

BYFLEET, WEST BYFLEET & PYRFORD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The committee meeting due to be held at S. Mary's Community Centre, Byfleet on Wednesday, 13 May 2020 was cancelled to comply with Covid 19 lockdown restrictions.

The following reports were circulated to committee members.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this brief report we are entering week eight of lockdown though we now have a tentative road map for the exit strategy. It will be remarkable if there are no setbacks upon that road.

The number of COVID-19 related deaths in the UK is alarming and immensely distressing. The economic destruction is really quite difficult to grasp and the adverse impact upon many in our society may well be life changing for years to come. "Degrowth" has been debated for some time now. Not such a good idea after all.

Officers

It is very disappointing that Andrew Barrow has decided to step down as our Planning Coordinator. Clearly identifying a replacement at this time will not be easy.

Byfleet

I am delighted to note that Byfleet Residents' Neighbourhood Forum have successfully raised £600 thus reaching their crowd funding target. They have also received £1,166 from Tesco so are now in a good position to progress the completion of their Neighbourhood Plan.

West Byfleet

I fear that from the beginning of August we will be saying good bye to Boots at least for the time being. There is currently nowhere in West Byfleet for them to move to (assuming that they wished to do so which is not entirely clear).

It is important that residents sign up for free home delivery of repeat prescriptions.

We are seeing an increasing number of restaurants providing take aways and McLaren Hospitality are now operating out of the Pantry.

I understand that Altitude hope that they may shortly be in a position to provide an update statement.

Pyrford

Andy Grimshaw has agreed to stay on as Chair of the Neighbourhood Forum.

PNF are launching their Conservation Noticeboard which will provide a way to circulate news of what is

going on. For those interested go to <https://pyrfordforum.org/conservation-noticeboard/> .

SADPD/Examination in Public

The Inspector is currently awaiting a response from Woking Council on the details of how the Modification Consultation might be handled. It is expected that a response may take a further two weeks and then it must be decided whether such response is acceptable and legally compliant with the procedure rules.

Response to COVID-19

My continuing thanks to all volunteers and neighbours who are assisting those in self isolation and those who for whatever reason are vulnerable.

Stewart Dick

12th May 2020

Editor –Resident Association Report as at 12th May 2020

- Thanks to all for sending articles, adverts and reports on time
- All articles, adverts and reports for Issue 164 have now been received
 - Waiting for one from Gary (awaiting approval from Woking council)
 - I even got an article from Jonathan Lord (Big thanks to Andy for chasing)
- I have currently editing articles and planning page layout for Issue 164
- I am on track to meet timetable below and may be ahead of schedule
- As some articles are larger than usual and there are lots of important messages to get out there, Issue 164 will probably have more than the usual 16 pages. As we are issuing online version only, costs will not be impacted and the Copy writer has agreed not to charge for additional time due to extra pages.
- Isabelle has provided me list of proof readers so I will email out when draft available as per timetable below.
- We need to clarify who will be sending out emails to members with link to Issue 164 – I will talk with Andy and Isabelle
- Alan Fuller has now provided me Administration access to the RA website and set up area on website so that we can upload previous versions of The Resident Magazine.
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The Resident Magazine Issue 164 Timetable - June Deadline

2020	Activity/Task	Owners
Friday 8th May	Deadline for Adverts	Isabelle
Friday 8th May	Deadline for All Articles	Robert/RA Committee Members
Monday 18 th May	Finalise layout and publish Draft (1) Dropbox	Robert
Wednesday 20th May	Final Draft (2) Ready Published in Drop Box	Gareth (Layout)
Friday 22 nd May	Review Draft (2) make any changes and send to Gareth (layout) Published in Drop Box Draft (2)	Robert
Tuesday 26th May	Send out PDF (Draft 2) version for proof reading	Robert
Friday 29 th May	Deadline for responses from proof-readers	Proof-readers
Tuesday 2 nd June	Complete changes/updates from the proof-readers Create and Finalise Draft (3)	Gareth (Layout) Robert
Wednesday 3 rd June	Send Draft (3) out to RA Committee	Robert
Monday 8 th June	Final Deadline for last minute minor changes and updates	RA Committee
Wednesday 10 th June	Complete edits and final changes following comments from RA Committee Draft (4)	Robert Gareth (Layout)
Thursday 11 th June	Load PDF Final version Issue 164 of The Resident to RA website	Robert Anita Flavell
Friday 12th June	Send out emails to RA members	Andy Grimshaw Isabelle David

