



WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY

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Winter 09
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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

I do hope that you all have had a wonderful Christmas and that the coming year will prove to be fulfilling and rewarding to you all. As is usual for a lot of people we start to give some thought to the year and what one might like to achieve over the coming months. I always think that it is useful and positive to try and set oneself some targets, however vague or spurious these might be!! Similarly on behalf of WEVS, we on the committee also try and set out our vision for WEVS during the coming year which is then discussed and agreed at the WEVS AGM on Tuesday 16th February 2010, 7.30pm start. We do hope to see you at the AGM because it is so very important to hear your views so that the Village Society can continue to support you, the members, and the village in the way you want. To give you some "food for thought" 2009 was extremely busy for WEVS and looking back, apart from the many issues in which we helped members, we have also set a few key "milestones". In no particular order of importance;

- 1) Set up regular bimonthly Police workshops which commence at 7.00pm before our committee meeting. These are well attended and a popular way for residents to meet and raise issues with the Police.
- 2) A new village web site www.wevs.org.uk, through which you can keep up to date with all that is relevant to West End. Please also scan the diary pages to see all local events for the coming year.
- 3) We, following a special meeting concerning SHBC's potential housing plans for the borough attended by around 100 members, instigated a two pronged campaign to fight these proposals;
 - a. Helped form an "Action Committee" to directly oppose these consultation plans - to date we have raised the support of Stuart MacLeod (Ward Councillor), Mrs Lavinia Sealy (County Councillor) and Mr Michael Gove (MP for Surrey Heath)
 - b. Started the process of a Village Design Statement for West End, about which you will receive a questionnaire. In this way you can express your views on how West End should develop in the future. This legal document is vital in that you can have your say in the future development of the village.

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We hope that you will continue to support us and, of course, these days the AGM is much more of a social event as well. The formal part of the meet (promise to keep brief!) will be followed by an illustrated talk by Mary Adler on "Fungi", together with nibbles and wine for members and distributors. See you there!!

As always give me a call or email on any issues or comments and hope to see at you the AGM.

Marc Bedwell - Chairman

WEVS Committee

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Autumnal Art - Children, Parents, Grandparents Working Together

This month we decided to hold an outdoor art activity on a large scale. We wanted to create large sculptures in the style of Andy Goldworthy, using natural materials found in the extensive outdoor areas of the school or brought in from home. There are many benefits to this type of activity for the children. As well as the artistic focus it gives them the chance to work in teams with children in different year groups from across the school.



The activity ran for three mornings, before school, out on the field. We had a fantastic turn out in spite of the somewhat challenging weather and numbers increased each day. It was wonderful to be able to draw the community in and to see parents and grandparents working alongside their own and other children in this unique environment.

The enthusiasm of the children and adults was infectious and the children produced some fantastic pieces. It was a joy to see everyone enjoy this relaxed use of the school grounds and make the most of the woodland area.



DIARY DATES

Committee Meetings:

- 16th Feb (AGM)
- 8th Mar
- 10th May
- 12th Jul
- 13th Sep
- 8th Nov

Village Fete 12th June

**Brentmoor Heath Nature Reserve
Winter Working Parties Contact: Scott
Dodd, Surrey Wildlife Trust Ranger:
07799-894154**

**Sunday 17th January 2010: Birch coppicing
for pea-sticks. Meet 10.00am, New England
Hill, SU936 614 – GU24 9PY – work site
immediately west of parking area.**

**Sunday 21st February: Heathland
restoration – General scrub bash and
bonfire. Meet 10.00am, New England Hill,
SU936 614 – GU24 9PY – work site west of
parking area, near tumuli.**

WEST END POST OFFICE

Excellent news! The post office is to be re-sited at Shiv's stores. I am sure that the entire village will be pleased to hear this. Watch this space for news on the opening.

BOXING DAY WALK - Niaouli Wolf

The Boxing Day walk was well attended with 147 people taking part. Ken Wretham, the Boxing Day Walk's original leader, was at the Tringham Car Park to see us all off on this event that has been part of the West End Calendar since the early 70's. We set off towards Bisley along Beldam Bridge Road, then took the footpath across the fields to Bisley. We crossed the A322 at the traffic lights and headed back to West End via Ford Road. Thence down the footpath alongside Lucas Green Manor and through to Brentmoor Road. By then people either finished at Tringham or peeled off to return to their cold turkey sandwiches and salad.

WEVS and the Village Design Statement: What residents want for West End

A report has been published about what West End residents want for the village and its future. It is the result of the first stage of public consultation for a Village Design Statement (VDS).

