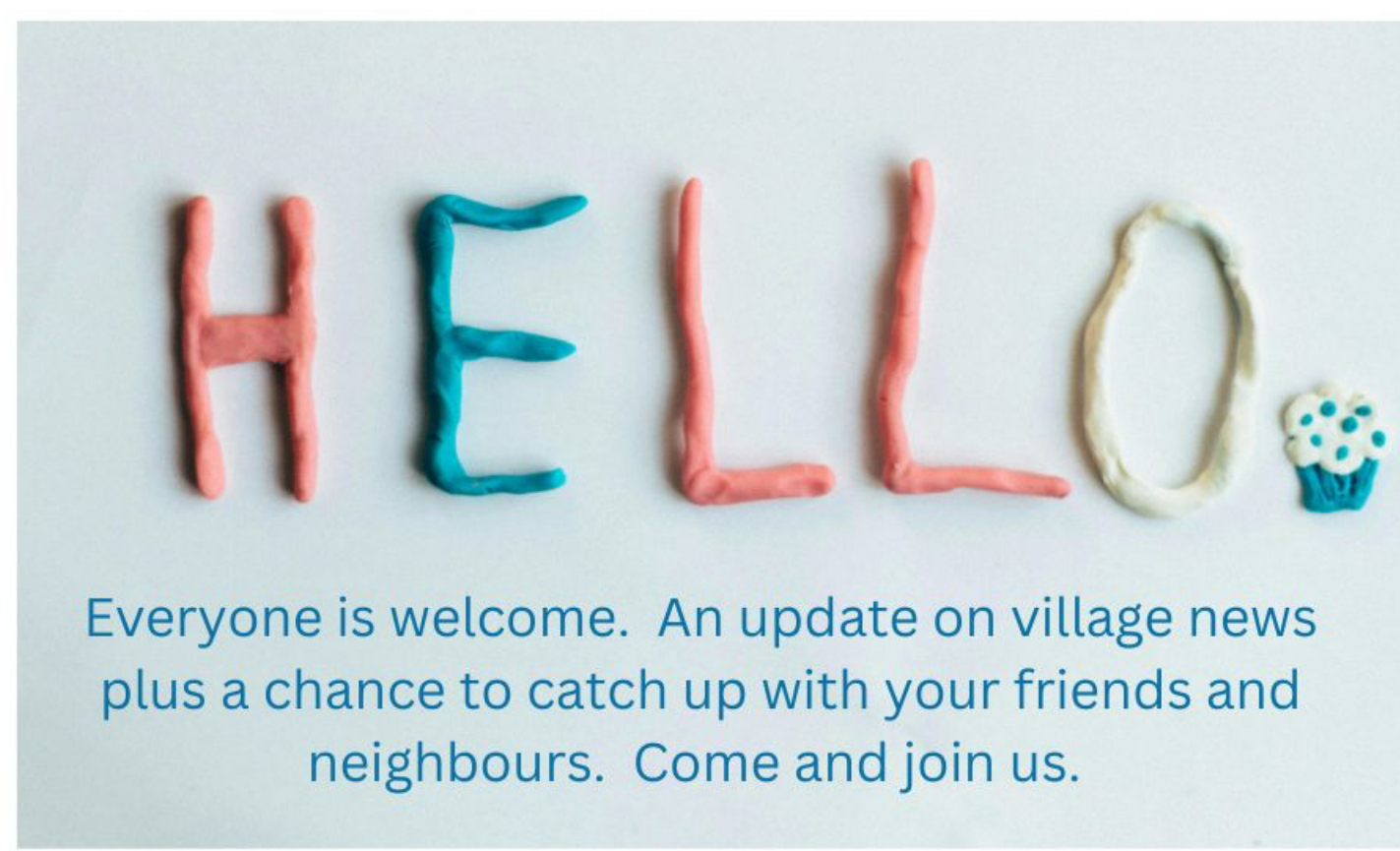




### Village News - March 2024

Dear Residents, please come and join us this week for the **WVA Open Meeting**, this time being held in the **Prince of Wales back room** and not St John's as mentioned in the March village mag.

**WVA Open Meeting**  
**Thursday 21st March @7.30pm**  
**Prince of Wales - back room**



This is an informal meeting with an update from the WVA Committee plus two guest speakers, Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Surrey County Council and Westcott's own, Tim Way BEM, who will talk about the Community Fund for Surrey which is a new grant making charity focused on supporting local good causes.

If any other village groups or societies would also like to take the opportunity to share news or updates with everyone gathered please get in touch and let us know.

#### Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan

Help shape the future of your village - we need people to step forward and get involved in the review of the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The current plan has been in place since 2017 and expires in 2026, a copy can be viewed on the Westcott Village website <https://westcottvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Westcott-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan.pdf>

The Westcott NDP is an important document which enables us to play a much stronger role in shaping Westcott's future by setting out a positive vision for the future development and needs of our community. Decisions on planning applications are made by reference to both the MVDC Local Plan and Westcott's Neighbourhood Development Plan policies. If you are interested in joining a steering group to review and update the current plan alongside a professional advisor please get in touch by emailing [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)

#### Milton Court Lane, Dorking

Following the recent news about the planning permission for the development of new homes at Sondes Place Farm, another housing developer, Thakeham, is currently considering a development of between 80 and 100 homes at Milton Court Lane, Dorking. They have recently run their own consultation on the plans and are aiming to submit a planning application to MVDC shortly. This site is another Green Belt location and is also overlooked by the Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB). The initial consultation suggests 86 homes with only 40% being affordable and a minimal biodiversity net gain of 10%. The WVA registered an objection on the developer's own consultation based on the adverse impact to the Green Belt and the Surrey Hills National Landscape, highways and access concerns, a further reduction in the separation between Dorking and Westcott and a lack of ambition with regard to percentage of affordable homes and biodiversity gains. We also wrote to MVDC Planning setting out our concerns, a copy of which can be found on the Westcott Village website. We will continue to monitor this development and the actual planning application when it is submitted.

Possible site layout at Milton Court Lane (from Thakeham's consultation)



#### Back in time at St Johns



Turning the clock back a little...in 1840 when St Johns was built, a box tree was planted in the grounds. The tree stood for 180 years until in 2020 it had to be felled due to rot in the trunk. Local carpenter, Alan Waring, salvaged some of the wood and after carefully seasoning it in his workshop has now made a beautiful clock which has been hung in St Johns for all to enjoy. Pictured are Alan Waring presenting the clock to Rev. Tim Armstrong on behalf of St Johns.

#### and finally - some more good news....

We know that speeding through the village continues to be an issue and is of concern to a great many residents. We are pleased to say that following an application by the WVA, funding has been approved by MVDC using money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund, to supply and install a new **vehicle activated speed warning sign** on the A25 as vehicles approach from the west. This will replace the old sign currently positioned on the grass near the church that hasn't worked reliably for some time. This means we will have working speed activated signage on the approaches to the village from both the east and west. The **Community Speed Watch** team is also due to be relaunched shortly and alongside the more frequent enforcement action by Surrey Police that we have seen of late, it is hoped that all these measures will start to make a difference. Look out for further details about how you can take part in the Community Speed Watch on our social media pages and future village magazines.

We are still keen to hear from any residents who would like to come and join us on the Committee, we encourage anyone with a passion for the village and our community to get in touch.

Best wishes  
Your Westcott Village Association Committee  
[contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)

- Paul Goddard - Secretary
- Edwin Harland - Treasurer
- James Leaver - Planning
- Nick Lund - Highways
- Sally Hewetson - Membership
- Jo Astor - Communications



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5 Heath Rise, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3NN

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