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Byfleet Report 13.05.2020 v1.0

Village Representative and Deputy (Byfleet): Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard

RA Subscriptions/ Street Reps/Drop-in

Coverage of village: (Stats / blue type-face untouched since last report)

Total number of roads in Byfleet: 93

Number of roads with Street Rep: 74 (80%)

Number of active Street Reps: 30

Of which number stepped down since last report: 0

Of which new since the last report: 0

Street Reps:

Assistant Membership Officer Byfleet likely to be needed later in 2020. New Street Reps needed for 19 roads.

Subscriptions

A number of subscriptions have been given to VRB, these will be held until the COVID-19 Lockdown rules allow processing. SRs have been guided not to chase for subscriptions.

Village Matters (COVID-19-related):

Shops

In addition to the shops reported last month as having stayed open, the Flame Kebab shop has remained open. Recently the **Fish Bar** has been able to reopen. Even though they cannot deliver, an order can be placed by phone for a timed collection to avoid a long wait in the shop. **Lidl** has opened at Brooklands in the premises previously occupied by Mothercare. Social-distancing provisions are in place. Outside Byfleet, but of interest to residents, **Blue Diamond (was Wyevale)** is opening on Wednesday 13th May 2020, again with requisite sanitary provision. On behalf of the residents of Byfleet and the RA, we have given **'thank you' cards to Boots the Chemist and Lodge & Boutells Funeral Directors** for their work during the pandemic. While we recognise the hard work of all essential shops which have been allowed to remain open, Boots' workload has been particularly onerous. Boots staff said that a number of customers were rude and unreasonable when the lock-down started but that most are now highly appreciative of Boots' work. Understandably and regrettably, Boutells have been very busy and challenged by necessary changes to procedure. Our card recognised the inevitable upset their staff will have experienced, having to refuse family funeral wishes.

Guideline compliance and traffic

Most residents are adhering strictly to the **government self-isolation guidelines**. Traffic has increased, including audibility of the M25 traffic. A number of individuals continue to drive **driving recklessly and noisily on the empty roads** in the evenings. We have reported concerns regarding a few suspicious cars, linked to possible drug use, to WBC via their website.

Organisations/ Volunteering and positive Community Initiatives:

Woking Foodbank at Byfleet Methodist Church – Even with the church building closed, the Methodist Foodbank team are doing a tremendous job collecting donations from the Coop or residents' doorsteps and getting these to the homes of those in need. Their website lists what is needed and how to give or receive.

Byfleet Care's new and existing volunteers continue to do excellent work in the village.

COVID-19 Byfleet Volunteers took over 100 calls in April. Call-handlers have DBS clearance and are careful regarding safeguarding volunteers and clients. They have only received a couple of requests outside their remit which they have refused or referred to the SCC helpline. The SCC 0300 helpline sometimes refers Byfleet residents to them.

**BYFLEET, WEST BYFLEET & PYRFORD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MAY 2020**

Clapping for the NHS and Carers on Thursdays at 8 p.m.: This initiative continues to be well-supported in Byfleet. Dawson Road residents continue with Street Karaoke afterwards at a 2m distance!

Byfleet Sings: Fridays at 8 p.m featured in the recent Woking News and Mail.

Sunday Tea at 3 p.m. over the garden fence (2 m distancing) is enjoyed in some roads.

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations:

- Socially distanced tea – parted in front gardens took place.
- The War Memorial was adorned with a red, white and blue display. VRB laid a sprig of rosemary 'for remembrance.'
- Lodge and Boutells created an attractive commemorative window display in Amptwade. Photos will be forwarded to our editor.

