of a memorial soldier bench for the memorial garden.

Cllr Harris - A contribution towards the provision of Christmas Day meals for families in need and a contribution towards the cost of a memorial soldier bench for the memorial garden.

Cllr Hartshorn - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning.

Cllr Jennings-Evans - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, a contribution towards Christmas Hampers for families in need across the Parish and a contribution supporting the victims of a house fire in Bagshot.

Cllr Malcaus Cooper - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, a contribution towards the provision of Christmas Day meals for families in need, funding for more litter picking equipment for volunteers and supporting the set up of a youth club for Lightwater.

Bagshot - £5,900.00 total

Cllr Bakar - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, and a contribution supporting the victims of a house fire in Bagshot.

Cllr Gordon - A contribution towards the provision of Christmas Day meals for families in need.

Cllr Manley - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, and a contribution supporting the victims of a house fire in Bagshot.

Cllr Trentham - Windle Valley Fundraisers Christmas present appeal for families in need across the Parish.

Cllr White - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, a contribution towards Christmas Hampers for families in need across the Parish, a contribution supporting the victims of a house fire in Bagshot and funding for Easter bunny costumes.

Cllr Willgoss - Provision of laptops for local schools, enabling local children to access online learning, a contribution towards Windle Valley Fundraisers Christmas present appeal for families in need across the Parish and a contribution supporting the victims of a house fire in Bagshot.

How your money is spent

Council Tax

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 2021/22 is £426,150 of which £307,148 will be collected through the precept as part of the overall Council Tax demand. There is no increase for residents on last year.

There are 8,886 precepting parishes in England, of which Windlesham Parish Council is one of just 577 larger councils (i.e. with a precept over £250,000). With a precept demand of £37.76 (2020/21) per household compared to a national average of £118.58 for larger precepting councils (2020/21), 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

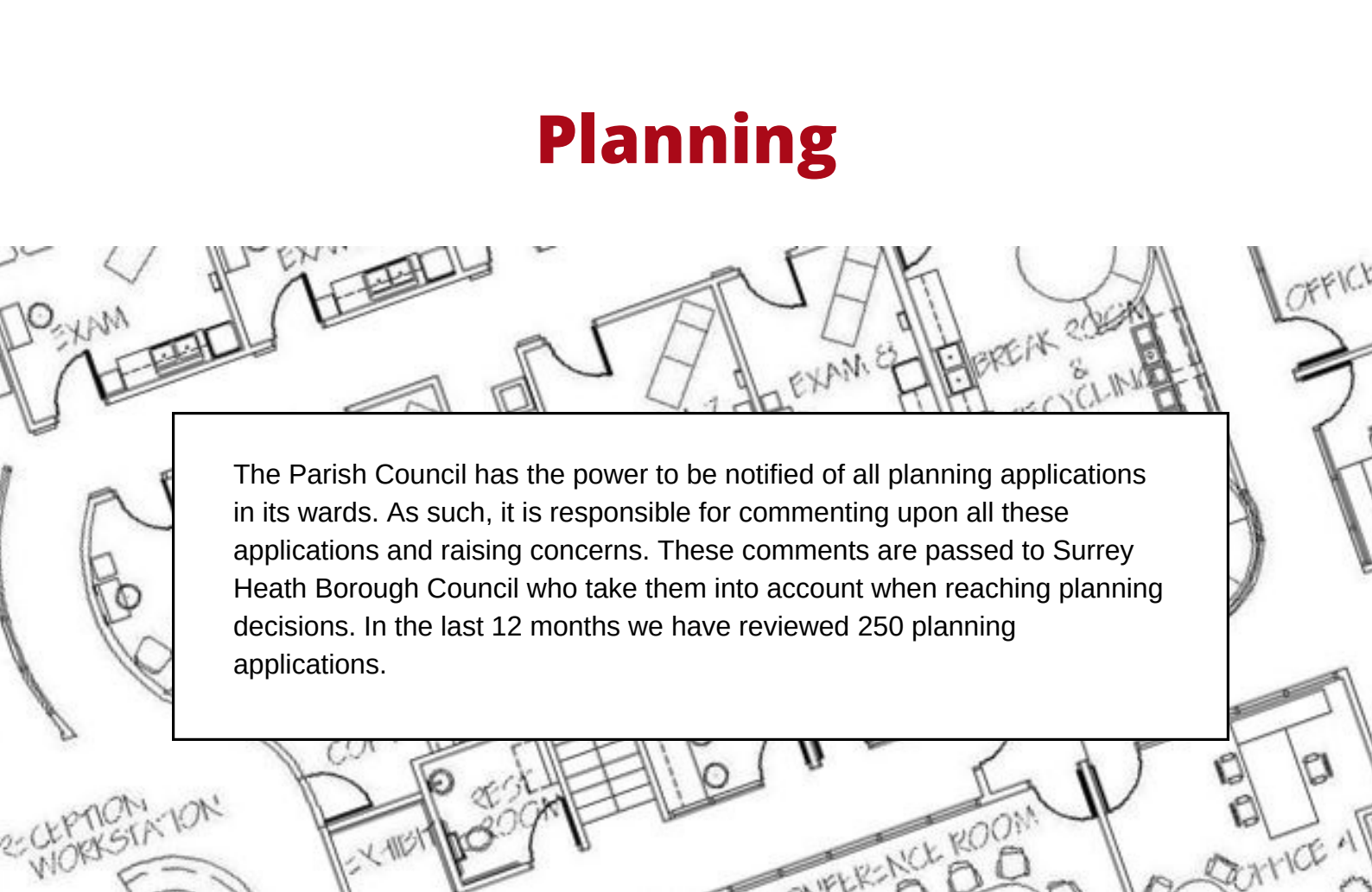
The Parish Council plays an important role in consulting with the public, other local authorities and organisations. During the last year we have raised public awareness, worked with other local authorities and organisations and responded to consultations on the following proposals:

