

The Newsletter of the Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS HITS WOKING



See [page 7](#) for more details

featured **ARTICLES**

St Mary's Church,
Byfleet



P11

Environment
Update



P19

A Night of Variety from
the Byfleet Players



P21

Alan Tullett
Eulogy



P25

Welcome to the latest issue (Issue 174) of The Resident Newsletter !!!



A special thanks to all the Street Reps for delivering issue 173 of the Newsletter and for collecting any outstanding subscriptions.

This issue will also be available on the RA website - www.the-residents.org

In this issue there are updates on Planning Applications, Village and Neighbourhood Forum reports and of course a Sudoku Puzzle. There are a lot of changes going on at the West Byfleet Health Centre which impact all of us, so please make sure that you read the Health & Wellbeing section and articles.

We have articles from Keeble Brown and Higgins on the latest progress with the Botanical Place development. There is also an update from Octagon on the final phases of the Broadoaks development. The Environment Agency have provided an article and update on the Byfleet-Sanway Flood Alleviation scheme, also look out for announcements about live events.

As residents we are concerned about crime in our villages so we have an update from the neighbourhood watch team which provides some very useful advice. Please also read the article about the WRFC – Woking Rugby Football Club that are based in Byfleet and use the pavilion facilities.

In this edition we have included an article and update from our MP Jonathan Lord, which provides updates on some local events/activities.

We have a number of vacancies at the RA these include – Membership Officer, Treasurer, Village Representative for West Byfleet, Village Membership Officer for Byfleet and An Editor and Advertising Manager to replace me. We also need Volunteer Street Representatives in all villages. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions.

Your 2023 subscriptions are now due and your Street Rep would love to receive these from you! Thank you, as ever, for your loyal and invaluable support.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading Issue 174 of The Resident newsletter; it is the product of our committee and of the residents who give up their time to contribute and support it. If

any would like to advertise in the RA Newsletter, please feel free to contact me. Please check the Residents' Association website for lots of useful information and any breaking news about our local community, it is updated on a regular basis. www.the-residents.org.

Thank you to those people that have posted comments on the RA website or have sent me articles to include within this and future editions.

If you have any comments or suggested articles for future editions, please feel free to email me at editor@the-residents.org.

Robert Munford
Editor and
Advertising Manager

Byfleet Village Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2027

Public Consultation

Pre-submission (Draft) Neighbourhood Plan
Regulation 14 Consultation



DROP-IN EVENTS

Residents are invited to come along to drop-in events to learn more about the proposed policies and ask any questions relating to them.

at St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close

Hard copies of the proposed Byfleet Village Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed November at the following places: Dates will be announced via the website www.byfleetforum.co.uk

Byfleet Community Library - St Mary's Centre for the Community - Byfleet Village Hall

Electronic copies are also available on the Byfleet Residents' Neighbourhood Forum [Website](http://www.byfleetforum.co.uk) and the Woking Borough Council [Website](http://www.woking.gov.uk)

For any enquiries, please email administrator@byfleetforum.co.uk



Puzzle Corner

9				2			1	8
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4			8	3	9	7		
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Welcome to edition 174 of our Newsletter.

I hope that in spite of the rather disappointing weather you have all enjoyed our summer.



Unfortunately for Woking Borough Council Staff and Councillors it has been a difficult and demanding time which is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

Consultations

We have responded to the draft Climate Change Strategy and a draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation. The new Climate Change Strategy – Woking Net Zero - will replace the Woking 2050 strategy adopted in 2015. Our view was that this was an informative and clearly drafted document.

Woking Borough Council is undertaking a review of its adopted Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2012) in line with the National Planning Policy (NPPF) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012, to be completed by October 2023. We have responded to this consultation. However as long as the current core strategy remains in accordance with central Government requirements and policies there are unlikely to be any changes of significance.

Botanical Place

This is discussed in some detail elsewhere. Progress remains remarkable. I attended a site visit on the 12th of September and seeing the development from a different angle was very impressive. A tidy and well managed site with health and safety as the overriding priority. The developer, RVG, continue their commitment to community engagement and recently organised a wellbeing walk in support of Silver Friends which was well supported. The marketing suite is now unlikely to be operational before the early part of 2024.

An important facility for the Community in the new development is a state of the art library. Discussions continue with both SCC and WBC. I have stressed the importance of agreement between the parties to reflect the expectation of the community the more so in view of the multi-million pound investment into Surrey libraries that was recently announced by SCC.

