



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

**Agenda for the Committee Meeting of The Westcott Village Association on Thursday, 2nd September 2021 at 7.30pm.
Venue: Queen's Court, Westcott Street. Plus updated APs from 13th May Meeting.**

Agenda:

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Action points from last meeting not covered by the Agenda - led by PRG
- 3) Highways: - August Speed Watch review / next steps - led by NL
- Letter to Sir Paul Beresford on motorcycle noise
- 4) Membership Matters - led by SH
- 5) Future WVA: broadening membership and involvement - with reference to the 2014 survey - see TEW email dated 15th August - led by TEW
- 6) Countryside Matters - led by HB
- 7) Planning Applications / Decisions / Appeals - led by JL
- 8) Financial Report - led by EH
- 9) AOB: Queen's Jubilee 2022 - led by TEW
Village Green Noticeboard - led by PRG
Ideas from the Committee for Village Projects requiring Finance - All

Next Meeting is a scheduled Open Meeting on 14th October. Note PRG unable to attend

Agenda Item 1: Attendees / Apologies

Attendees: Tim Way as Chair, Simon Bradley, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Nick Lund, Sandra Ede, Hugh Broom, Paul Goddard. James Friend, Mole Valley District Councillor.

Kevin Foo attended up to and including item 5 on the Agenda

Apologies: Hazel Watson and Sally Hewetson

Note that Hugh Broom explained that due to other commitments he might not be able to attend future meetings but would continue to try assist the WVA where he could.

Agenda Item 2: Last Minutes

Updated Action Points from 13th May Meeting: See the updated Minutes of that Meeting. Agreed by the Meeting and signed off by the Chair.

Agenda Item 3: Highways

a) Speedwatch:

NL noted that the trials in August had been a success with three pairs of Volunteers undertaking eleven sessions or about 20 hours of observation in total. Feedback from these sessions has led to improvements in the paperwork format. Identifying vehicle brands is the most challenging aspect of recording a speeding vehicle. In excess of 250 motorists were recorded driving at 36mph or over with 204 letters being sent by Surrey Police to first offenders and a further five to repeat offenders. Cars with no tax or MOT were also identified by the Police. (Note circa 50 entries were either incomplete or inaccurate - it is not easy to see and note all the data to match every time).

Next steps: 1) Train the additional six Volunteers who have confirmed they wish to take part 2) Attempt to persuade more to come forward given the effectiveness of the initiative can only be assessed if Speedwatch activity is extensive, particularly at weekends.

Action: NL

b) Countdown 30 mph signs: It was agreed to research a proposal to install 30mph 3/2/1 Countdown Signs up to the A25 30mph sign for traffic coming from the west. It is clear that a significant proportion of traffic from that direction is exceeding the 30mph limit so these signs might encourage motorists to slow down in advance. These Countdown signs are in use in Effingham and Ewhurst. Action: TEW/NL

c) Letter to be sent to Sir Paul Beresford and others to complain about the effect of motorbike noise and the lack of legal measures to control it. Action: PRG to draft, agree and send based on the standard used by other Surrey Resident Bodies - Done 14/9/21 Copy attached

d) The Meeting discussed and noted that other villages along the A25 are experiencing the same noise and traffic problems so that a collective complaint / collective action of behalf of all Villages should be considered.

Action: TEW to contact other 'A25 bodies' to discuss / progress.

Agenda Item 4: Membership

SH provided a written update on her role, that of the Stewards and of the status of the collection of Membership Subscriptions. There has been some good progress but only about a third of 'roads' have been reported back. Another third with Stewards are still to report with another third having no Steward despite Sally's attempts to seek Volunteers. SH will chase outstanding returns.

To date circa £2.5k has been raised which is circa 25% down on the same time last year.

Agenda Item 5: Future WVA

As a follow up to the AGM Resolution, all Trustees present at the Meeting confirmed their agreement to progressing a change in the constitution allowing every Westcott Resident aged 18 and over to become Members if they so wished without any obligatory financial contribution. Providing an email contact address would be sufficient to indicate an opt in.