West End Village Society was instrumental in setting up a Steering Group to write a VDS. It will describe West End as it is today, highlight the qualities and character which are valued by residents, and indicate policies for the future. The intention is that the resulting report will become a Supplementary Planning Document, a legal entity providing a set of design and planning principles which Surrey Heath Borough Council will have to consult when considering housing and other developments in West End.

The VDS Steering Group has representatives not only from WEVS but also a range of organisations within the village, including the Parish Council. Several study groups have been working on specific aspects relating to planning policy, such as housing, roads, the history of how West End developed, and so on. In parallel, the first stage of public consultation has been carried out.

This took the form of a qualitative study in which residents were asked to write in their own words what they thought of West End and what their concerns are for the future. The report on this study, written by WEVS member Guy Consterdine, has now been published. A summary on three of the topics is given below, and the full report can be downloaded from the West End Village Society website at www.wevs.org.uk.

The VDS Steering Group is now designing the second stage of public consultation, which will be a quantitative questionnaire to be distributed to all households in West End early in 2010, resulting in statistics on residents' opinions on a range of issues.

The Steering Group can be contacted via the website, by emailing VDSchair@wevs.org.uk, or by phoning Judy Douch on 01483 475133.

Some Results

Housing

The principal topic raised in the study by respondents was the prospect of new house-building in West End. Everyone who mentioned the topic – that is, almost everyone who responded – was opposed to West End having more housing estates or any other form of large-scale development. There were two main types of reasons.

First, the character of the village. Residents liked the present character, especially its relatively open environment, rural surroundings, and village atmosphere, and they strongly believed that more housing estates would damage it. There was resistance to the risk of West End merging with surrounding villages.

Second, the existing infrastructure could not cope with a large number of new houses. Schools, roads, medical facilities and flooding were particularly mentioned in this respect.

There were references to the value of the Green Belt, and how essential it is to protect it. Some respondents said that the 'reserve areas' by Malthouse Farm and Kings Road should be incorporated into the Green Belt.

It was widely recognised that some new housing would come to the village, but it should be small scale, and some respondents said it should only be in-filling, not new undeveloped sites.

Contd.....

b/f VDS....

Village Community Spirit

Many respondents commented specifically about the good community spirit in West End. Some mentioned it in the context of being a reason to object to further large-scale housing developments; others mentioned it in its own right. There were comments about West End being an attractive village, and a pleasant place to live, surrounded by open country. There were references to an appealing village atmosphere, a family feel, and the friendliness of the people.

Traffic: Private Cars

Car traffic provoked a relatively high number of comments. Much of this was concerns about the present situation, where the volume of car traffic has been increasing, and more vehicles are using local roads as rat runs to avoid bottlenecks on the main roads. Traffic blockage in Benner Lane in the vicinity of the school each term-time morning and afternoon was mentioned. Suggested solutions were lower speed limits within the village, and traffic calming measures such as speed bumps in certain spots. Traffic was also given as one of the reasons for opposing more housing in West End, since the extra houses would generate more traffic and make the present problems even worse.

The findings on many other topics including schools and flooding may be read in the full report on the WEVS website.

ORIGINS OF WEVS

Ken Wretham

The origins of the West End Village Society date from 5th February 1973 – the day residents received their postal codes from the post office.

A letter was sent to the West End Parish Council requesting them to debate the desirability of changing the name of West End Woking to its proper name – West End Chobham.

Two petitions, one for and one against were handed in and a public meeting held in the women's institute.

The residents at the meeting voted for no change. After the meeting Michael Naughton suggested to me that the village should have a society. He and I hired the Scout and Guide Centre and called the first meeting by distributing leaflets. It was well attended and a committee formed.

The objects of the society at that time were:

- ◆ To foster a good community spirit
- ◆ To keep West End as a village and not become urbanised and linked to Bisley or Lightwater.

Sub committees studied:

- ◆ Roads and street furniture.
- ◆ Planning applications.
- ◆ Schools and education.
- ◆ Footpaths and litter. A monthly walk, picking up litter was held. Ten footpath signs provided by Bagshot Rdc were erected.
- ◆ A questionnaire was distributed to members asking them to state preferences for shops and facilities etc

Subsequently the society encouraged the formation of clubs such as a chess group, photographic group, home-made wine group and most successful of all the Gardening Club. The first meeting of the Gardening Club was held in the back garden of 23 Sefton close and Judy still has the original list of people attending.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Council is progressing the Speed/Nuisance Driving issues with the local police team and casualty reduction officer. Three speed surveys have been completed on roads identified by residents, these have been discussed and results can be seen on WEVS website Parish page. If possible the speed survey volunteer training will be arranged for January or soonest after if supporters are still willing to take part. Then we will agree some random exercises.

Apologies for the delay, but we have now posted the summary of the public meeting last summer that forms the basis of our effort to tackle the speed and nuisance driving issues raised by residents.