Prioritisation of Towns - SCC Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee - meeting 8th February 2023. SCC Cabinet Meeting 28th March 2023 - Delivery in Partnership Towns, the next Phase.

I wrote about this in Newsletter 173. Just to remind you that with effect from October 2023 "West Byfleet" will be one of five towns to be identified as a "Priority Town". This is part of an ongoing roll out programme

October will soon be upon us and at this time the precise area is not clear and nor are the benefits. Nor do we know the likely quantum of "inward Investment" and its focus and purpose.

West Byfleet Health Centre/NHS

As from 5th September we now have yet another change in the procedure for attempting to make an appointment to see a doctor. The new system will be another "improvement". For most of us these constant changes are irritating and disruptive but let us see how it settles down. Feedback will be much appreciated.

Sanway - Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme

As a result of the Section 114 Notice and the suspension of the Investment Programme, WBC have withdrawn their commitment to contribute £5 million to this much needed scheme. It is also unlikely that SCC will be in a position to contribute further funds towards this shortfall. However there remains a degree of optimism that alternative funding sources will be identified.

Woking Borough Council - Section 114 Notice

On 7 June 2023, the then interim Section 151 Officer issued WBC with a Section 114 Notice. The notice was required because the Council's expenditure was likely to exceed the financial resources available, and therefore it could no longer balance its budget for the remainder of this financial year and subsequent years. In addition to the inability to produce a balanced budget there was also a deficit of £1.2 billion on the General Fund. WBC has a debt portfolio of around £1.9 billion which was planned to rise to around £2.4 billion. While currently several local authorities are in severe financial difficulty what is unusual about WBC is the eye watering level of debt compared with the size of WBC and its net annual income. Apart from what is required by law and/or contractually committed all expenditure, including capital expenditure, is halted and a severe cost cutting exercise is underway. Three Government appointed Commissioners are working with the Council on an Improvement and Recovery Plan.

As regards the 2024/25 budget position savings of £8.5 million against a previously agreed £12 million have now been detailed. However additional costs have been identified which will increase the financial challenge in the current municipal year and next year. These costs amount to a further £8.3 million resulting in a budget gap of £19.3 million. So net of the savings, there remains a shortfall of £10.8 million.

A balanced budget next March is a legal requirement. It is very difficult, even if one is of a Panglossian disposition to see how that is remotely achievable and without a very significant Central Government intervention a further Section 114 Notice must be the most likely outcome.

Like me many of you will have received a leaflet through your letter box launching a petition calling for those who caused WBC's current financial mess to be held accountable for their actions. Let us briefly reflect on that.

Grant Thornton the newly appointed auditors, in addition to their audit work, have commenced a Value for Money exercise which will shed some light.

The three Government appointed Inspectors (now the Commissioners) produced a critical report on WBC. Their work reviewed Council Officers and management and financial systems and detailed a depressing litany of failings. To mention just a few - internal processes not fit for purpose/management information to inform decision making inadequate/inadequate assessment of risks or a full assessment of the legal risks/inability to deliver required financial information/lack of management accountancy experience/lack of project management skills/no commercial expertise within the finance function/strength of staff in Finance, Legal and Commercial lacking the necessary experience etc. Given the projects that were being undertaken, unreasonable demands were placed on employees.

The two main regeneration schemes are Victoria Place in Woking Town Centre and Sheerwater. These two account for the majority of the debt.

Going through the historic records of WBC one can access the discussion documents; the questions asked; importantly the advice and answers provided and of course the Chamber debates. There is also a full record of how every past and current Councillor voted on these two schemes and on others. So good luck with the blame game.

Community Infrastructure Levy("CIL")/Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy ("NCIL")

"A proportion of CIL receipts from a development are allocated (NCIL) to the wards and neighbourhood forum areas where the development occurred. This amounts to 25% of receipts in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, and 15% of receipts in other areas. These funds are to be spent on local infrastructure projects required to support development.." - WBC statement and statutory requirement.

We had also been assured by WBC on many occasion and over a number of years that NCIL funds are ring fenced.

