

# ALBURY MATTERS

The Albury Parish Council Newsletter

Serving Albury, Albury Heath, Brook, Farley Green, Little London & Newlands Corner

## FROM THE PARISH CLERK

Members of the Parish Council met with representatives from SITA and Surrey County Council (SCC) for the annual landfill site meeting recently and saw at close hand how the restoration programme is progressing. The whole site is now covered with grass or heathland plants, with trees planted along the flanks. SITA advised they will move the small generator cabinet further back, which was pleasing, as the little white building is very visible from New Road.

SITA are now planning a viewing platform so members of the public can walk to the top of the site and enjoy the panoramic views. The platform will face out towards Albury, will be accessed by a footpath and will be fenced along its length, as well as around the platform itself, to ensure visitors are safe. Residents may remember that SITA had originally said there would be no access to the site for 60 years, and we are very pleased that they have now agreed to the Parish Council's request for a viewing platform.



*Current view from the landfill site*

Plans are also under way for an information board on the platform, so that visitors and residents alike can identify various points around them and the platform will be big enough for plenty of people to enjoy it.

As the photograph shows, the views will be lovely and will be even better on a clear and sunny day. It is hoped that the viewing platform will be ready by next Spring, a perfect time to visit and to enjoy standing once more on the top of a hill which has been inaccessible to Albury residents for so long.

*Joanna Cadman, Parish Clerk*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The result of the Local Elections in May delivered us a new Borough Councillor Diana Jones (Residents for Guildford and Villages) alongside Richard Billington (Conservative) who is now Mayor of Guildford Borough. Our Surrey County Councillor Keith Taylor remains unchanged.



*John Rowland*

There was a change on the Parish Council too - Pat Webb stood down and Stuart Bevan has joined us. He brings a wealth of commercial experience in IT and we welcome him to the team.

Later in this newsletter you will find an update from B4SH regarding broadband for the Surrey Hills. This is now being installed in Albury Parish. If you believe this may be of interest, then I urge you to contact B4SH and discuss your needs sooner rather than later. To harness this opportunity for our homes and businesses, we need the community to work together.



*Stuart Bevan*

We have once again written to Surrey County Council regarding the parking charges at Newlands Corner, money from which was to be reinvested in the site. We would like to know how much has been raised and how it will be spent. We will continue to press SCC for this information.

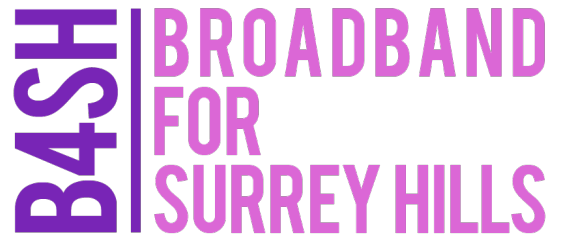
I am delighted that we have continued to invest in the Recreation Ground at Weston Fields with the addition of new equipment and upgrades of the existing. This is a great facility for our parish and can be accessed easily by all parishioners with parking available at the village hall.

As we approach the Festive Season, I look forward to seeing many of you at events across our parish, enjoying both our beautiful parish and community. *John Rowland APC Chairman*

## B4SH

### 30 Households Could Make the (Fibre) Difference

Those of you who have attended some of our meetings will probably remember that unlike commercial profit-making companies, we are a not-for-profit community benefit society, where any eventual surplus must be returned to the community in some form.



Broadband for Surrey Hills is installing an entirely new fibre broadband service in this area. This entirely new fibre network is around 50 times faster than BT's standard broadband and 25 times faster than BT Superfast service. We are installing our new fibre optic cable underground so there are no network performance issues associated with cables running overhead on poles. It is suitable for use by homes and businesses with a price for residential use of £45/month with a one off £150 connection charge - a business grade service but at a residential price.

We have found that in areas like Albury, where there is a centrally located cabinet from an existing telco provider, there is a misconception that their service is "good enough". But technology moves on and old hardware and copper wire is now struggling to be upgraded, stay reliable and maintain consistent speeds.

How many times have you felt you should log off as the speed is now too slow to continue what you were doing? School children, logging on to complete homework (or watch movies and YouTube if you're in many homes), consume large amounts of bandwidth and the speed only picks up late in the evening. So B4SH decided on a self-help approach and we set up our locally based, independent, not-for-profit Community Benefit Society (CBS) in 2017 which is run for and by the community, largely by ex-professional volunteers.

Building and running the network is funded by monies raised from the public and comes from investment in redeemable shares. Affordability is a key issue and our minimum investment for a shareholding is £500, with an immediate return of 30% for UK income taxpayers, so effectively £350. Our business plan is then projected to return the £500 initially invested. **Did you know that we estimate that it would only take 30 households in North Albury to make a relatively small investment to bring this world leading service to you in a matter of months?** We will also look to the community to help us build the network – the community builds the network and B4SH brings the technology.

We already have live service into homes and businesses around Weston Yard, Silent Pool and up into Albury Park and in parts of southern Albury. We would like to know how much of the rest of Albury would like our service. If you would like to know more, contact [enquiries@b4sh.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@b4sh.org.uk) or go to [www.gigupanddown.net](http://www.gigupanddown.net).

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## FLOODING

Residents in Weston Fields alerted us to flooding in Church Lane and Weston Fields from the ditch at the end of the Warren which is once again full and overgrown with vegetation. We are looking to clear this shortly.

There has also been flooding at Farley Green near the pond. We asked the contractor undertaking winter maintenance on the pond to clean the inlet and outlet to rule out any problems. I then investigated a pipe which crosses the road and found a boulder blocking the pipe entrance. Once removed the water flowed and the puddle is drying up nicely. We will put a manhole cover over the end of the pipe to prevent this happening again.



