



EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

Issue 6

January 2018

Chairman's Report

A Happy New Year to residents from EFFRA's committee.

Some important decisions will be made in 2018 affecting our village. The Secretary of State is due to rule on the Appeal by Berkeley Homes and the Howard School to rebuild a larger school on Effingham Lodge Farm with an enabling development of 295 houses. His decision is now expected on 22nd February which is the same date as the scheduled Referendum on Effingham's Neighbourhood Plan to be held by Guildford Borough Council. The Plan has now been modified by the Examiner who took on board EFFRA's comments and the EFFRA committee as a result recommends residents to vote for it. More information is given overleaf. The decision of the Secretary of State on the Wisley Planning Appeal, to build around 2,000 houses on the old airfield site, is also expected mid-year.

The draft Guildford Local Plan has also now gone for examination and the examiner's recommendations are expected in a few months. Whilst the identified number of new houses for Effingham is not large (43 houses on three sites in the Local Plan Land Availability Assessment as against 20 on three designated sites in the Neighbourhood Plan) the numbers for Guildford as a whole are, with a target of 12,426 new houses to

2027. Our MP, Sir Paul Beresford, raised the Guildford Local Plan at Prime Minister's Question Time on 20th December when he expressed shock that 57% of new developments in the Plan would be built on Green Belt. Theresa May said that Sir Paul was "right to raise this issue on behalf of his constituents" and added that "I can assure my hon friend that he is absolutely right that we want to ensure that green belt is protected." Additionally, the London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, stated in the draft London Plan that thousands of new homes can be built "without intruding on" the city's green belts.



More locally residents are being very inconvenienced by the closure of Beech Avenue to replace the water main. Residents are in close contact with the contractors and the latest information on closures and completion forecasts will continue to be posted on our website: <http://effinghamresidents.org.uk>

Overleaf you will also find information about the Appeal to renew the Toddlers' Playground in the KGV. I, personally decided to become involved in this Appeal as I believe the village is very lucky to have the KGV and that, as it is not supported by Guildford Borough Council, we residents need to support it as well as use it. And our children and grandchildren deserve a safe and well-constructed playground.

I hope 2018 will see less of a focus on planning issues and resulting disputes and more on positive community initiatives such as the Toddlers' Playground Appeal and the St Lawrence Village Fête.

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KGV Toddlers' Playground Appeal



In December an Appeal was started to raise money to completely refurbish the toddlers' playground in the KGV for under sevens which has been closed since last summer. The target is £18,000 and so far over £3,000 has been raised. Fund raising events are being planned including a Children's Sponsored Welly Walk at the KGV on Saturday 10th March between 10am and 12.30pm.

Some residents have asked why the village needs to raise funds to replace the playground and why the Borough Council does not pay for it. The answer is that the KGV belongs to Effingham Parish Council which holds it in trust for the benefit of the village. The land on which the KGV hall and playing fields lie was bought in 1938 by a group of residents, which included Sir Barnes Wallis, and given to the Parish Council to hold in Trust for the benefit of the inhabitants of Effingham. The Parish Council is the custodial trustee of the charity registered to manage it called the Effingham Village Recreation Trust (EVRT), with trustees receiving no remuneration. It is self-funding and gets no regular help from the Borough or County Council (apart from any specific grants it applies for and obtains). The Parish Council has over time paid varying amounts and grants to the charity towards the residents' use of the KGV.

The Toddlers' Playground was constructed in 1991 after a residents' fund raising campaign. Last summer the main tower piece of equipment, which was already dilapidated, was broken by an older child. As this Newsletter goes out we are expecting that work will have started on replacing the broken tower and matting beneath it. This is being funded by the Parish Council and out of EVRT's capital budget. But the other play equipment really needs replacing or refurbishing and the area which is surrounded with old wooden and wire fences badly needs a face lift.

So the Appeal is asking residents, many of whose children and grandchildren will have enjoyed the existing playground, to donate generously so that the village toddlers can enjoy a new, modern playground.



There are donation tins in the local shops but the Appeal organisers ask residents who pay tax to make a donation using a Gift Aid form as an extra 25% can be claimed back and used for the playground. Forms are available from either Loolabels or the manager at the KGV, or by emailing friendsofkgveffingham@gmail.com or by ringing 07877 359724. An online Giving page is also currently being set up.

If you have a young family please join the Children's Sponsored Welly Walk from 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday 10th March by messaging the organisers on Facebook or emailing them at wellywalk@gmail.com. They can then register you for the walk and will email over an information pack and sponsorship form. It will be a fun morning and following the walk play opportunities and complementary coffee, tea and cakes will be

available from 11.30am for families and any friends and residents who would like to come and support the participants. We hope many residents will sponsor the children and help them raise money for the playground.