WBC accept that they have a statutory duty to pass on this portion of CIL to the relevant local community. It is accepted by WBC that such funds belong to the community. However, until that happens (i.e. the funds are spent by the community on an agreed and approved project) they continue to be held by WBC on behalf of the community. At the time of the Section 114 Notice, WBC was holding circa £2 million on behalf of the community. Unfortunately, these funds were not ring fenced and were merged with general cash flow resulting in their "accidental" expenditure on day to day requirements. WBC is clearly in breach of their own internal protocols regarding the expenditure of NCIL funds nor was the money spent on infrastructure as required by statute.

There are certain exemptions from expenditure restrictions under Section 114 including expenditure required through existing legal agreements. Given that these funds belong to the community and WBC have a statutory duty to pass them over it might be suggested that that is an existing legal agreement. It has also been suggested that an implied constructive Trust existed which WBC are in breach of.

Anyway, the reality is that the NCIL cash has been spent and currently we must wait for the negative reserves issue to be addressed before its gradual availability is reinstated. The RA and the Neighbourhood Forums continue to campaign but faced with no available cash (or so we are told), it is not within our gift to resolve.

This situation, which with proper escrow recording or its equivalent was avoidable, is a disgraceful shambles and the level of incompetence is truly breathtaking.

Litter and Flowers etc...

One inevitable outcome of this situation is that with the severe financial cutbacks our three villages will become less well maintained and thus less pleasant in which to live. Litter picks are arranged from time to time and you are encouraged to participate. Also gardening groups such as in West Byfleet become increasingly important. The Community will need to do more.

Thank you and take care.

Stewart Dick
Chair, Resident Association

BYFLEET

Byfleet Village Report

We hope that you have all had a good summer. Our mystery village knitters provided our children with something exciting to look at as they passed the postbox near the old fire station!



Village events were impacted by summer storms in mid-July. High winds and squally weather meant that the Friends of Byfleet Parish Day were forced to

cancel Parish Day, which was to take place on Saturday 15th July. The community shared the disappointment of the organising committee but understood the need for the decision, especially when tree boughs were seen falling in the early afternoon. We look forward to more clement weather next July so that we can all celebrate village life together.



Luckily, the Horticultural and Home Crafts Show went ahead, thanks to the show organisers, their sponsors and to the shelter provided by the Village Hall.

St Mary's Centre for the Community – A Core, Hub Service to the Community

More important than anything else that I am mentioning in this article, is the WBC consultation on 'discretionary services.' Centres for the Community are deemed to be discretionary services as these are not statutory provisions. The consultation has been triggered by Woking Borough Council's financial straits.



Many residents responded to the high-level consultation, highlighting the critical importance of St Mary's Centre for

the Community to village life. Regrettably the timing of the initial consultation was during the summer holiday. In early October, the Centre's staff will be asked to engage with Day Care service users to understand their views.

We believe that WBC's latest proposal is that, although the building would remain open for the hiring of rooms, the Day Care for the elderly

would be transferred out of the village without the provision of free transport.

Our councillors and other Byfleet groups are extremely concerned about the risk to the Day Care and to transport services for seniors. The risk of the loss of the wonderful lunches, activities and support enjoyed by so many is significant. The Centre is one of the few with a vibrant multi-service, cross-generational space at its heart, where seniors mix with families – all welcomed by a small team which is passionate about the services the Centre offers.

The outcome of the consultation is likely to be known in February 2024. Please remain alert for updates regarding the Centre's future, which must not be compromised. The community's voice must be heard.

Community Fridge at St Mary's Centre for the Community – Available to anyone

A team of volunteers is in the process of planning a community fridge in Byfleet. If you would like to volunteer with this exciting new project, please send your email address and phone number to byfleetfridge@gmail.com. More can be seen on www.facebook.com/ByfleetCommunityFridge.

St Mary's Church spire renewal fundraising

Please see an update from the Friends of St Mary's Church Team on [page 11](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmaryschurchsteeple), www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmaryschurchsteeple.

The Byfleet Heritage Society events

The society's evening boat trip from Parvis Wharf took place on 22nd June on a beautifully warm evening. The monthly meeting on 20th July at which the RA film 'Our Three Villages' was shown, was extremely well attended.



We are very fortunate to have the Byfleet Heritage Society which investigates, collects, records and preserves documents, photos and artifacts from Byfleet's and West Byfleet's history. Do consider dropping in to see some of the material which the society makes available in the Heritage Room at Byfleet Community Library on the first Saturday of each month between 10.30am and 12.30pm. The team are there to share our heritage with you and enjoy your stories about the past.