*The overgrown ditch in the Warren*

*Paul Yeoman APC*

## SALV

SALV is a local charity which supports Shere Surgery by raising money to help improve and preserve the health of local people. It assists with the provision and maintenance of medical equipment, fittings and furniture, training and other medical and health care services. New SALV developments are reported in the Parish Magazines.



SALV also runs two Open Evenings each year, one in the spring and one in the autumn. They are held in turn at each of the village halls and specialist guest speakers address topical medical subjects. They also offer an opportunity to meet the doctors and share a glass of wine at the end of the evening.

The very well attended May meeting, held at Holmbury St Mary Village Hall, featured two speakers, Dr Josie Jenkinson, a Psychogeriatrician, who talked about the different types of dementia and the sources of support available and Lisa Harris, a Speech and Cognitive Therapist. Dr Waldrop dropped into the meeting to thank SALV for their support with his participation in the London Marathon and he and Dr McEwen also spent a few minutes describing the new Shere Surgery website.

Well over 70 people attended the SALV Open Evening on 4th November at Abinger Village Hall to listen to a lively presentation by the doctors regarding developments at the surgery as well as a talk on social prescribing. Changes at the surgery include extended hours with lunch time appointments and Saturday morning telephone consultations, a Clinical Pharmacist, Helen Garood, a new nursing team, and social prescribing.

The surgery is also looking at new ways of offering appointments, but full details are not yet available. Once they are, patients will be informed via leaflets and the surgery website.

Two social prescribers described the service which is for people with non-medical issues which affect their physical and mental health and wellbeing. It links them with local organisations and services which can lead to an improvement in these areas of their lives. *Pat Webb, SALV Trustee*

## PARISH PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Parish Planning Committee meets every three weeks on Mondays at 7pm in the Memorial Library, next to Albury Village Hall, to review new planning applications. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Applications to be discussed are advertised in advance on the Parish Council notice boards and website [www.alburyparish.info](http://www.alburyparish.info). *Peter Gellatly APC*

## HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Surrey County Council responded to our request to repair The Street adjacent to the Tillingbourne where the road had subsided. Our thanks to SCC County Councillor Keith Taylor for his support in achieving this result. Unfortunately, the work SCC undertook in Guildford Lane has been less successful in alleviating the flooding and build-up of silt on the road near White Lane Farm, and we have asked SCC to return to address this.

We are disappointed with the VAS equipment (speed cameras) in The Street. The machine supplied runs on batteries with a very short lifespan and is often not working. This equipment is on loan to us and we are investigating the cost of buying our own more reliable model which could be moved around the parish as needed. We will be analysing the data from the current VAS, (which includes traffic volumes and speed) to help determine traffic calming measures for The Street.



*Road repairs in The Street*

Residents have expressed concern about the amount of accidents at the junction of Sherbourne and the A25. Though revisions to hatching have been carried out by SCC, the Parish Council continued to press for a reduction in the speed limit approaching the Sherbourne junction from Shere, together with better signage of the junction. Our SCC Cllr Keith Taylor has confirmed that the 40mph speed limit and signage in Sherbourne will be completed this financial year.

At our request, SCC Highways are also reviewing the depressions in the road on the A25 near Silent Pool and the appropriate action to remedy this. *John Brockwell APC*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have experienced some delays on our Neighbourhood Plan, largely because we need clarification regarding national and local planning policy and how it applies in our parish. The NP Steering Group will be meeting again in November with our Planning Consultant and Guildford Borough Council planners to gain clarification and will progress the Plan thereafter. The Plan will be subject to public consultation in due course.



## Albury Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Including Albury, Albury Heath, Brook, Farley Green, Little London & Newlands Corner

We need more volunteers to join our sub committees to gather information on the local environment, heritage buildings, recreation and more and we also need someone to take photographs of the parish. This is not a huge commitment, just a couple of hours here and there. If you are able to help, please contact Julia McClung at [julia.alburyparishnp@gmail.com](mailto:julia.alburyparishnp@gmail.com).

*Sandra Dennis Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee*

## RECREATION GROUND



*The new outdoor gym at the Recreation Ground*

We have installed more new equipment at the Recreation Ground at Weston Fields. There is a new outdoor gym for older children as well as adults, and benches will follow soon. We are also replacing two sets of swing seats and two areas of safer surfacing.

We have funded this using S106 monies, raised through the development at Albury Mansion. The playground is accessible to all parishioners with parking available at the village hall. *John Rowland APC Chairman*

## VILLAGE PLANTERS



Once again, a huge thank you to residents in The Street who watered the planters throughout the summer ensuring a beautiful display in the village. The planters will shortly be planted up with winter colour.

*Paul Yeoman APC*

## DEFIBRILLATORS

We regularly check that defibrillators across the parish are in good working order. On inspection the ones at the Recreation Ground in Weston Fields and at the William IV pub needed upgrading. The replacements require a heated cabinet and electricity and will be sited in the porch at St Peter and St Paul's Church, and at the William IV pub.

As there is no electricity supply, we can no longer have a defibrillator at the Recreation Ground. There are also defibrillators at Newlands Corner, the Memorial Library at the Village Hall and Farley Green. Instructions on how to use them can be found on each device and on the parish website under the parish facilities drop down [www.alburyparish.info](http://www.alburyparish.info).



## CONTACT US

You can find contact details for all Albury Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk on the parish website at [www.alburyparish.info](http://www.alburyparish.info). Alternatively, please call the clerk, Joanna Cadman, on 01483 268627.