The Parish Council have completed the refurbishment of the War Memorial, and it was in good shape to mark Remembrance Day 2009. Sincere thanks to all those who gave time, effort and support to the project, including arrangements on the day for Bugler and Army representation from Pirbright. Some photos are available to view on the WEVS web page for Parish.

Gypsy and Traveller sites consultation continues with Government of South East England agency arranging to address many concerns raised by Parish Councils in response to Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East document H7 2009. Local Parishes (including West End) in conjunction with Borough will continue to raise the concerns of residents regarding the government drive for new site/pitch provision, all views welcome.

We are aware of the age deterioration of some Playground equipment, and will be planning replacement in the coming month, again all suggestions welcome for types of equipment the children would get most fun out of.

Graffiti that has previously adorned a corner of Tringham Hall and the garages has been removed. Visually graffiti gives a disagreeable impression of a location, often contributing to further petty vandalism. The walls have been treated with anti-graffiti coating that we hope doesn't get put to the test, but if it does then it should not be a specialist equipment task to remove.

We are aware that BP Garage is applying for a licence to sell Alcohol up to 23.00 hrs, and sell hot refreshments from the hours of 23.00 to 06.00. BP are however restricted in planning to opening only to 22.00 hrs which takes precedent. This rather begs the question as to why apply for longer hours? Of course they could well submit an application at a later date for the relaxation of the planning restrictions on opening hours which is why it is important to register your opposition. Your views would be welcome to Parish and Licensing Officer at Surrey Heath BC.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contact your Borough Councillors Keith Bush & Stuart Macleod.
Cllr Stuart MacLeod Stuart.MacLeod@surreyheath.gov.uk
Cllr Keith Bush Keith.Bush@surreyheath.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Contact your County Councillor Lavinia Sealy.
lsealy@surreycc.gov.uk

POLICE

Current topic of interest is the plan Surrey Police have to address further reductions in budget, and focus on front line police resource. It is proposed to scale back government driven targets and establish policing priorities according to public demands, especially visible presence on the streets. Some 200 extra officers are planned for Surrey, paid for by reductions in support staff and senior management, also closing some stations with relocation to other public buildings. Surrey Police have been requested to address the Parish Council with the detail proposal, and what it means for West End. I would expect residents will have some concerns, and are invited to contact Parish to ensure we are aware of your views.

Operational reports can be read on the following web page.

<http://www.surrey.police.uk/neighbourhood/neighbourhood.asp?area=SHCB>

We welcome all Resident feedback via email westendparish@btconnect.com or phone 01276 855361
Happy New Year!

Graham Alleway on behalf of West End Parish Council.

Remembrance Day - Graham Alleway



The Parish Council have completed the refurbishment of the War Memorial, and it was in good shape to mark Remembrance Day 2009. Sincere thanks to all those who gave time, effort and support to the project, including arrangements on the day for Bugler Chris Lilley, (believe he was from Woking Sea Cadets) and Army representation from Pirbright. Councillors Adrian Page, David Elliot and Graham Alleway.



Duncan Peebles

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Happy New Year to you all and Best Wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2010.

West End Planning Applications are handled by Surrey Heath Borough Council Planning Department. If a planning application close to you is submitted then the Council will send you a letter informing you of the fact. You normally have 14 days to respond, although as most applications take 8 weeks or so to be reviewed you can respond after the date. The Parish Council is also invited to comment. You can view these applications on line via the Surrey Heath Borough Council Planning Application Portal at <https://www.public.surreyheath-online.gov.uk>

Some stats on 2009 for you, 2008 figures are in brackets for a comparison. A total of 80 (87) planning applications submitted during the year, the vast majority being house extensions 52 (58), only 1 (7) complete new build which probably reflects the economic conditions. The planning department kept pace with the applications with only 9 still pending into the new year.

Probably the two biggest applications of the year were for the erection of a 60 bedroom C2 residential care/nursing home at the site of Herne Cottage (Rubus Close / Brentmoor Lane, behind Martin's Tyres). This was refused and to date no new application has been submitted. The other, which your probably all aware of was for the redevelopment of the Gordon's Filling Station (BP Station on Guilford Road). Work on this has commenced and we wait to see if BP keep to the promises made. Already some divergence from the original application has emerged with a License Application to serve beverages between 23:00 and 6:00 in the night indicating that they might intend the garage to be a 24 hr a day operation.

An additional application for exterior signage has been submitted, as this is planned at 7m in height and is larger than the existing sign. WEVS along with 10 other local residents submitted objections. This should mean that the application will have to go to the full committee for consideration and should be presented at the monthly planning meetings at which the public can attend, no news as to when this will be as yet.

So far, a quiet start to the year but will keep you informed on any new developments.

