



AGENDA

**Committee Meeting of The Westcott Village Association
Thursday, 3rd September 2020
By Zoom video conference at 7.30pm**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Action Points / Minutes of the Committee Meeting 9th July 2020 and matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda: ALL
3. Potential implications of Surrey becoming a Unitary Authority: JF/HW/TEW
4. Membership recruitment / renewal update: NL in absence of EG
5. Planning Applications - update: :TEW in absence of JL
6. Future Mole Valley Local Plan - status : TEW
7. Speed Awareness & Noise - status / next steps : NL
8. Financial Report : EH
9. Other Countryside/Highways Matters : HB/NL
10. 2020/21 Planned Initiatives - what could we do? : ALL
11. AGM 8th October - Preparation :TEW / PRG
12. Any Other Business : ALL
13. Confirm Meeting Dates for rest of 2020 & for 2021 : ALL

Attendees:

On Line from the WVA Committee:

Tim Way as Chairman, Hugh Broom, Andrew Copeland, Sandra Ede, Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, Nick Lund, Simon Bradley

Also on line: Hazel Watson, County Councillor, James Friend, District Councillor

Apologies: Edwina Gordon, James Leaver

2) APs brought forward from previous meetings:

- Status of Masters House to be confirmed: TEW
- Westcott Walking Tour: to discuss with John Clachan: PRG
- Conclusion is that Highways Dept. are sufficiently satisfied with the traffic safety implications of the two Westcott site developments. The next time to challenge this premise is when the Future Mole Valley Plan Draft is next published. Ultimately it will be if and when a formal planning application is made.

- Many Dog Poo signs have been torn down by one or more contrarians. It would be good to identify those responsible. Dog Poo volumes on Westcott footpaths and bridleways is still overwhelming. Next steps to be reconsidered with the Local Dog Warden. Action : TEW

3) Potential implications of Surrey becoming a Unitary Authority:

Papers prepared by Surrey County Council have been submitted to Central Government recommending Surrey becomes a Unitary Authority. MVDC does not support this initiative although it is consistent with Government Policy. A White Paper is due to be published this Autumn. JF and HW outlined briefly some of the implications of the potential change - including updating the Westcott Local Plan - but it was agreed to postpone in depth discussions to an appropriate future meeting when the White Paper has been published.

4) Membership and Subscriptions:

EH reported that circa £2800 had been received in subscriptions for the current year to date compared to circa £3200 at a similar time last year. This was felt to be very encouraging given the present circumstances but NL felt there is potential for more Households to be signed up if a bit more effort was expended.

There is also Gift Aid to promote and the intention of organising a Stewards' 'Thank you Get Together'

NL will prompt those Stewards where renewals are down on last year and ask them to follow up lists by email, telephone or knocking on doors to encourage more Households to subscribe. Any feedback on why Households are not renewing would be very useful. Action NL with EG

5) Planning Applications

Three were noted and discussed briefly as follows:

i) Little Acre in Milton Lane: Plans have been submitted to significantly increase the size of the property in what is a conservation area. Planning Officers are reviewing the case. It was suggested that WVA write to them to remind them of the Permitted Developments allowed:

Action TEW with JL

ii) Chapel Lane: The latest application has been turned down. It included some changes to that previously submitted but still included the removal of the boundary brick wall.

iii) Deerleap Cottage, Balchins Lane / Coast Hill Lane RH4 3LH: A Certificate of Lawfulness has been granted for a proposed development in respect of the erection of a single storey rear extension and two detached outbuildings.

6) Future Mole Valley Plan - status:

A final draft is expected this Autumn after consideration of Consultation responses.

7 Speeding & Traffic Noise:

NL gave an update of progress since the July 7th Meeting.

Rod Shaw, Principle Conservation officer, MVDC has confirmed that CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and PIC (Planning Infrastructure Contributions) funds are available and would currently be considered suitable to finance the following:

- i) Replacement of the current speed warning sign at the eastern end of the village with a modern VAR which can flash different messages, record speeds, and be mains powered.
- ii) putting a Yellow border on 30mph signs

Other ideas discussed with RS included:

- Noise cameras - of interest but considered a 'wish list' item at this stage due to expense and lack of meaningful data from national trials
- Installing 30mph countdown signs leading to the 30mph signs. Some support from WVA Trustees but Surrey Highways has indicated that they do not support - even though they are in situ in Effingham and Ewhurst - and could lead to 'sign clutter'
- moving Gateway signs further away from the 30mph. This is said to be expensive, with traffic management and Health & Safety implications.

These ideas were discussed by the Committee; NL will consider feedback and look to prepare a formal proposal for discussion and submission for any funding in the next couple of months.

Eighteen Residents are confirmed Volunteers for Speedwatch Activity. A date for training by the Police (Caterham team) is still outstanding but the option of virtual training is being considered.

NL has discussed suitable Speed Watch locations with the Traffic Officer. The layby opposite the Church is acceptable but the Dovecote layby is not - odd as this is the preferred location for Police patrols. A decision is still needed as to whether adjacent to the Crown is suitable.

Action: NL

8) Financial Report: Key points are noted under Membership. The annual summary will be included in the AGM papers.

9) Other Countryside / Highways Matters

A temporary repair has been made to the cycle track where flooding had significantly damaged the surface. HB is working with Claire Summers of the Rights of Way Office of SCC on resurfacing the Cycleway and extending the path from the bottom of St Johns Road to Pipp Brook Place. Action: HB

Footpath: Build-up of fallen branches and fir cones, as well as fly-tipping garden waste at the back of Dairy Close is making the footpath difficult to navigate. The Body responsible was debated. In conclusion,

i) James Friend will walk the path and organise appropriate action asap and communicate this to Sandra Ede. Action: JF

ii) All Residents need to be encouraged to report such problems directly to Mole Valley Council via the web-site to ensure that a proper log is maintained at the council and action can be tracked via the Incident Number. Action : TEW

iii) James Friend to establish and communicate a workable procedure between the District and County Councils for resolving problems highlighted on roads, paths, and bridleways to overcome the current and ongoing confusion as to who is responsible. Action : JF

10) 2020/21 Planned Initiatives: What should we be doing?

Carried forward for discussion. Feedback to be requested of AGM attendees or Westcott Residents

11) AGM 8th October - Preparation:

The AGM will be held on Zoom. Feedback on TEW's draft report needed asap from Trustees. Objective is to publish the papers on the WVA Website by 24th September latest and send an email to all Member Households inviting them to join the Meeting. A statement on the status of the Doctors' Surgery proposal to be requested from Bernd Ratzke
Action : TEW

12) Any Other Business: - Website content. PRG to discuss proposed changes and improvements with SB. Some funding potentially required.

Next Meetings - both via Zoom:

AGM: 8th October at 7.45pm. Committee: 3rd December

PRG 8th September 2020