Other Village items:

Planning Applications of note :

1. **Emerald House PLAN/2020/0309** - Plan to convert existing building into 30 (mainly one bedroom dwellings) with 40 existing parking slots. This application has been discussed on emails between Councillors, BNF and members of the RA Committee, with the broad consensus that this is a positive move.
2. **14A Rectory Lane PLAN/2019/0576** – First approved after appeal in 2016 is now being built. There were significant objections expressed in 2016 to the plan's size, height and style of build, especially from residents in Mowbray Avenue whose bungalows back onto this plot.
3. **Oddington, Clock House Close PLAN/2020/0361** – Large residential house extension

Litter is generally still at a low level although one Street Rep reported picnic litter left in the Recreation Ground and Brooklands Park. SERCO addressed this promptly.

Godfrey Chapples' Memorial Bench – Unveiling still provisionally 23rd September 2020

Events and expenditure:

Nothing to report.

A.O.B. None

Many thanks and regards

Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Froissard - EMG/JPF 12.05.2020

PYRFORD VR REPORT (as at 13 May 2020)

A) PYRFORD STREET REPS

Total monies received from members via Street Reps this year is £3,118 which is more than at this time last year and represents nearly 70% of the total collected in all of 2019. Well done to Pyrford Street Reps as in effect, due to lockdown, this was achieved in the first 3 months of 2020.

There are a few streets in Pyrford without a Street Rep, such as:-

- Dean Close
- Old Woking Road
- Pyrian Way
- Rowley Close
- Orchard Lea

B) MARSHAL PARADE DEVELOPMENT SAGA

Hooray even more progress! Building walls has restarted after the RSJ's were finally installed. (The garage block behind the parade was demolished in late December 2017 and work started in late March 2018 to prepare for foundations, progress is very slow. Work is forever starting and then stopping and seems to have stopped). Under the current circumstances, it is not clear when the units will be completed

C) SIGNIFICANT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are three planning application involving demolition of existing properties & rebuild

153 Old Woking Road

Demolition of bungalow & erection of three storey 7 apartment block. Vehicle access off Lincoln Drive. Two consultees, Surrey Highways and Woking Trees have raised concerns. The application is still under consideration. A revised plan for 5 flats has been received but is not yet agreed by Planning Officer. I have been informed that once the revised plans are agreed all objectors will be notified.

16 Lovelace Drive

Erection of a two-storey replacement dwelling (3-bedroom) following demolition of existing dwelling" has been sought. The application is still under consideration.

Pyrford Place, Pyrford Road

Erection of two storey boathouse following demolition of existing boathouse, refurbishment of existing footbridge and erection of single storey storage building and associated works" has been sought. The application is still under consideration.

D) FUTURE PYRFORD VILLAGE EVENTS

POSTPONED	Dulux London Cycle Ride to 26 th -27 th September 2020	Coldharbour Road
CANCELLED	Pyrford Flower Show 12:30 Saturday 11 July 2020	Pyrford Cricket Field
PLANNED	Prudential London Ride Sunday 16th August 2020	Coldharbour Road

Andy Grimshaw Pyrford Village Rep

West Byfleet Village Representative Report May 2020

The Resident #164

The pandemic has shown the strength of the community spirit in West Byfleet. Neighbours have been supporting neighbours and volunteers have been very evident in delivering food, medicine and offering a cheerful word. Most roads have set up support groups, Byfleet Care have increased their already marvellous efforts and a new West Byfleet Coronavirus Support group has come into being and energetically helping out vulnerable residents in WB, Pyrford, Woodham, New Haw and Maybury and sharing resources with the similar Byfleet group. The RA welcomes and appreciates everyone's efforts.

Particular mention of our appreciation goes to the practices and staff of West Byfleet Health Centre, there is a separate article elsewhere in the magazine.

Your VR is having to endure the 12 week lockdown, so has been unable to get out to see the changes in the neighbourhood, particularly missing seeing the wonderful efforts of the Community Gardening Group on planting up the borders of Birch Green, just to the north of the station. Many of the shops and other businesses are closed so most of the street life is centred around Waitrose, except for the round the block constitutionals enjoyed by many. At least our gardens and allotments are getting lots of attention! Local churches have also adapted to the present dilemma by providing services over social media, details can be found on their Facebook pages.

