



EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

Issue 11

May 2020

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AGM 28th May 2020
at 20.15hrs by Zoom

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for re-election

STOP PRESS

Temporary
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EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL and PUBLIC GENERAL MEETING

To be held as a virtual meeting using Zoom
at 20.15 hrs on Thursday 28th May 2020

To join the AGM, you will need to use Zoom software.
and use the following loggins:

Meeting ID: 736 4700 4160

Password: 6htunQ

<https://zoom.us/>



Please note the meeting is scheduled to take no longer than 30 minutes
as this is the time limit on the free version of Zoom.

See: <http://effinghamresidents.org.uk/effra-agm-28-may-2020>
for Agenda and Financial Report

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Chairman's Annual Report

EFFRA's last few months have been dominated, as have everyone's, by the Covid-19 pandemic. What has been apparent here in Effingham is the community spirit as residents have joined initiatives to help locked down neighbours, making PPE (and most of us could not have said what PPE was three months ago) and responding to the terrible fire at the village shops.

As a result of the pandemic EFFRA's AGM will be held virtually on Zoom for the first time.

The year prior to the pandemic unfortunately continued to be dominated by planning matters. A disappointing theme of these is how many developers apply for more houses than were allocated in the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan or Planning Appeal. This leads to continual local objections and more work for hard pressed Guildford Borough Council (GBC) planning staff.

Current Situation on Berkeley Homes & Howard of Effingham School Development

The Reserved Matters planning applications for the new Howard School and the 159 houses on Lower Road adjoining it were approved by GBC on 8th January and 18th February 2020. Berkeley Homes had previously indicated they wanted to build an extra 55 homes on 1.34 hectares they removed from the new school site, part of which was intended to retain part of the green gap between Effingham and Little Bookham. Removal of this makes the school site more cramped for the children but GBC felt they could not stop its removal despite objections from EFFRA and the Parish Council. We were able to get a landscaping condition imposed on this land but we remain concerned about its effectiveness. Agreement has since been given to a Nursery and caretaker's house on the site. An application for four houses on 408 to 410 Lower Road has been refused primarily as Guildford Borough Council said it was part of the larger development and therefore should provide appropriate contributions towards affordable housing, and mitigate the impact of the project on local infrastructure. Berkeley Homes has still not met all the conditions required to be able to begin the development.

Other Planning Applications and Proposals

The planning application for 20 homes on the former **Church Street** primary school field on to which both EFFRA and the Parish Council objected is still undecided.

The **Sir Douglas Haig** has been bought by the Chelsea Harbour Construction Ltd. which has now closed and boarded it up as it wants to build largely residential housing on the site. A presentation was made at the Parish Council meeting on 7th January, but no formal planning application has so far been submitted.



The Sir Douglas Haig now boarded up

Since the year end a planning application for eight houses on the **Orchard Walls** site in Beech Close has been submitted. This site is in the Neighbourhood Plan for up to six homes. Residents have up to 12th June to comment. (See Planning section of EFFRA website for details).

Draft Mole Valley Local Plan

800 new homes are proposed for Great and Little Bookham with half of them near the Effingham boundary including 250 at Preston Farm on Lower Road. EFFRA and Effingham Parish Council joined with Bookham Residents Association and many Bookham residents to object. This would result in 500 new homes and the new school on the short and already busy stretch of Lower Road between Preston Cross Roundabout and St Lawrence School. Mole Valley had had 3,708 responses to their consultation. A further draft and consultation is planned for the end of 2020.

The Year also had more positive aspects.

Heritage Open Day

September 2019 was the most successful Heritage Open Day in Effingham and Little Bookham since EFFRA began co-ordinating them in 2016. EFFRA's aim is to make it a community day when we celebrate the historic properties we are lucky to have in our villages. Over 1,500 people visited EFFRA's exhibition in the Manor Farm Tithe Barn to mark 40 years since the death of our famous ex-resident Sir Barnes Neville Wallis. We were honoured to have six members of his family visit including his only surviving daughter, Elisabeth.

Unfortunately, the plans for Heritage Open Day this year which is due to be held on Saturday 12th September are on hold and will depend on the COVID-19 situation.



