



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Your Village Association

I start this month's magazine article with a request to members and a plea to those of you who have, for whatever reason, decided that membership of the WVA is not important for you or your family. Standing with committee colleagues on a windy Saturday morning (watching ominous black clouds roll our way) talking to residents gave me some interesting insights into people's views.

Some I spoke to were fully paid up and fully supportive members of the WVA, but probably more I spoke to did not think it relevant or worthy of joining. Some of those who said they were members (and were marked on our lists as members), had omitted to pay their annual subscriptions, or were "just getting around to it"!

The WVA works in the same way as a Parish Council, but has to rely on voluntary contributions for its annual income instead of a fixed tax added to your council tax. The relatively small amount we receive each year in this way goes towards things like buying the Defibrillator outside the Bakery, sponsoring young people in the village who represent their country at sport, paying for cricket equipment for the Westcott ladies cricket team, annual awards to the children at Surrey Hills Primary school, or replacing the oak benches on Westcott Heath. These are all small things but help to make this a community in which people want to live and stay.

We have made it easier to pay subscriptions – only £10 per household – either by standing order (Bank details: Westcott Village Association, sort code 30-92-70 and account number 01994810) or via our website with Paypal.

Collecting cash by knocking on doors in this day and age is time consuming and inefficient for our street stewards who would much rather spend the time talking to you about what we do and listening to your views about the village.

PLEASE take the time to pay your subscription by setting up a standing order now (and thereafter payable annually on 1st June), or go to our website and pay online with Paypal.

Village Hall and Surgery

On 3rd June, at a meeting of the Village Chairperson's Forum, we agreed a number of things. The WVA is now leading the process by which we identify potential sites for the replacement Doctor's Surgery and Dispensary – this is a priority for the village. We have also defined what our leisure and community support needs are and will now go through the same process to identify potential sites and solutions triggered by the failure of the Hut Trustees find a way to deliver their development plan. Once we have completed the work, we will come back to present our findings and proposals and seek residents' approval to deliver a new plan.

The Hut and Reading Room Charities

The meeting on 3rd June also saw the Trustees of both the Hut and the Reading Room reach agreement to start the process of finding a way to combine the two charities into one, responsible for both community facilities which are held in trust for you, the residents of the village. This is very important step towards securing village facilities that will meet our needs for many a year to come.

WVA Meetings

The **next Open meeting of the Village Association will be on 12th September** when we hope to be in a position to present proposals to you on both the above.

Please continue to comment on or make suggestions on ways to improve things in the village. As always, you are also invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA will do their best to address them.

Tim Way

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

timway.westcott@gmail.com