



# EFFRA NEWSLETTER

**Effingham Residents Association**

Issue 18

February 2025



**All residents are invited to the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of  
EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
At ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL  
on Monday 24th February at 7.30pm**

**With an illustrated talk  
*Community Action for  
Future-Proofed Towns & Villages*  
by Ben McCallan**

**a founder of the award-winning charity Zero Carbon Guildford**

**Followed by wine and nibbles**

## Chairman's Report

I hope that by the time you read this report that the first signs of spring will have arrived after such a wet and gloomy January.

Welcome in Spring by attending our AGM on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at St Lawrence Church Hall. The AGM will start at 7.30pm and will be followed by a talk by Ben McCallan, a founder of the award-winning charity Zero Carbon Guildford on the challenges and concerns facing Surrey communities on health and the environment and the action local communities like ours can take to help tackle them.

We hope you will stay to socialise with a glass of wine afterwards.

EFFRA's activities over the last year have continued to include work on planning related matters as well as organising the more enjoyable community events.

### Litter Picks

Having held three successful litter picks in 2024, it is evident the amount of litter around Effingham has fallen and so we will reduce to two litter picks in 2025. The litter picks will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November and will start from St Lawrence Church Hall at 1.45pm. They are always an enjoyable event with the opportunity to meet and chat to other residents. Why not come along and join us and enjoy tea and scones afterwards?

### Heritage Open Day

EFFRA continues to co-ordinate the popular Heritage Open Day in Effingham and Little Bookham. In 2024 seven properties opened to visitors. This year participating Effingham and Little Bookham properties will welcome visitors for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The theme for the year is architecture, exploring how we've designed and built the world around us.

### The Effingham Festival of Christmas 2024

The second Effingham Festival of Christmas in December was enjoyed by many residents despite the disappointing weather on the day. EFFRA again organised the popular Gingerbread Decorating stall which meant we were able to stay in the dry!

### EFFRA Website

The EFFRA website and Facebook page continue to be the best source of news and information for the village. Harry, the editor can be emailed at: [editor@effinghamresidents.org.uk](mailto:editor@effinghamresidents.org.uk). If you are not already a subscriber to the website blog why don't you consider joining so as not to miss any local news – you will generally receive one email a week.

### Village Notice Boards and New Heritage Board

In early 2024 EFFRA planted up the beds in the noticeboard area at the village shops which had been renovated with a small grant to the Parish Council from Surrey County Council (SCC) supported by Dennis Booth, our SCC councillor. The area is now much improved.



On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Elisabeth Gaunt, daughter of former resident Sir Barnes Wallis unveiled the new Heritage Board reported on in our last Newsletter. It was a great privilege for me personally to be involved in its production. The Heritage Board has proved a valuable addition to the village and was especially useful for visitors on Heritage Open Day.

### **Planning**

In 2024 the EFFRA Committee reviewed numerous planning applications that affect the village. EFFRA does not normally comment on individual householder's planning applications unless they contravene the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan, the Guildford Local Plan, the Effingham Conservation Area, the Surrey Hills Area of National Beauty (AONB) or the Green Belt.

EFFRA submitted thirteen letters of objection and comments to Guildford Borough Council (GBC) in 2024. Of these thirteen planning applications, one was withdrawn, four were approved and three were refused with one of those subsequently being allowed with conditions at Appeal. Five remain undecided. Even where applications are agreed, relevant objections are often taken into account in the conditions for approval and so EFFRA's work is not wasted.

EFFRA also submitted an objection to Mole Valley Council for the Preston Farm development on our boundary. As we go to print, it has been recommended for approval by the council's officers. EFFRA remains concerned that it will increase traffic problems in the local area.

EFFRA also made five submissions to Planning Appeals. Of these one was dismissed by the Inspector (Manor Barn House), one was allowed (Tollgate Farm forestry barn) and three are still undecided.

