



EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

Issue 9

April 2019

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OUR PRECIOUS COMMONS

All residents/members are invited to

THE ANNUAL & PUBLIC GENERAL MEETING

of

EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

at

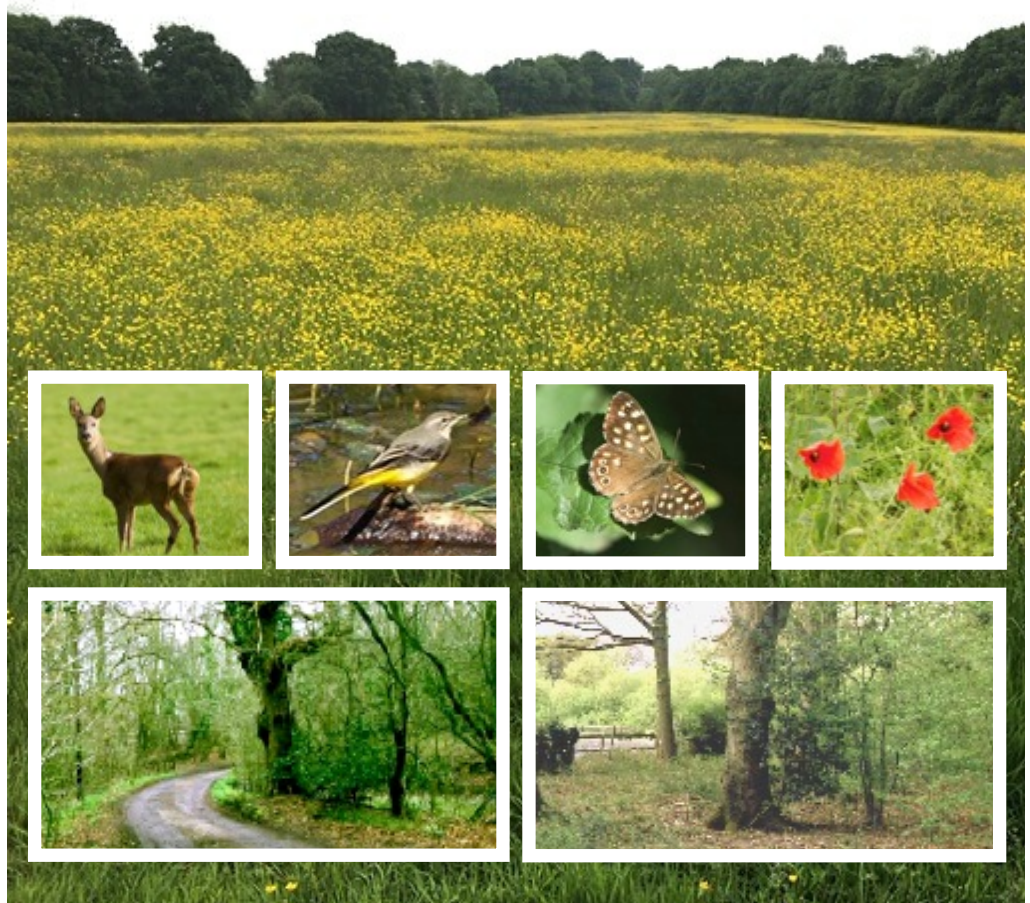
ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL

on Monday 29th April 2019 at 8pm

With an illustrated talk on:

Effingham's precious commons and the threats to them
with the chairman of 'Friends of Effingham Common'

Refreshments provided



Follow us at: www.effinghamresidents.org.uk





Chairman's Annual Report

As I write, the detailed planning application for the new homes and new school on Effingham Lodge Farm has still not been lodged over a year after the Appeal was allowed, but it is expected imminently. Berkeley Homes' recent well-attended presentation to the village raised serious concerns from the loss of trees, heavy construction traffic, to the capacity of the sewerage and water systems. The EFFRA committee has three representatives on the Liaison Group with

Berkeley Homes but meetings have been of limited value because of the lack of detailed proposals. They are likely to be of more value once the application has been submitted and we must then try to ensure that Berkeley Homes listens to residents' concerns.

Similarly, the outcome of Millgate Home's application to build 23 homes on the small 1.7 acre former primary school playing fields in Church Street is still awaited. Both EFFRA and the Parish Council vigorously opposed the application as over development on a sensitive site in the Conservation Area and many residents similarly objected. The deadline has been extended to 3rd May as Guildford Borough Council has raised its and residents' concerns with the company. We trust that something more fitting for this special site will eventually be agreed.

Public footpaths also featured this year. EFFRA successfully encouraged objections to proposals by the Howard School which would effectively have closed Public Footpath 75 across the school's playing fields. EFFRA believes it is vital that this footpath stays open as it links the south of the village through the KGV to the Lower Road. When the new development is built on the site of the current Howard School EFFRA will request a new footpath is provided near its western boundary to encourage residents to walk in the village and avoid using their cars for short journeys. We are also opposing Berkeley Homes' application to re-route part of Footpath 114 on Effingham Common as the footpath is on common land and the proposed diversion is unacceptable as it would be unpleasant and enclosed which would deter people from walking it. Comments can still be submitted until 15th April.