The Sheer House lack of redevelopment continues to cast a pall over West Byfleet with no progress at the time of writing. Of particular concern is the closure of the Post Office, despite the best efforts of local councillors and others, no alternative premises have yet been identified. The Post Office are apparently keen to retain a presence in West Byfleet but until such premises are provided, we will have to use the Co-op at New Haw Lock as the nearest Post Office with reasonable parking or Byfleet for those on foot or bike. One slightly better piece of news was that Boots have delayed closing until August at the earliest. Cohens have apparently still not committed to 6 day opening. We have still not heard who the likely tenant of the old Barclays bank will be.

As advised in the previous issue, the Woking BC Site Allocations proposals would result in a massive reduction of our Green Belt. A Government Inspector review of these proposals took place just before Xmas. The Inspector has issued a preliminary critical report which means the plans will require resubmission later in the year but we are not confident that the threat has been removed. Further information is shown in the Neighbourhood Forum report.

The West Byfleet Community Festival known as West Byfleet Live has been cancelled for this year but the Committee are working to ensure it runs in 2021.

West Byfleet Schools: the following has been provided.



West Byfleet Junior School during Lockdown

The most important news is that WBJs has been open every day throughout Lockdown for Vulnerable children and those of Critical Workers including Bank holidays and Easter. We will also have been open during half term too.

The rest of our children have received a comprehensive Home Learning Scheme of work supported brilliantly by parents. To say it has not been easy for parents Home Learning for many is an understatement, having said that they have all done an amazing job. Supported with daily feedback from teachers the strength of what we have been able to provide has been matched with video and sound links.

Our Friday is now a Creative Friday, which gives children the chance to relax a little and decide what they want to learn, with a little help from school, if they get stuck for ideas!

We have had masks made by a local family for staff, which gives some confidence moving forward when we know we will have more children returning.

The school has its own JustGiving fundraising page for the NHS, so please go below to contribute from the West Byfleet Junior School community.

To donate, simply click the link below - thank you for your support :)

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wbjs20>

Wishing all the residents of West Byfleet and the surrounding areas a safe passage out of Lockdown-from all the staff, governors and children from WBJs!

Best wishes and Keep Safe

Lesley Lawrence - Headteacher West Byfleet Junior School

And from The Marist:

The Marist Catholic Primary School during Lockdown

During May bank holiday week, the children of The Marist had a special week of home-learning dedicated to commemorating VE Day, they are increasingly aware that they too are living through a significant time in world history. I wonder what The Marist children of 2050 will be studying in their history lessons? There will certainly be several primary sources of evidence!

Since the school closure in March, life has changed significantly for our Marist Learners. The majority of children are at home, accessing learning in a variety of ways. We have sent home books and worksheets, weblinks and interactive quizzes, as well as teacher videos posted on our website. Then there's our Twitter page, where teachers recommend books or recipes as a way of keeping the children busy. Meanwhile, the children of key-workers attend school - albeit a very different school where handwashing and social distancing are top of the curriculum.

At this point, we are unsure about the details of a return date, but school life will undoubtedly look and feel very different for a long time to come.

Mrs Kate Licence, Headteacher, The Marist

Improved facilities for local children: as reported the RA is looking at ways to contribute for all three villages and one of our members (also a parent) will be conducting an initial survey on what is available and what are the perceived needs. This has been understandably delayed. We will publish further information in later issues.

Of particular interest to Byfleet as well as West Byfleet residents, the excessive noise levels from the M25 concrete surface and banding is being partially addressed by rejointing following significant pressure from local residents and our SCC councillor Amanda Boote, with assistance from our MP Jonathan Lord. This has offered some partial relief but the noise disturbance will not be fully alleviated until a new road surface is provided.

West Byfleet Businesses: Most of the food takeaways are operating along with some restaurants who are also delivering to customers as is Sweet Passions. James the Butcher is delivering only. It is worth giving a note of appreciation to Gary Elson for his assistance to local businesses in their emergency grant applications to help them over the lockdown.

Until next time

Your West Byfleet Village Representative team.

PNF Report May 2020

Due to Corona virus much of the activity is in abeyance.

The latest Newsletter was issued on 10th May 2020 and is available at <https://pyrfordforum.org/news-letter-archive/>. Some of the items included are below.

