

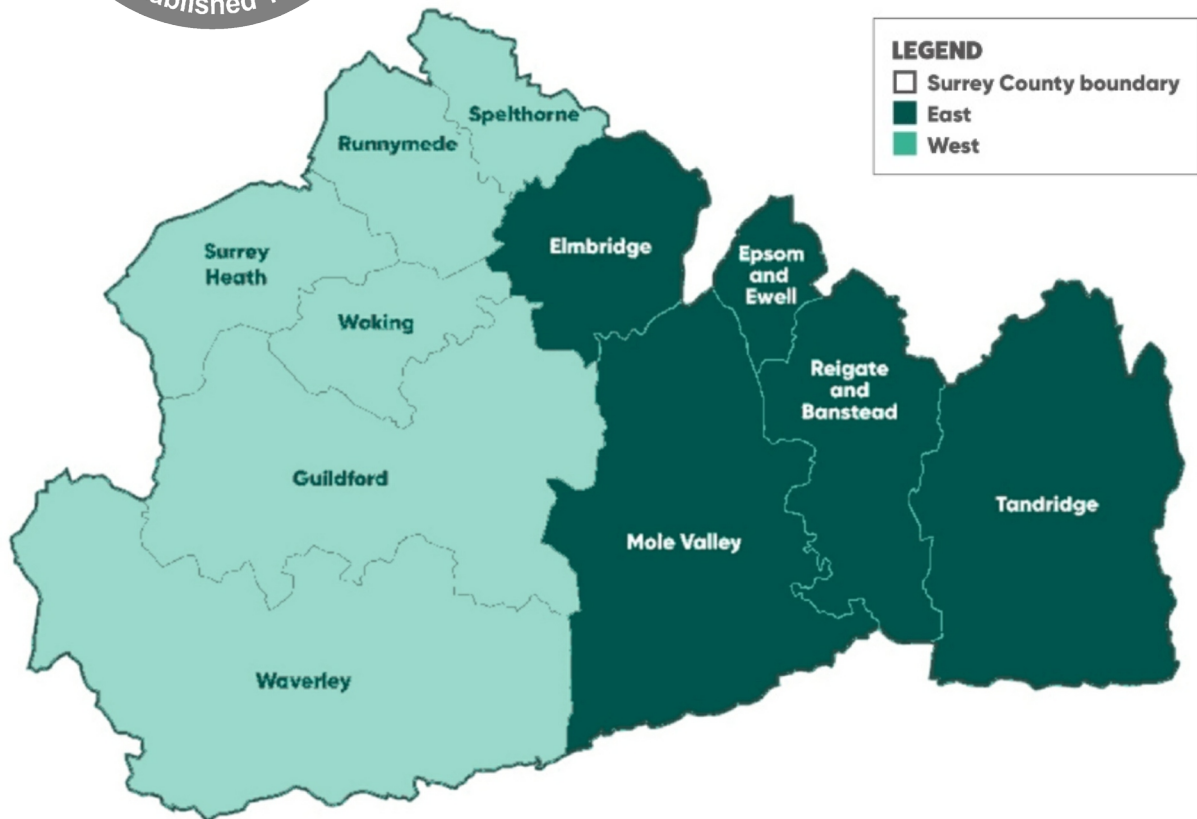


EFFRA NEWSLETTER

Effingham Residents Association

Issue 20

February 2026



**All residents are invited to the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
At ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL**

Monday 16th February at 7.30pm

With an illustrated talk

***Redrawing the map –
local government reorganisation***

**by Merel Rehorst-Smith,
Guildford Borough Councillor for Effingham
and Lead Councillor for Regulatory Services on the
Guildford Borough Council Executive**

Followed by wine, soft drinks and nibbles

Chairman's Report for 2025

Residents are invited to EFFRA's AGM on Monday 16th February at St Lawrence Church Hall starting at 7.30pm. The official part of the AGM, which we keep as short as possible, will be followed by a talk "Redrawing the map – local government reorganisation" by Merel Rehorst-Smith, the Guildford Borough Councillor for Effingham, who is also Lead Councillor for Regulatory Services on the Guildford Borough Council Executive, explaining the process and implications of Guildford Borough Council being replaced in 2027 by a new West Surrey Council, after which she and others will take questions.

We hope you will stay after the presentation to socialise with some nibbles and a glass or two of wine or a soft drink.

This report covers EFFRA's activities over the last year, which have continued to include work on planning related matters as well as organising and contributing to community events.

EFFRA Website and Retirement of Editor

In 2025 Harry Clarke decided to retire after nine years as editor of EFFRA's website. He took on the role in 2016 and has been responsible for the development and updating of the website, making it the most popular source of news for Effingham residents. The EFFRA Committee thanks Harry for all his hard work over those years and we are sure residents will second our thanks.