Please consider joining and learning about our village and interesting your children and grandchildren too in our surroundings and heritage. Ask at the library or via www.byfleetheritage.org.uk.

A wonderful new addition to the heritage room is the model of the old fire station made by

local resident Bill Squirrell. Pop in to see it any time the library is open.

Recreation Ground Pavilion repairs - Home of Woking Rugby Football Club since 1993

In December 2022, the pavilion was closed due to the roof collapsing and the presence of asbestos. Please see [page 12](https://www.byfleet.org.uk/page/12) for a report on the work WRFC undertook. We thank WRFC for this proactive commitment to Byfleet.

Quarterly litter pick

Do join us between 11.00am and 12.30pm on Plough Green on Saturday 11th November for the next one. Equipment provided.

Community borders and beds

Our communal flower beds and borders are looking shabby, to say the least! Would you like to join a small team to rectify this? Please see [page 8](https://www.byfleet.org.uk/page/8).

Environment Agency public consultation for the Sanway Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme

The next stage will take place on 18th October 9am – 4pm and 19th October 1pm – 7pm. There will be a remote Zoom meeting one evening. Full details are to be finalised. The RA will share with you details when these are received from the EA.

Old Scout Hut site - Walnut Tree Lane

Many in the community oppose the WBC Planning Application for the building of two houses on this site - houses which will be totally out of keeping with Walnut Tree Lane. The RA has objected, as have many residents. Anyone is at liberty to register a comment on the proposal with WBC. Please see [page 9](https://www.byfleet.org.uk/page/9).

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

Join the community (usually over 200 residents) to pay our respects at the War Memorial at 10:50am.

Byfleet Art Group is a very friendly, welcoming group and would love to see new members joining. They meet on a tuesday evening. Please see the 'Diary Dates' section for details of their autumn exhibition.

And finally... our village milkman of 30 years, Ian Coleman, has handed over his round. Many of us and our parents will have occasionally glimpsed Ian's headtorch as he delivered the milk to our doorsteps in the early hours! Certainly, the end of an era.

Subscriptions and Street Representatives

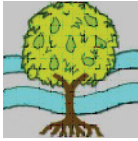
If you have not had a chance to pay your 2023 subscriptions, perhaps you would do this please before the end of November? Thank you.

*Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard
RA Village Representatives for Byfleet*

PYRFORD

Members Subscriptions from Pyrford Households

So far, in 2023 just under £4,150 of household membership subscriptions have been collected which is up on this time last year.



Thank you to all our Pyrford members who have paid their subscriptions and to all the Street Reps for collecting their monies and delivering the newsletters.

Street Representative Vacancies

I am delighted to welcome another two new Pyrford Street Reps and would like to thank the Street Rep who is retiring.

If you can spare a few hours a year to assist the RA, please do contact me (my details are on the back page) as there are vacancies in the following roads for Street Representatives:

Broomcroft Close, Broomcroft Drive, Floyds Lane, Longs Close, Norfolk Farm Close, Old Acre, Old Woking Road (Part), Pine Tree Hill, Pyrford Road South of Dodds Lane, Pyrian Close, Rosebriar Close, Rowley Close

Any help would be much appreciated, as I am covering these roads myself as the Pyrford Village Representative.

Highway Verge Cutting

As you are aware, the responsibility for verge cutting in April 2023 moved from Woking Council to Surrey County Council (SCC). The frequency of cutting has been reduced plus SCC have had operational difficulties. The village rep has chased SCC many times including cutting the hedge by the War Memorial Hall.

The latest published timetable though shows the next cut is scheduled for week ending 24th November 2023.



Woking Parking Review 2023

Surrey County Council (SCC) has published the latest proposed additional parking restrictions in and around Pyrford. The consultation period has now closed, but the proposals include double yellow lines on:

- Coldharbour Road by the triangle from outside Moonstone and
- Fairstow Engliff Lane on both sides outside the Pyrford Centre

Maps can be found on SCC website by searching [Woking parking Review 2023](#).



Old Woking Road Average Speed Camera

I have recently been assured that the average speed camera work is still in the 2023/24 budget for completion by March 2024.

Affinity Water & SCC New Pavement Surface

Surrey County Council (SCC) have recently resurfaced the pavement in a part of Lovelace Drive. It looked wonderful until a week or so later Affinity Water turned up and dug some holes to install smart water meters.