A new planning application is expected for the smaller new Howard of Effingham School (the size of the existing school) demanded by Berkeley Homes to make the development profitable. Berkeley Homes has said the revised start date for building the school is summer 2027 with September 2029 as the target opening date.

EFFRA has also spent considerable time helping residents with enforcement complaints to Guildford Borough Council, where the developer or owner of a property is believed to be in breach of planning conditions or permissions. An example was the beech hedge that was removed at Orchard Walls. The developer was instructed to plant a replacement hedge but some of the plants have already died and will need to be replaced. The health of the hedge will need careful monitoring. EFFRA continues to be concerned about the effectiveness of GBC's Enforcement Officers and the general level of staffing at the Council. The Conservation Area Appraisal and Designation of Effingham Common as a Local Nature Reserve to which EFFRA has contributed are still stalled because of lack of resources. Of course if the Government's plans for unitary authorities go ahead Guildford Borough Council will be abolished and Effingham will come under a new larger authority but the issues are likely to remain.

EFFRA was sad to hear of the death of James Wetenhall on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the age of 94. James served on the EFFRA Committee from May 2015 to February 2021 and was a Parish Councillor for the preceding twelve years. He is remembered with affection as an exemplary parish councillor and EFFRA committee member whose concern was always for the best interests of the residents of Effingham.

EFFRA is still looking for a replacement Honorary Secretary. Nominations can be made for this position or for committee roles until 14<sup>th</sup> February. However, committee officers and members can be co-opted by the committee at any time and so please feel free to contact [chairman@effinghamresidents.org.uk](mailto:chairman@effinghamresidents.org.uk) if you are interested and would like to know more.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their work and support in 2024. Many thanks also to road wardens for their work over the last year and to Bhupinder Mahi for acting as their coordinator.

I look forward to seeing residents at our AGM on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**Vivien White**  
*Chairman*

The following committee members are offering themselves for re-election at the AGM on 24th February 2025.

**Harry Clarke** has lived in Norwood Road, Effingham since 1999. He retired early from the IT sector and takes a keen interest in nature conservation. He joined the EFFRA committee in 2016 and edits the EFFRA website

**Bhupinder Mahi** has been on the committee since 2020. He is married with two daughters and has lived in Effingham since 2007. He runs a specialist AI software and data analytics company and is interested in world literature, climate change and the environment. He chairs Effingham's Climate, Environment, and Biodiversity Action (CEBA) group. He is currently EFFRA's road wardens' co-ordinator.

**Howard Manton** has lived on Browns Lane for thirteen years. Married with three sons, he works as an insurance broker. He has been a committee member since April 2015.

**Phil Palmer** joined the committee in 2022 and has a particular interest in helping with community events. He has lived in Effingham since 1982 and with his wife Lesley worked for many years as a solicitor from an office in the village. He is currently EFFRA's Litter Pick Organiser.

**Diane Poole** has lived just over the border in Little Bookham for 18 years. She 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 with an adult son.

**Ian Smith** is a resident of Orestan Lane and has lived in Effingham for the last 37 years with his wife, Jill. They have three grown up daughters. Ian retired from a private accountancy practice in 2014. He joined the EFFRA committee in 2016 and is currently Vice Chairman.

**Vivien White** has been a committee member since May 2014 and is the current Chairman. She has lived in Effingham on the Little Bookham boundary for 25 years. She is married with an adult son. A qualified historian, she researches, writes and gives talk on local history and co-ordinates Heritage Open Days in Effingham and Little Bookham.

#### **Nomination for Honorary Treasurer**

Phillipa Birks has lived in Effingham since 2015. She was Manager of the KGV for almost 3 years and now works in events management. Phillipa also has 30 years' experience in book keeping. She was elected as Treasurer in February 2025.

**Honorary Secretary** There are no nominations.

**Honorary President** David King was appointed Honorary President at EFFRA's AGM in February 2023 with a term of three years to 2026. David had previously been EFFRA's Honorary Secretary for 21 years and been a committee member for 24 years.

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