

# Chairman's Report - Annual Assembly 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Welcome to everyone this evening - to the Councillors, Local representatives and members of the public. Thank you for attending.

I would like to report on the activities and business of the Council over the past year to the end of March 2016.

This has been my fourth year as Chairman and the demands upon the council and our Clerk continue to increase. I wish to record my thanks to my fellow councillors and our Clerk for their contribution and continued diligence to Council affairs. The first council meeting of the year saw major changes on the council as councillors Young, Morden and Lewis did not stand for re-election. Each of the councillors had made significant contributions to the Council and both Jackie Young and Norah Morden had been on the council for 20 and 18 years with Jackie serving as Chair for three years. We were fortunate to be able to co-opt three new councillors being Nigel Keane, Adrian Cansell and Liz Galliano to bring the council up to full membership. Sadly Liz Galliano had to step down late last year due to family health issues and her position on the council for the Shalford ward has not yet been filled.

As many of you are aware the Council is responsible for a number of activities which continue unseen - the maintenance and repair of our street lighting, our bus shelters, the running of the cemetery and the maintenance of St Mary's churchyard, maintenance of 4 playgrounds within the parish and the running of our 2 allotment sites. In addition we review all planning applications within the parish and comment upon them as we determine is appropriate.

All residents will be aware that a great deal of council effort throughout the year was expended on the Community Governance Review initiated by GBC following a petition submitted by various Chilworth residents for a boundary review. This process came to a conclusion in December 2015 when GBC decided to leave the boundaries of the two parishes of Shalford and St Martha unchanged. Since that decision the two parishes have been working closely together to ensure that they look after the interests of Chilworth residents and this has been a very satisfying process with encouraging good will and cooperation from all councillors.

Progress on the Guildford Borough Council Local Plan has been disappointingly slow and a further review of the Plan is due shortly with a period of consultation before its approval by GBC and submission to the Inspectorate. This information has been published this week for consideration at a special GBC Council meeting next week and by full council in May. Having briefly reviewed the documents it appears that the main developments for Shalford parish could be at Broadford Road Shalford, Rice's Corner Chilworth and East Shalford Lane Shalford. We will of course be studying it closely and will seek the views of residents if there are significant changes from the previous draft.

Developments in the neighbouring borough of Waverley continue to require our attention and the current planning application for the first phase of development of a major community in Dunsfold is a major concern due to the inevitable increase in traffic volumes as a result of the 1800 homes and associated commercial activity. We have joined forces with 10 neighbouring parish councils in Waverley and Chichester to write to the Secretary of State for Community and Local Government to request that the application be "Called – in". The effect of this is that Waverley cannot approve the application without it being the

subject of an inquiry. In addition the same group has commissioned a critical report on the Traffic Assessment submitted by the Dunsfold applicant. All the details of this can be seen on our own website. Your parish council will be making its own submission to Waverley in the coming weeks to express our concerns. We would urge you all to do the same.

We have also been concerned about the current plans for the Guildford Town Centre Masterplan and the redevelopment of Guildford Station as such proposals potentially impact on traffic flows in and around Guildford and clearly could impact on traffic volumes on the unofficial southern Guildford by pass which runs from Compton, through Peasmarsh, Shalford, Chilworth and Albury. The affected parishes recently met with GBC's lead councillor on Infrastructure and Transport to express our views.

The Review of Parking in Shalford village has been ongoing throughout the year. At the Local Committee meeting in March the final proposals were approved for changes to parking within the village. Improvements should be made to Chinthurst Lane with the introduction of extended yellow lines at the Kings Road junction and with yellow lines providing a gap half way along making it much easier to get along the lane. Other changes should help with sight lines and safety at junctions on the Common and the major roads within the village.

Progress on the listed cemetery Chapel has been slow this year partly due to the ill-health of our architect. However we have now agreed to retain a new architect to supervise the works and plan to commence works shortly to bring the chapel to a standard for potential use. Work was undertaken during the last year to refurbish the mortuary and this can now house the catafalque enabling the next phase of work to begin. We hope that the chapel, with heating, lighting and toilet facilities can then be opened for the Heritage Weekend in September to demonstrate its potential to users. Funding for the works continues to be supported by grant funding from Guildford Borough Council.

We have continued to maintain and improve the allotments at Bradstone Brook and Peasmarsh and this has resulted in a higher take up of the unused allotments. However limited vacancies remain and any enquiries should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

We have been fortunate to benefit from further Section 106 funds from GBC and have been able to continue to replace some of the playground equipment during the year. In addition we have been able to work with St Martha PC to utilise a substantial amount of S106 monies to provide excellent new equipment at the Brookwood Field play area in Chilworth

The Parish Council was represented at the Shalford annual fete continuing to raise the profile of the council locally, and to promote our plans for a volunteer programme. The Chilworth Community Association continue to be supported by a regular grant to assist them with their valuable work at the Brookwood pavilion and sports field.

Following the road closure in 2014 on Remembrance Sunday for the laying of wreaths which was much appreciated by those involved in and attending the ceremony, the council organised this again in 2015 and agreed to allocate funding in the annual budget from now on to make this part of our annual commitment to this important occasion.

The programme of refurbishment of benches has now been completed and this year we will be replacing the broken bench next to the zebra crossing with a bench that will specifically commemorate those lost in the Great War from across the parish. With

assistance from the Friends of Shalford, St Mary's and St Thomas' Churches and the Snooty Fox café, the Council supported Christmas trees in Chilworth and Shalford for the second time, with carols around the Shalford tree and a carol service at St Thomas' Church in Chilworth being very much enjoyed by all who attended.

The Council administers the Smith's Charity for this parish and has given £3,260 in support to 15 members of the parish and 4 organisations working with a variety of groups across the parish in the current year. In addition we have donated £400 to Age Concern who carry out valuable work in the community.

Many of us have been very concerned with Road Safety and Parking issues within the parish. We have made representations to Surrey CC by presenting a petition to SCC on road safety issues and held meetings with our SCC councillor and SCC officers with the particular aim of improving safety near our schools. We are delighted to be able to say that a new "refuge" crossing is to be installed close to the end of Poplar Road on the A281 within the next few months and a similar crossing is on the list for approval in the new financial year for a location near Shalford Infants School.

During the year we have organised three volunteer events with the aim of picking up litter, clearing undergrowth, unblocking ditches and generally attempting to improve the appearance of our community. We have another volunteer day in 10 days time on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April as part of the "Clean for the Queen" initiative and if you are not on our volunteer mailing list please pass your email details to Nuala and we will let you have details of the plans for the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Tales and Trails of The Tillingbourne Valley commenced during the last year supported by the Surrey Hills Board and Heritage Lottery funding to build an archive of historical information about the valley and in particular the industry within it. Shalford and Chilworth villages have been working hard building the story of Shalford Mill and the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills. Other work is going on in Shere and further up the valley to provide a story of the whole valley. We are grateful to Chilworth2gether and Mary Phillips for taking a lead in our two villages and gathering volunteers to help them bring this project to fruition with showcase events later in the summer.

It has been another unusual year and I wish both personally and on behalf of all the Council to thank our Parish Clerk, Nuala Livesey, for guiding us through our tasks and maintaining a sense of humour and perspective. I also wish to express my thanks to my Vice Chairman Mary Phillips for her excellent support throughout the year, and equally to all our other councillors.

Thank you.