This work is part of the planned programme by Affinity Water to install water meters at every property, so, I do wonder why SCC and Affinity Water couldn't work together, such that the meters were installed before the resurfacing.

Planning Applications

A detailed planning report can be found for all three villages in the planning report elsewhere

in this newsletter, on the Residents Association website, attached to the relevant minutes, and just for Pyrford Village, on the Pyrford Forum website.

At Twisted Stone, it is pleasing to see that the equipment has been removed, but the containers and the caravan still remain. The matter has been raised with the local ward councillors.

*Andy Grimshaw
Pyrford Village Representative
Gordon Brierley
Deputy Pyrford Village Representative*




PANTOMIME

Avast there, me hearties!
It's time for **"Treasure Island"** our pantomime for January 2024.

Performances will be on **20th, 21st** at 2:30pm, **26th** at 7:30pm and **27th January** at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, all taking place at the Pyrford Village Hall (GU22 8SP)

Further details from PLT website:
www.pyrfordlittletheatre.org.uk



Round and Round the Gardens Childcare

... the natural choice for your child

Full day care for children aged from 12months to 5 years
in 3 separate classrooms.
Open 8am to 6pm
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Our ethos is outdoor learning in our 5 separate gardens

Or call us now on **01932 355322** for details of our full day and morning/afternoon session availability.

You can also visit our website - www.roundandroundthegardens.co.uk to find out more.

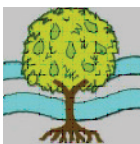
Jack Temple Building, Pyrford Road, Pyrford, Surrey, GU22 8UQ

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR Level 2 or 3 QUALIFIED STAFF
if you are interested in working in our small team
please call us NOW!

PYRFORD

Resident Association Grant

Pyrford Forum is very grateful to the Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association (RA) for its ongoing support of the Pyrford Forum. In August, the Forum received £1,126 based on the agreed formula of £500 plus £1 from each paid RA membership household subscription within a Forum Neighbourhood Area, provided there is an approved Neighbourhood Plan.



Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Debacle

You are probably aware of the financial situation of Woking Borough Council (WBC), culminating in a Section 114 notice being issued on 7th June 2023.

You may not be aware that one of the consequences is that Woking Borough Council (WBC) have spent the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funds received prior to June 7th, amounting to around £1.8M, on their general expenses. This was admitted at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14th August 2023, by, the then, Section 151 Officer.

WBC maintains that they will meet their legal obligations in time and that this is a temporary position and that some of these frozen funds might become available in April 2024.

At the moment, local projects can only be funded by new NCIL received after the 7th of June 2023. The previous balance available to Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum was around £50,000. Also, as a result of the decision made in April 2023 to support the use of some of the funds to assist a Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall project to the value of just under £10,000 is no longer possible.

As of the 11th of September 2023, in the Pyrford Neighbourhood Area the funds available to use amounted to zero pounds.

The Forum Committee is very upset at this state of affairs. It seems that all the hard work of many people to get an adopted Neighbourhood Plan which increased the % of NCIL from 15% to 25% has been nullified.

The Forum will still continue its other activities but will continue to express its concerns at every available opportunity.

The Forum was pleased to have Cllr Liam Lyons attend its 11th September Committee Meeting to discuss both the current Core Plan to 2027 and the process for the replacement Woking Core Plan from 2027. The Forum did express forcefully but politely its frustration as to the current stalemate on NCIL. Councillor Lyons stated that he had written to The Rt. Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom, to see whether there was any possible way the frozen NCIL could be released sooner. As yet no reply has been received.

WBC have made the following public statements:

"We would like to inform you that the Council continues to operate the Community Infrastructure Levy scheme and consider applications. However, due to the Council's financial position, there will be a delay before resuming payments for approved applications until after the 2024/25 budget is agreed in February 2024. The financial position, and the Council being issued with a S144 Notice, has resulted in strict controls being placed on all expenditure across the Council while cash reserves are regenerated."

The Council will ensure that it meets all obligations under S216 of the Planning Act 2008 and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)."

Two public statements have also been issued by the portfolio holder Cllr Liam Lyons which can be found under WBC News Items:

www.woking.gov.uk/news/statement-community-infrastructure-levy-cil-funds dated 7th August and at www.woking.gov.uk/news/update-statement-community-infrastructure-levy-cil dated 5th September.