Reminder: We have been unable to forward Journals to some members on the e-mail list. If you have changed your e-mail address, please advise Dianne or Savitri at: comms@wevs.org.uk Many thanks.

After, perhaps, far too many years, West End once more has its own senior football team to be proud of. And proud we should be - the team, managed by Dave "Jordie" Alderson, has won a fantastic 4 out of their first 5 home games, losing only to Normandy on penalties

The team, has so far, had outstanding support, but would still love to see more. The West End Football Team now have their own website at www.clubwebsite.co.uk/westendvillagefc/ where all club information is available, including fixtures and results. You can access this directly or via the WEVS web site where a link can be found on the club page. Why don't you come along to 'The Rec' and support your team?



BRENTMOOR HEATH NATURE RESERVE

Mary Adler

It is unusual to get snow before Christmas so those who would welcome more tobogganing weather, got their wish fulfilled, in the new year. Wildlife that hibernates throughout winter also benefits from steady low temperatures as they do not waste energy by waking up and becoming active only to have to return to hibernation when the temperature drops.



The invertebrate scrapes on the higher sandy ground have been surveyed during the summer for insects that colonized the newly exposed sand. The survey will continue in summer 2010 but at least 6 additional species of solitary bee and wasp have already been recorded. This makes the Reserve the second most diverse area for these insects recorded in Surrey – the first being the garden of the Surrey expert and official county recorder!



Observant visitors may have noticed that some of the trees at the eastern end of the central pine woodland have forestry marks on them. The butterfly flight path created through the woodland near Greyspot Gate has proved successful in encouraging the dispersal of insects from the south to the north sections of the reserve. It is now planned to create a second link at the other end of the central pine woodland. The yellow dots indicate the line of the opening to be created and the red dots mark those straight-trunked trees that will be harvested by Defence Estates during the next forestry work in this area.

The dense stand of immature pine immediately to the north of the tumuli is also due to be cleared this winter. This will encourage wildlife to move more freely between the reserve and Turf Hill on the other side of Red Road. It will also enable more open views of the Bronze Age burial mounds as is preferred by English Heritage, the Government organization responsible for Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

SMART DRIVING CAMPAIGN

As a Neighbourhood Support Officer with Surrey Police, my role varies daily. As well as engagement with the local public, gathering intelligence and offering reassurance my main role is to act in tackling the priorities of my neighbourhood. In West End and surrounding village areas, one of the most frequent issues raised with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, is that of speeding and antisocial driving. In fact, throughout Surrey, antisocial driving is the most common priority set by the public and as such I and colleagues are committed to tackling this issue. There have been recent roadside events conducted nearby in Brookwood with a highly visible police presence. Other, less evident targeting of offenders is also being carried out locally and I have recently been involved in one operation of this purpose. On Friday 27th November I joined another police officer from our Roads Policing Unit and embarked on an evening in an unmarked police vehicle in the local area. As part of a larger operation there were similar vehicles on patrol throughout Surrey Heath, Woking and Waverley backed up by marked police vehicles. The vehicles are fitted with automatic number plate readers which may hold information as to whether the vehicle is being driven without insurance, the vehicle has been involved in crime or maybe if it is in fact stolen. You have been warned. These do work and are in operation. We had reason to stop a number of drivers who had faulty lights and one driver even stated he was on his way to a garage to fix a light problem when in fact he simply did not know how to operate his lights correctly. Having detected a vehicle using the Gordons Roundabout simply to turn back the same direction just travelled, we followed a vehicle at 100mph and were finally able to meet with the driver at the roadside, safely, in Bagshot. It was of no surprise that the driver said "I didn't see you until now". As well as enforcement, a large amount of advice and education was offered throughout the evening, with all speeding offenders being shown graphic images of collisions caused by excess speed. Throughout the operation, one vehicle was seized for being driven with no insurance, one driver reported for driving without due care and attention, 16 fixed penalty notices issued for various offences and 2 antisocial driving notices issued. In all almost 70 vehicles were stopped.

So in case you miss me going past your address, just bear in mind I may be on duty, a little more inconspicuous than you may expect, but nevertheless trying to solve some of your concerns.

WINTER HAS COME TO WEST END AGAIN!!!

Savitri Kegge & Yvette Jones

The children are happy – no school. The adults - well, they are having to shovel the snow off their drives as fast as it falls. Most villagers have heeded the weather warnings and stayed at home. Over the last three days, Yvette and I have enjoyed numerous hours of walking on the Heath & Common. Here, we met a couple of boys making their snowman, my friend rekindling her childhood days in my back garden!!!...and of course, the dogs are having a lovely time. This is Archie,



complete with his own snowballs attached to his fur. Yvette has been trying to get the snow off him but in minutes, he was covered again and again. Enjoy it while it lasts...

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