EFFRA also helped Claire Jones, a mother of two children at St Lawrence, organise the recent petition to improve the safety of the crossing points to St Lawrence Primary School. It was well supported by residents with over 250 signatures in 14 days and well received by the Joint Committee of Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council. We await some constructive proposals from Surrey County Council.



I was impressed by the generosity of residents whilst helping fundraise for the Under 8s Playground in the KGV (see opposite). Many residents donated, which included several really large donations, making the ambitious extended and refurbished playground possible. Effingham has long been blessed with generous residents. It was a group of residents which included Sir Barnes Wallis who gave the land for the KGV over eighty years ago. Berkeley Homes is to provide £2.645 million of what is called Section 106 money for the village because of the new development. This has been allocated towards replacing the old KGV Hall and it is hoped that it will be spent well. The KGV has long had financial problems which were exacerbated by the withdrawal of the funding from the Howard School using the playing fields. Unlike most public recreational grounds the KGV gets no Borough Council funding and is reliant on generating income and a payment from the Parish Council for the services it provides to residents. Because of its serious financial situation the Parish Council has agreed to an increase from £12,000 in 2017/18 to paying up to £56,000 this year. Largely due to this a Band D property resident's precept will rise from £68.49 to £85.13 in that period. The Section 106 payment and the increased Parish Council funding, which it is hoped will be temporary, are an opportunity to put the finances of the KGV on a sounder footing, offer more activities and facilities to residents and put in place a long term financial model that is transparent and sustainable. EFFRA believes that more work is needed to find out what residents want at the KGV and to ensure residents support the various users of the KGV it needs to be clearly disclosed that they are paying a fair and equitable amount for the use of its facilities and are not being subsidised by residents.

EFFRA will continue to serve the village and help with its concerns from fighting inappropriate and unpopular planning applications and public footpaths' closures and diversions, to co-ordinating Heritage Day and other local events, such as litter picks. I hope to see you at the litter pick on Saturday 13th April and at the AGM on 29th April.

Please feel free to contact myself or any of the committee through our website or by email at info@effinghamresidents.org.uk

Vivien White

Opening of the New Under 8s Playground at the KGV



The extended and fully refurbished Under 8s Playground at the KGV Playing Fields was opened on Saturday 16th March by Elisabeth Gaunt, daughter of Sir Barnes Wallis, our famous former resident. Despite the windy weather the event was well attended by residents with their children.



The playground has been extended by about 40% with new play equipment added and the existing sound toddlers' swings refurbished. This has all been achieved by a public appeal led by appeal organisers Sarah Montgomery, Vivien White and Louise Wishart who wish to thank everyone for their help, support and generous donations. Over £27,000 was raised in fifteen months from public donations and the sponsored toddlers' welly walk held in March 2018. Effingham Parish Council gave £5,668 from the Community Fund to pay for the new railings and two springer items were purchased from the Surrey County Council Members' allocation. Bookham Rotary donated two picnic tables costing over £1,000. The new playground is being well used and giving lots of pleasure to children and families and hopefully will for many years to come.



Do you have memories of Sir Barnes Wallis and his wife?

It will be 40 years since the death of Sir Barnes Wallis, our famous former resident, on 30th October 2019. An exhibition about him with the support of surviving family members will be held in the Little Bookham Tithe Barn on Heritage Day Saturday 14th September to commemorate his death. We would like to record local residents' memories of him and his wife. If you have memories you are willing to share please email effinghamheritage@gmail.com

EFFRA Litter Picks for Great British Spring Clean

Please join EFFRA on a litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 13th April from 2 to 3.30 pm meeting in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church car park on the Lower Road.

It would be helpful to email litter@effinghamresidents.org.uk to say you will be attending.



Don't miss the latest news

EFFRA is at the forefront of delivering you the very latest news about what is happening in Effingham.

Find local tradesmen in our local directory, and local events in our What's On page.

Don't miss out by ensuring www.effinghamresidents.org.uk is bookmarked in your web browser, and you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter at "EffResidents".

Follow us at: www.effinghamresidents.org.uk



The Effingham Residents Association exists to protect residents' interests, help in dealing with concerns affecting Effingham and encourage residents to take an active part in local affairs.

Currently membership is free of charge and automatic for all residents. Our constitution is available on our website www.effinghamresidents.org.uk The Secretary can be contacted at 01372 454003

EFFRA Committee

Vivien White

David King

Juliet Newton-Smith

James Brennan

Harry Clarke

Chairman

Secretary) officers

Treasurer)

Road wardens Co-ordinator

Website Editor

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Vice-Chairman

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