Forum Activities

2024 Calendar

Pyrford Forum has decided to continue its fundraising activities.



The Forum was pleased with the sales of its 2023 Wildlife Calendar, so, it has decided to create a 2024 wildlife calendar.

Copies are available for £12:00 by contacting Cliff Bolton via email at cliff.bolton@gmail.com.

Highway space between Coldharbour Lane & Hacketts Lane

The Forum has been given permission by the Cabinet Office to dedicate the area owned by Surrey County Council (SCC) by naming it "Pyrford Village Queen Elizabeth Memorial Garden". SCC have also agreed to make the area a Blue Heart site, which means the area will only have one grass cutting a year each Autumn and it is possible to rewild this area. Work continues to obtain suitable signage.

Co-op local community fund

Pyrford Forum is delighted to have been selected as one of the local groups being supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Co-op Members can support Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum (Cause ID: 74562) as part of the Local Community Fund until 21 October 2023.

You need to sign into your account and select Pyrford Forum as your cause. Then for every £1 members spend on selected Co-op branded products and services, 1p will go directly to our cause but to collect rewards and contribute to our cause, you must swipe or scan your membership card when you shop.

The link to our Cause Profile Page is <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/74562>.

The Forum is incredibly grateful to those members who have already chosen the Forum. In 2 months, the amount raised already exceeds £100.

If you are not a member you can get a card from Pyrford Co-op and join for £1.

Impact of Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan

There are over 200 planning applications per annum in the Forum Area and the Forum does, on occasions, make formal comments.

Since Newsletter 173, the Forum did so on three applications in Pyrford Forum area and unusually on one in Wisley Village. See table below.

To be kept up to date, then why not register for free to Join the Forum at www.pyrfordforum.org to receive the more regular Newsletter.

The Forum is always happy to welcome new members and is always seeking new Committee members.

More detail on these and other planning applications in Pyrford can be found in this Newsletter or at www.pyrfordforum.org/planning-application-news.

Andy Grimshaw, Chair
Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum

Property	Application	Forum Comments (Summary)
Cherrywood Blackdown Avenue	Section 73 application to vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of permission ref: PLAN/2022/0393 (Subdivision of plot of Cherrywood, retention of existing dwelling and erection of new attached two storey dwelling with accommodation in the roof space with associated parking and amenity space (AMENDED PLANS)) to allow external alterations	Frequency of applications at this site and in this case the significant impact on a neighbour
Car Park, Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley Lane, Wisley	Use of land as an occasional overflow car park for up to 150 days per annum; use of former cricket pavilion for purposes ancillary to the use of the car park (description amended 08/06/2023)	Concern that the Traffic Management plan sought permission to divert traffic down Wisley Lane towards Lock Lane and Pyrford Road rather than as now towards the A3
Pyrford Manor Pyrford Road	Erection of a detached dwelling and detached garage following demolition of existing stable block and garage building	Harmful development in the Greenbelt and impact on a designated parkland area
Milestones Pyrford Road	Erection of a first-floor side extension and single storey rear extension and change of use to a 6x bedroom, 10x person House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) (sui generis use)	Creation of additional on-street parking

WEST BYFLEET



Woking Council – Effective Bankruptcy

By now you will have heard about this. It has a huge effect on the Forum. We are owed over £1 million by the Council which has inadvertently spent it! It does not know where and it may take years for accounting investigations to establish how and where it has gone. That is the very bad news. The better news is that the Council acknowledges it owes us the money and will attempt to pay us. The less bad news is that despite this there is likely to be delay in payment. For us this means that the projects which we had intended to implement, for instance new tennis courts and exercise equipment in the recreation ground are stalled. We are continuing to work on them.



We will use our initiative to get the best value for every penny we receive. The council is due to make many redundancies in the coming weeks and we do not know if the employees we have been liaising with will still be there. In addition, there are three commissioners appointed by the government to oversee everything the council does. This means even if council employees and/or councillors agree a plan of action with us, it is only when the commissioners agree that it can proceed. It is a mess!

We do not give up easily though. The council has not yet announced what services it will be forced to cut. There are rumours that these might include managing all the borough recreation grounds. The community may be forced to take these on. We need answers to this before we can do anything.

Elsewhere the building of Botanical Place continues rapidly. It looks hideous at the moment with many floors of shiny concrete, cranes, scaffolding and general mess. We are losing light as each floor goes up and it will reach eight in places. The good news is that the finished development looks very different with good architectural features which will only go in later.