The website and its associated Facebook page are continuing to offer Effingham residents all the latest news and information and EFFRA intends to further develop it.

Litter Picks

The two litter picks held in 2025 were well supported and we are encouraged that the amount of litter in Effingham has gradually reduced over the last few years.

The 2026 litter picks will be on Saturday 9th May and Saturday 14th November and will start from KGV Hall and car park 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

Seven properties in Effingham and Little Bookham opened to visitors on 13th September 2025 for Heritage Open Day. EFFRA co-ordinates and publicises the festival in the two villages, encouraging properties to open and helping them with registration and any issues. This year participating properties will welcome visitors for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12th September 2026. The national theme for this year is "Everyday Histories".

Village Community Notice Board and New Heritage Board

The new Heritage Board has proved very popular and is particularly valuable for Heritage Open Day and for visitors to the village.

The village community notice board is well used and community groups leave notices (preferably A5 size) at Laylas and email info@effinghamresidents.org.uk to ask for them to be put up in the board.

Planning

In 2025 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 twelve letters of objection to Guildford Borough Council (GBC) in 2025. Of these twelve planning applications, three were refused and the remaining nine are waiting decisions.

One of the applications awaiting a decision is application 25/P/01128 for a 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 that if the application is quickly approved the revised start date for building the school will not be until summer 2027 with September 2029 as the target opening date. EFFRA objected to this application; we believe it contains proposals which are contrary to the decisions made by the Inspector following the two Planning Inquiries. We also believe that inadequate information has been submitted for the planning authority to reach a decision. We are particularly concerned by the proposal that parental pick up and drop off by car will be from a small car park accessed from Lower Road. A major part of the original decision was for most school vehicles and all parents accessing the new drop off point to use the new spine link road. This was for both safety reasons as well as to protect the centre of Effingham and Lower Road from secondary school traffic congestion. We believe this proposal will increase traffic congestion and be very unsafe because children might leave the queuing cars and cross the road to get to school. We have also raised this concern with the Howard Trust. EFFRA is also disappointed with the design of the proposed school which appears very basic compared to the original proposals.

EFFRA also supported the two applications submitted by the Effingham Village Recreation Trust (EVRT) for the KGV. EVRT has submitted funding applications to Surrey County Council and we hope there will be positive news on these by the time of our AGM.

EFFRA continues to spend a considerable amount of time helping residents with enforcement complaints to Guildford Borough Council, in cases where the developer or owner of a property is believed to be in breach of planning conditions or permissions. We also now spend more time looking at applications to discharge conditions which are imposed on an approved planning application. The effectiveness of GBC's Enforcement Officers and the general level of planning staff at the Council are even more concerning in the run up to the abolishment of the Council in 2027 and its replacement by the new West Surrey Council.

Deaths of Former EFFRA Committee Members

Sadly two former committee members of EFFRA died in 2025. Keith Cornwell who died on 31st May had been EFFRA's Chairman in the 1970s and later became a parish councillor and was Parish Council Chairman from 1989 to 1992. James Brennan, who retired as an EFFRA committee member and road wardens' co-ordinator in 2021 after six years, died on 1st July. All who knew James and Keith remember them with affection and respect.

Nominations can be made for officer and committee posts until 6th 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 if you are interested and would like to know more. We are always looking for interested residents to join the committee. In particular, EFFRA does not currently have an Honorary Secretary and is looking for an interested resident to fill the role.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their work and support in 2025. Many thanks also to road wardens for their work over the last year and to their coordinator, Bhupinder Mahi.

Vivien White
Chairman

The following committee members, officers and president are offering themselves for re-election at the AGM on 16th February 2026. Nominations can be made for committee posts until 6th February.

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 and heads the website admin team for the EFFRA website.

Howard Manton has lived on Browns Lane for fourteen 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 nineteen years. She is married with an adult son. 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 also part of the website admin team.

Ian Smith is a resident of Orestan Lane and has lived in Effingham for the last 38 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 is also part of the website admin team. She has lived in Effingham on the Little Bookham boundary for 26 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.

Honorary Treasurer

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

Honorary Secretary There were no nominations at the time of this report being published.

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.

Thank you to the following local businesses for supporting EFFRA. Find out more about them by clicking their adverts at www.effinghamresidents.org.uk

Bevan's - Fine Foods and Butchery	MPS Garden Machinery
Cedar Nursery	Effingham Golf Club
Elizabeth Hunt & Associates	Parker and Son
Fetcham Park	The Bakery
Layla's Coffee Shop	The Vineries Garden Centre
Loolabell's Outdoor Kitchen	Village Supermarket

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