By the end of the summer we are hoping to have a beautiful new playground for our young children to enjoy.

EFFRA's Website and New Effingham Tradesmen's Register Go from Strength to Strength

EFFRA's website was launched in 2015 by Chris Dick, EFFRA's then chairman, and it has become the place where villagers go to get the local news. Website views per day range from 50 to over 1,000 depending on the news posted. It is also on Facebook and Twitter with 105 likes on Facebook where popular posts are often shared.

Harry Clarke, the current editor, who is also an EFFRA committee member, comments: "As a residents association, we aim to be neutral in the articles published. The website aims to post local news items that affect Effingham

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residents and also to provide information about Effingham that is of interest to Effingham residents. As Editor, I welcome relevant information from residents, especially about any social group or charity, event, or indeed any news.” Appropriate comments on posts are also welcomed. He can be contacted at: editor@effinghamresidents.org.uk or via the link on the website. We also welcome local businesses advertising on the website, especially as they provide an income for our organisation, as it does not currently charge a subscription for membership.



The Effingham Tradesmen’s register was launched on the site in November 2017. It is currently the most popular page on the website as many residents like to use local tradesmen, where possible, and it is an easy way to find them. Local tradesmen are finding it a cost effective way of advertising locally, as well as supporting their local community. Registration to November 2018 only costs £30.

Now that it is up and running we would like to encourage more local tradesmen to register to advertise their services and to give residents more choice. And we would like residents to recommend local tradesmen they use.

An application form is enclosed and we hope both Effingham tradesmen will complete it and register and that residents will give their copies to their favourite local tradesman to encourage them to register.

Watch out for new initiatives on the website <http://effinghamresidents.org.uk> in 2018.

Effingham Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on Thursday 22nd February

Registered voters in Effingham can vote on 22nd February at the KGV or by post or proxy to decide if the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan should become part of GBC planning policy. If more than 50% say yes it will become Effingham’s Neighbourhood Plan and be taken into account in future planning applications.

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The EFFRA committee now fully supports the Plan as the Examiner agreed with its views and reduced the number of houses and the sites in line with its objections. The Plan allows for around 50 new houses in Effingham up to 2030 with 20 on three designated sites and the rest expected to come from windfall (ie unplanned) and those already with planning approval.

The Secretary of State’s decision on the Berkeley Homes/Howard School Appeal is scheduled for the same day but may well be further postponed because of the Referendum. If the Appeal is allowed a further 295 new houses will be built in Effingham. Whilst this would be in addition to the “around 50” in the Neighbourhood Plan, planning approval for the 20 houses on the designated sites could already be applied for under current planning rules and 16 of the remaining 30 already have planning approval.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes many other policies beneficial to the village, especially those on the environment and heritage. The EFFRA committee fully supports it and advises residents to vote yes on the 22nd February.

You can find out more about the process and read the Plan and associated documents at:
www.guildford.gov.uk/effinghamreferendum

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The Effingham Residents Association was formed in the 1960s to:

- Safeguard and promote the interests of residents
- Assist the just, efficient and economical government of Effingham
- Render assistance in all matters for the benefit of the residents
- Encourage residents to take an active part in local affairs
- Investigate reasonable complaints regarding village related matters
- Secure the return of members to the Borough Council and Parish Council who support our aims and objectives
- Communicate directly with Councillors and Councils on a range of village related matters.

All Effingham residents over the age of 18 years are considered to be members, unless they decline membership. Currently membership is free of charge. A company with premises in Effingham is also entitled to nominate a representative to become a member by applying to the Executive Committee via the Secretary.

An electronic copy of the Constitution is available free of charge by email upon request to the Secretary or can be read on our website. The EFFRA website is at www.effinghamresidents.org.uk It is dedicated to everything Effingham and is the place to go for information and find out what is on. To submit articles, comments or request advertising the editor can be contacted at editor@effinghamresidents.org.uk. The Secretary can be contacted at 01372 454003

EFFRA Committee

Vivien White *Chairman*

David King *Secretary*

Juliet Newton-Smith *Treasurer*

James Brennan *Road Wardens Co-ordinator*

Harry Clarke *Website Editor*

Howard Manton

Sarah Peskett

Ian Smith *Vice-Chairman, Press and Advertising*

James Wettenhall

St Lawrence Village Fete on Saturday 2nd June

On Saturday 2nd June 2018 St. Lawrence church are having a fête centred around the church, church hall, Jubilee Gardens and Church Street.

If you wish to have a stall or would be free to help please ring Sarah Montgomery on 07877 359724

The Revd Mandy MacVean and her valiant organisers hope many of you will give a few hours of your free time to make this community project a real success.



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