- Government Consultation—Planning Reform.
- ESSO Pipeline consultation.
- Collaborated with SHBC on Christmas tree recycling for the 5th consecutive year.
- Surrey Heath Police—on burglaries, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.
- Surrey County Council is responsible for highways matters and Surrey Heath Borough Council for planning matters and the Parish Council continues to advise both authorities on matters of local interest.



Councillors supporting local residents during the Esso Pipeline Consultation.

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 250 planning applications.

Community Infrastructure Levy

When housing development takes place in the Parish area, the Parish Council receives Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is paid by the developer to the Borough Council, and the Parish Council receives 15% of this for developments in Bagshot and Lightwater and 25% for developments in Windlesham, as Windlesham has an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. The money must be used 'to support the development of the local area by funding':

1. the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
2. anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area

CIL receipts represent a great opportunity to enhance/enrich the parish area and provide a greater selection of amenities for all ages and tastes. The Parish Council has an agreed policy that the CIL generated by a village is to be retained in an ear marked reserve for projects within that village. During the year 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 the Parish Council has received £53,649 of CIL, all attributable to development in Bagshot.

The Council has "spent" £13,637 of CIL funds this year, by transferring the funds from the Lightwater CIL reserve to the Lightwater Pavilion project reserve.

Christmas 2020

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



Bagshot



Windlesham



Due to the pandemic, Christmas 2020 was a rather subdued affair and in light of the circumstances, a number of Councillors chose to support local Christmas initiatives with their Community Pride fund. Councillors Gordon, Malcaus Cooper and Harris supported the Christmas meals initiative in Bagshot and Lightwater. Whilst Councillors Goodman, Jennings-Evans and White supported a parish wide initiative providing Christmas Hampers and Christmas gifts to local families in need.



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



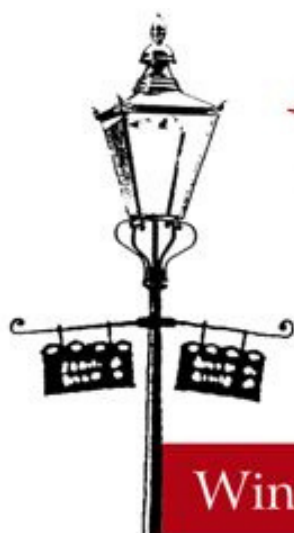
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