PYRFORD SONG

A jolly little ditty that's been doing the rounds and we hope will brighten you all up. It's all about Pyrford in lockdown and all in aid of Woking Hospice and NHS Charities Together. For those who haven't seen it and those who want another little titter click the video play button above. Many thanks to Ian Wishart for bringing a little light to a gloomy lockdown!!! <https://youtu.be/dBDVfv5jC9c>

CONSERVATION NOTICEBOARD

Launched a new page called Conservation Noticeboard. We are lucky in Pyrford to enjoy a very varied environment and have residents who genuinely care about conservation so the Noticeboard will provide a way to circulate news of what is going on. To kick things off we have a set of posts covering the maintenance of our footpaths, Wheelers Farm and The Old House.

Access is via the homepage item on Conservation at <https://pyrfordforum.org/> or, to go straight to the Noticeboard, click <https://pyrfordforum.org/conservation-noticeboard/>.

If any of you have news that we could include, next time, please contact us by email at info@pyrfordforum.org.

THE OLD HOUSE

The newly acquired land has now been fenced off from the Twisted Stone property and "wilding" has commenced with native species. Joy reports a lot of new wildlife sightings. For details follow the link on the homepage or click <https://pyrfordforum.org/conservation-noticeboard/> to go direct.

PNF CHAIRMANSHIP

Due to lockdown, Andy Grimshaw has agreed to continue as Chair until the AGM in November 2020.

SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD

Covid-19 has also impacted Woking development plans and the final report from the Examination in Public is now unlikely before the end of July.

TWISTED STONE

Many local residents have raised concerns about various activities at Twisted Stone Golf Club and access to the footpath running across the golf course to Dodds Lane. PNF have written to the Footpath Team at Surrey County Council (SCC) expressing the concerns of the community. SCC have confirmed that the Public Right of Way (FP88) must be safe and remain open to the public.

RE-DESIGNATION OF FORUM

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum (PNF) existence is unfortunately time limited. The approved Neighbourhood Plan is still valid until 2027, but a representative group for the Pyrford Area needs to be re-designated every 5 years.

The PNF Committee has decided to seek re-designation of the Pyrford Forum for the existing Pyrford Neighbourhood Area.

Work behind the scenes continues to re-designate.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

Work continues on the assessment.

A draft copy of the Landscape and Townscape Character Assessment was sent to Woking Borough Council.

A DVD, produced by Tim Matthews and Cliff Bolton, on Pyrford's heritage sites and the importance of heritage conservation was shown at the AGM. It was well received and copies available on the night were all sold. Fundraising for the £13,000 cost has generated c£11,500 so there is a shortfall of £1,500.

An intended visit to Surrey History Centre has had to be postponed.

Andy Grimshaw
PNF Chair

Councillor Gary Elson – Update for RA Ward Report 14th May 2020

Pyrford

- 2 Planning Applications from the Twisted Stone Golf Club have been submitted. The first was to make internal changes to the Club House which has been permitted by delegated authority as it was much the same as a previous application that was approved.

The 2nd is to allow for temporary storage on the carpark area, this has yet to be decided.

- The Pyrford Cricket Club has received its government grant of £10,000 which gives it 'financial breathing space'.
- The CO OP, Graham Turner Butchers, Pyrford Bakery and the Wine Shop have all remained open during the current crisis all though some opening times have been limited.
- Residents continue to be concerned with the increase in speeding vehicles along Coldharbour Road, I am working with our County Councillor Liz Bowes to see what funds can be used to replace the defunct Vehicle Activated Speed signs along this stretch. They won't stop the irresponsible drivers but should help to make caring drivers aware even when the school is not open.
- Unfortunately the VE Day Celebrations due to be held at the Cricket Club / Pyrford Social Club on May 8th had to be cancelled, such a shame as so many people had contributed and were looking forward to a great event that would have been enjoyed by the community.

West Byfleet

- Some of our local restaurants and shops are now offering either delivery or a collect service.
 - Superfish
 - Chello
 - Sir and Madam
 - New Hawelli
 - James Lowe Butcher
 - Sweet Passion
 - That's Amore to name a few..
- Parking is free but the restrictions on time still apply
- Lloyds Bank is open for limited hours again
- West Byfleet Bowls Club (Clubs Nationally) can reopen once the National guidelines have been approved by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
- We have a new business in West Byfleet 'Fanny and Adam' where Carmel Snow was located, big welcome to them!