Five members of Sir Barnes's family with me at the 2019 Exhibition

Conservation Area Appraisal

GBC's consultation on the Effingham Conservation Area Appraisal was closed on 24th February. We await its adoption and hope that some of our suggestions to improve it further are incorporated. An up-to-date appraisal is essential to protect our precious Conservation Area with its historic listed buildings from inappropriate and harmful development.

Effingham Common

Six years after EFFRA first proposed it, we are hopeful that in 2020 Guildford Borough Council will declare the part of Effingham Common they own to be a Local Nature Reserve, following an application for it to do so by Effingham Parish Council. This will mean that it is managed for nature conservation, whilst still being open for the public to enjoy and will provide it with more protection.



View across the north field, Effingham Common

EFFRA's Website

I would like to thank Harry Clarke who has been quietly editing and developing EFFRA's website for four years after taking it over from Chris Dick who first launched it. The Local News page has become residents' first port of call to find out the latest news with the associated Facebook page being particularly popular for that purpose. The page currently has 265 likes with the page and website having a very high number of regular users. Recent posts about our village shops have set new records with some having around 1,500 views. But we hope the next record set will be for good news.

Harry has many other interests and calls on his time, including being Surrey's County Butterfly Recorder. With a little more time because of the lockdown he is making further improvements to the website including a new Events page (sadly with few events currently because of the current situation). He has added a very clear Planning page with links to the GBC website, which I would recommend to residents, especially those who find the GBC site difficult to navigate, with all the current and recent planning applications in Effingham with their status – undecided, approved or refused. Please keep supporting Harry and the website and watch out for further improvements.



Harry Clarke, EFFRA website editor

It continues to be a privilege to chair EFFRA. I thank the committee and road wardens for their contributions over the last year and I hope to see some of you at our virtual AGM on 28th May. Keep safe and well.

Vivien White
Chairman

Follow us at: www.effinghamresidents.org.uk



The following committee members are offering themselves for re-election at The Effingham Residents Association AGM

James Brennan has been a member of the committee since April 2015 and is Road Wardens Co-ordinator. He has lived in Effingham Place for twelve years. A retired Master Mariner and Company Director, he is married with four children and seven grandchildren.

Harry Clarke has lived in Norwood Road, Effingham since 1999. After retiring early from the IT sector, he takes a keen interest in nature conservation, and is County Butterfly Recorder. He joined the EFFRA committee in 2016 and edits the EFFRA website.

David King is EFFRA's Honorary Secretary and has been an EFFRA committee member for over 20 years since retirement. He has lived in Orchard Gardens in Effingham for 50 years. He is married with a son, two daughters and six grandchildren.

Howard Manton has lived on Browns Lane for eight years. Married with three sons, he works as an insurance broker. He has been a committee member since April 2015 and is a trustee and chairman of the Effingham Village Recreation Trust.

Juliet Newton Smith has been Honorary Treasurer of EFFRA since May 2014. She has lived in Effingham on the Guildford Road for ten years. Self-employed for 26 years with a background in financial research she has two grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Diane Poole has lived just over the border in Little Bookham for 13 years and joined the EFFRA committee in June 2018 to cover Bookham matters that affect Effingham and liaise with relevant Bookham and Mole Valley organisations. She is married to Steve and has an adult son.

Ian Smith is a resident of Orestan Lane and has lived in Effingham for the last 33 years with his wife, Jill. He has three grown up daughters. Ian retired from a private accountancy practice in 2014. He joined the EFFRA committee in 2016 and is Vice Chairman.

James Wetenhall has lived in Beech Avenue for 28 years. He is married, with 5 children and 12 grandchildren. He was a Parish Councillor from 2004 – 2016 and joined the EFFRA committee after retiring from the Parish Council.

Vivien White has been a committee member since May 2014 and is the current Chairman. She has lived in Manor House Lane on the boundary with Little Bookham for 20 years. She is married with an adult son. A qualified historian, she researches local history and co-ordinates Heritage Open Days in Effingham and Little Bookham.

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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.

The Secretary can be contacted at
EFFRA
5 Orchard Gardens,
Effingham,
Surrey
KT24 5NR.
Telephone: 01372 454003

Follow us at: www.effinghamresidents.org.uk

