

## Windlesham Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Update for the residents of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham

#### from the Chair of Council - Councillor Alf Turner

I hope you find the following update useful and would welcome any comments either directly or through local councillors - see the links below for contact details.

#### 1. Public Question Time

An important part of all Council meetings is the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. Although there was only one question this time, it was a very good one, asking what the Parish Council was doing about the poor condition of Bagshot Cemetery and nearby School Lane.

The Council agreed that the maintenance of these areas and others across the three villages were not good enough and acknowledged that steps to improve contractor performance were being implemented. Additionally, Council has committed to a procurement process with a view to delivering an improved service for all its residents.

#### 2. Surrey County Council Report

This month our County Councillors reported a number of County wide initiatives, including half price bus travel for under 20s, production of a nature recovery plan, support for vulnerable adults, a multi-million libraries transformation program and a free emotional wellbeing and mental health support guide.

Locally they have been dealing with further road improvements along with grass and verge cutting complaints, which they are currently working on to find a solution.

For the full report please use this link - [County Reports](#)

#### 3. Surrey Heath Borough Council Report

Our SHBC Councillors provided updates on all the new appointments to committees since the elections in May. They also reported that the council's 'Meals at Home' fleet of vehicles has been switched from diesel to environmentally friendly electric vans; a series of children's activities will be running over the summer, at the Camberley Museum and in the town centre and that 4 parks in Surrey Heath have achieved Green Flag status - Windlemere SANG and Frimley Green Recreation Ground have joined Lightwater Country Park and Frimley Lodge Park.

For the full report please use this link - [SHBC Reports](#)

#### 4. Parish Council Strategy Review

In 2022 the Parish Council developed a multi-phased strategic plan covering the period 2022-2027. To view this plan please [click here to visit our website](#).

Residents will be pleased to hear that good progress is being made in terms of our core goals and strategic priorities, with only a few projects yet to get off the ground.

The most publicly visible examples of the progress made, are the installation of public gyms and new children's play equipment in both Bagshot and Lightwater.

Arguably one of our major priorities is the redevelopment of the Lightwater Pavilion. This is being driven by the Lightwater Committee, with the focus of delivering a comprehensive a plan by the end of the year.

#### 5. Cemeteries Memorial Inspection Review

As a result of the statutory safety inspection process, memorial inspections have been carried out in all three village cemeteries.

Unfortunately, a large number of unsafe memorials have been highlighted and it is the Council's responsibility to ensure these memorials are made safe. The Council are currently in the process of contacting grave owners of all the affected graves, but in cases where there is no record of a living grave owner, or the owner is unable to repair the grave the Council will lay down those headstones that pose a significant risk.

#### 6. Working Party Updates

- a) **Village Committees** - the three local village committees hold quarterly meetings to review specific village issues and projects. It has now been two years since the village committee structure was implemented, therefore the Council as a whole, has set up a working party to review the committee terms of reference. The purpose, is to review the powers delegated to the village committees, thereby ensuring that as much decision making as possible, is conducted at a village level, while at the same time ensuring statutory cross Parish responsibilities are met as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.
- b) **Greenspace Working Parties** - this is at the stage where the three villages are reviewing the scope and specification of maintaining greenspace areas, playgrounds, cemeteries, and memorials. This is the pre-stage to the future procurement process.

- c) **Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan** – last month the Parish Council agreed that the Windlesham Village Committee would form a working party to review the current Windlesham Neighbourhood plan. This is currently in the very early stages, however, please be assured that local residents and community stakeholders will be given the opportunity to join the working party, so watch out for updates.
- d) **Membership of Committees** – Members voted our two newest co-opted Councillors onto committees that best suited their skillset and interests, with Cllr Stevens joining the Planning Committee and Cllr Derrick Jennings-Evans joining the Personnel Committee.

Additionally, a concern was raised by a Windlesham Councillor regarding the number of Lightwater and Bagshot Councillors on the Parish wide committees.

At the annual meeting of Council held in May 2023, Members set the terms of reference for each Committee, and it is requested that that each village is represented by a minimum of 2 village councillors on all Parish wide committees with no limit to the number of committee members.

In practice this requires Members to nominate themselves and be willing and able to attend the required statutory meetings. More importantly for residents it requires Council making the best use of the skillsets individual Councillors can bring to the committees. It is also worth noting that these committees are cross parish committees with members taking an overall Parish view rather than just representing their own specific village wards.

Representation on the 3 parish wide committees for 2023-224 is as follows:

Planning Committee – Bagshot 3 councillors, Lightwater 2 councillors and Windlesham 2 councillors.

Personnel Committee – Bagshot 2 councillors, Lightwater 4 councillors and Windlesham 1 councillor.

Communications Committee – Bagshot 2 councillors, Lightwater 2 councillors and Windlesham 1 councillor.

## 7. Lightwater Country Park & High Curley Annual Running Event

The Council approved a cross-country running event on its land on the 10th September. This starts near the cafe and play area if you want to spectate.

## 8. Public Spaces Protection Order Extension

The Parish broadly agreed with the proposal as a whole and supported the extension for a further 3 years, which will continue to address anti-social behaviour in public places around Surrey Heath.

#### Next meeting & Events:

- 2nd September – Formal Playground Opening Event at Lightwater Recreation Ground behind All Saints Church, Lightwater.
- 5<sup>th</sup> September – Windlesham Village Committee Meeting at the WFOR Hub, Kennel Lane, Windlesham 7pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> September – Planning Committee Meeting at Lightwater Library 11am
- 26<sup>th</sup> September – Planning Committee Meeting at St Annes Church Centre, Church Road, Bagshot 6:15pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> September – Next Full Council Meeting at St Annes Church Centre, Church Road, Bagshot 7:15pm

Full details of Council meetings will be on the Windlesham Parish Council Website before the meeting with a link as follows: [Home - Windlesham Parish Council \(windleshampc.gov.uk\)](https://www.windleshampc.gov.uk)

Contact details:

[Bagshot Councillor contact details](#)

[Lightwater Councillor contact details](#)

[Windlesham Councillor contact details](#)

If you would like to contact Jo Whitfield, Clerk to the Council or visit the office please use the link below to view the office opening hours and contact details:

[Contact Us - Windlesham Parish Council \(windleshampc.gov.uk\)](https://www.windleshampc.gov.uk)

Alf Turner

Chairman Windlesham Parish Council

27<sup>th</sup> July 2023