This will need to be put to an EGM of existing paid Members first but

- 1) It needs to be explained clearly in writing in advance why the Committee are pursuing this with time for Consultation if necessary and
- 2) The EGM would need to be in person and not via Zoom to ensure a secure vote can be taken

Action: TEW & PRG to propose method and time scales and circulate to the Committee for agreement

As part of a wider discussion on how to attract new members and particularly younger Residents to get more involved in Community matters, the Meeting noted how the WVA and other Westcott organisations can access CIL monies (Community Infrastructure Levy) due to Westcott from local developments such as the Crown. As Westcott has a Neighbourhood Development Plan, 25% of the Westcott CIL fund is available for specific infrastructure improvements or for anything that addresses the demands that development places on Westcott. MVDC has a process by which organisations including the WVA can apply for and receive funds.

The Committee agreed that the WVA could act as a conduit to assist local groups or Residents to apply for CIL funds starting potentially with a request via JF made by some local Residents to replace the small football goals on Cradhurst with full size goals.

Action: JF to organise a presentation / discussion as necessary for the October Meeting. Done - Graham Berry- Jones to attend

How to encourage more Residents and especially younger Residents to be more actively involved in Village affairs was discussed generally. One idea was to co opt onto the Committee Residents wanting to sponsor a particular project or event or simply get them to follow through on ideas they have. Action: KF and TEW agreed to consider next steps and put forward proposals to the Committee.

A possible option to move things on / create change is to apply to become a Parish Council thereby allowing all qualifying Residents a vote in forming the Council and therefore the projects to be progressed.

Action: KF and TEW agreed to put forward proposals for consideration

Agenda Item 6: Countryside Matters

- JL noted that the Wolvens Lane Consultation on possible permanent restrictions for traffic use - motor vehicles and motor bikes - is due to end on 5th October. Action: JL to confirm outcome of the Consultation when available
- JF confirmed the latest MVDC Local Plan was about to be published on which further comment would be invited. A WVA response building on that submitted for the previous version will be drafted by JL for discussion and agreement with the Committee. Action: JL

Agenda Point 7: Planning Applications

- JL outlined the content of letters either submitted or to be submitted commenting on several planning applications affecting Westcott properties and the local area including those for Old Bury Hill Fisheries, Dene Cottage and Dene Farm. The letters have or will be placed on the WVA website so they are a matter of record. The Dene Farm development could lead to eight residential units that would be windfall in the current MVDC Local Plan.
- JL noted that the Mill House application had been turned down and that 5 Garden Hill had been consented. Logmore Farm and Old Bury Hill Fisheries and the Treehouse have yet to be determined.
- JL has requested clarification and explanation from MVDC of their decision to consent to the latest proposal for 2 Milton Street as it appears to be contrary to Planning Policy and has implications for yet to be determined applications in the immediate area, including for Little Acre also on Milton Street.
- JL noted that the new application for Tumbledown would need to be assessed by Reading Room Trustees.

Agenda Point 8: Financial Report

- EH confirmed that to date Membership monies received were circa £2.5k. which noted elsewhere is circa 25% down on last year.
- WestFest had enabled an excellent £1000 from the SA's cake stall and the Tombola combined
- Sandra was thanked for her donation of two counts - her time and the proceeds from the cake sales. TEW also noted his thanks to all those Residents who had generously donated bottles for the Tombola
- EH noted that about £11,000 is available to support suitable local projects and the Committee were asked to discuss ideas with other residents and think about how these funds could be used

Agenda Point 9: AOB

- Queens Jubilee is to be celebrated nationally Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. TEW asked if the Committee felt the WVA might

organise events or would street based events be preferable where individual streets wanted to organise something. The consensus was for the latter with no specific WVA led event. TEW will contact Anna Kemkers to see if the WestFest Team are planning anything or if they know of any plans. Action: TEW has contacted AK. Reply awaited.

- Proposed new noticeboard for the Green / close to the bus stop based on the Ewhurst design was broadly agreed. Proposal needed. Action: PRG
- Footpath alongside Cradhurst: Call to be logged with the MVDC to request them to clear it and make it safe for all users. Action: SE

Next Meetings: Open Meeting 14th October - venue / methodology tbc

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Churchwardens have confirmed that a meeting in Church can also be streamed on Zoom. This would allow up to 60 attendees in Church with suitable social distancing, and give the opportunity for others to attend online if they so wished. The methodology for taking questions from online attendees would be confirmed in advance.

Proposed 2022 Meetings - tbc

13th January

10th March

12th May

30th June - AGM

8th September

20th October

8th December

Informal meetings to discuss and progress specific issues to be trialled / arranged as necessary open to all Committee Members who can / wish to attend.

Meeting closed at 21.39

PRG

14th September 2021