The rapid change to an urban look in the village centre has attracted graffiti artists and we and our councillors will have to work hard to get it removed repeatedly. This will involve liaison with landowners but once a process has been set up it should be done.

I am particularly enjoying the work of our Community Gardening Group who have been steadily improving the Station and surrounding areas. The new planters on the platforms are a notable feature. There are plans to do much more next year. As ever they and the Forum rely on volunteers. If you think you could do something for your community by helping please do get in touch.

We have our AGM in November, date and venue to be agreed. We will let you all know more then.

I am delighted that local councillors, Amanda Boote, Steve Dorsett, Peter Graves and Daryl Jordan have agreed to join our committee to strengthen our ability to help our community. As ever we are grateful to the Residents' Association for funding most of our running costs.

*Wade Pollard
Chairman of West Byfleet
Neighbourhood Forum*



West Byfleet Community Gardening Group

The group has now immortalised their name on the trophy. It is on display at the West Byfleet train station for everyone to ogle at. In the photo across, you can see Rebecca Bradshaw, Diane Cozens, and Wade Pollard representing the gardening group during Claire Mann's visit, the Managing Director at Southwestern Railway. There will be plenty more chances to

have your name engraved on the cup. Make sure to follow our page for updates on next year's competition...



**Botanical Palace Thrive Living
Presenting this year's winners of the
Botanical Place Cup: West Byfleet
Community Gardening Group**

Newsflash

The West Byfleet Gardening Group are working with Community Rail Network and their contacts at the station to get the subway tunnel cleaned up. We've been trying to get this done for a while so good news this should be on its way.

In addition, we're working with Keeble Brown and Higgins Group to get a mural (hopefully reusing hoardings from Woking College previously on central panels in West Byfleet) put up on the green fence by the subway and put scenes of local wildlife back on the map.





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BYFLEET

Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan has now been submitted to Woking Borough Council for a Strategic Environmental Assessment.



Once this has been completed there will be an extensive consultation programme within the Village. These will include 'drop-in' sessions at St Mary's Community Centre, hard copies available at Byfleet Library, St Mary's Community Centre & Byfleet Village Hall. Additionally, electronic versions will be available via the Forum website, www.byleetforum.co.uk and the Woking Borough Council website. Current timetable estimates that these will all be in place during October.

Community Matters

A generally quiet summer in Byfleet, exacerbated by the sad cancellation of Parish Day, a result of a forecast (and reality!) of very high winds. Hopefully next year we will have a bigger and better event to make up for this year. A great deal of hard work went into the planning of this event and The Forum would like to pass on its thanks to Esther Watson-Green and her committee for their continued efforts.

Planning Issues

The committee maintains a watch over all relevant planning applications and considerable concern has been expressed by BRNF and The Residents' Association over an application, on behalf of Woking BC, for the development of the old scout hut in Walnut Tree Close, a cul-de-sac populated by bungalows. WBC's application, presented during the school summer holidays, seeks to develop two three-storey property with bedrooms in the roof space. Completely out of keeping with the area and, in our opinion, a substantial over-development.

Concerns continue over Manor School development, also supported by The Residents' Association. We are awaiting further developments from Surrey CC.

Emerald House, situated in the heart of Byfleet's conservation area, has now been purchased for development. Previous applications have sought to change this building from office accommodation into flats. We are awaiting revised plans for this development.

There seem to be a plethora of applications in Byfleet for flat conversions. Whilst these demonstrate good use of space and provide much needed additional accommodation, concerns remain over limited parking available within the village. We are aware that the RA

have similar concerns and we remain grateful for this support.

General

We remain open to new members joining the group and especially from those with younger families and long-term plans to remain in the Village. If you are interested please contact either Andrew Weiss or Amanda Boote and we will talk you through how it all works.

Andrew Weiss

Chairman Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Byfleet community flower beds and borders

Would you like to be involved in improving the communal borders and beds around our village? The borders and beds around Plough Green have been deteriorating in standard for some years as the pictures below demonstrate.



Plough Green in 2008



Plough Green this summer, 2023

A number of residents would like to get together to make our borders more attractive. We believe that we can do this without significant cost or effort.

We started this year with the small raised bed near the public lavatories in High Road. We battled with bind weed but it was a start! The pollinators certainly liked what we planted.



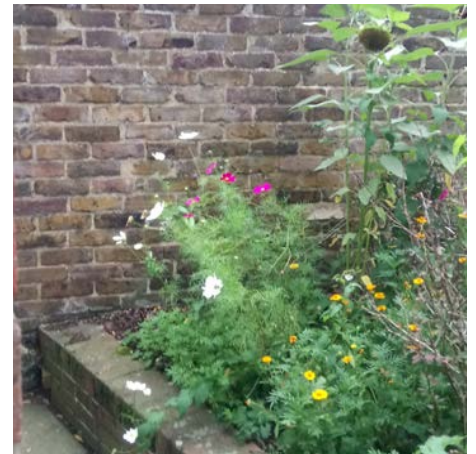
Would you like to join us? We will start with the borders around Plough Green but, in time, as the group grows, we will look at other areas of the village.

We are going to:

- Plant a few extra pots of seeds each at home, in the spring, to donate to the communal space.
- Get together to prepare the ground and plant out bedding plants in spring 2024.
- Get together on a rota to water the borders in dry weather and occasionally to weed.

To get involved, please contact Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard of the RA by emailing vrb@the-residents.org or by post via Byfleet Village Hall (postal address on the reverse of this newsletter.)

Thank you.



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Planning applications are discussed by the RA at their monthly meetings. Compliance with Neighbourhood Forum Plan Policies is fundamental. Our preference is, if possible, not to raise major objections.

Any resident who has concerns about a planning application should contact both the RA and their Forum.

Woking Borough Council Planning Department are currently understaffed (unlikely to change) and this combined with the volume of Applications is causing certain delays.

Since the report in Newsletter number 173 the following are of significance:

Byfleet

(a) PLAN/2023/0342 - Allenbuild House Oyster Lane Byfleet. Prior approval under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 20, Class ZA of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for the demolition of existing two storey detached building together with the construction of a replacement four storey building providing x32 flats together with associated works permitted by Part 20, Class ZA. The RA wrote a strong letter of objection. REFUSED

(b) PLAN/2022/0758 - 138 High Road and Flat at 136 High Road. Conversion of existing house and maisonette to 6x self-contained. New Submission - PLAN/2022/1080. The RA objected - total lack of relevant information. APPROVED subject to the completion of a legal agreement.

(c) PLAN/2022/1016 - Boyds Farm - Section 73 to vary Condition 2 (Occupants and 5-year period) of PLAN/2018/0940 (Change of use of land to 2 No. Gypsy / Traveller pitches including 2 No. mobile homes, 2 No. semi-detached dayrooms, 1 No. package treatment plant, 2 No. touring caravans, hardstanding, and associated works) to vary the occupants listed and remove the time period. PENDING CONSIDERATION. The RA have written with a proposal. STILL PENDING

(d) PLAN/2023/0192 - 94 High Road Byfleet - Retention of Existing Commercial unit to front of building. Proposal for a two-storey rear extension to improve existing 2 No x 1 bed units on first floor level with associated internal changes and designated garden space, cycle storage and refuse storage for each flat unit. (Amended Plans). PENDING. The RA have objected.

(e) PLAN/2022/0923 - Former Manor School site, Magdalen Crescent Byfleet. Erection of an apartment block comprising 6x1 bed self-contained flats and two 5 bed townhouses for supported independent living. RA wrote with general support but certain concerns. PERMITTED subject to various conditions.

(f) PLAN/2021/1104 - Manor House, Mill Lane, Byfleet. Construction of a 9-bay garage building and a 6 bay estate management office. The Planning Officer recommend refusal. APPROVED.

(g) PLAN/2021/1110 - Manor House, Mill Lane, Byfleet. Erection of an outbuilding including an

indoor swimming pool and gym. REFUSED

(h) PLAN/2023/0576 - Byfleet Beds and Furniture 140 High Road Byfleet. Fenestration alterations to east, north and west elevations. APPROVED

(i) PLAN/2023/0600 - former Scout Hut, Walnut Tree Lane, Byfleet. Erection of a pair of three-storey semi-detached dwellings following upon demolition. the RA have written a strong letter of objection as have Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum and many residents.

Pyrford

(j) PLAN/2023/0280 - Milestones Pyrford Road - Erection of a first-floor side extension and single storey rear extension and change of use to a 6x bedroom, 10x person House of Multiple Occupation. The RA have objected. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(k) PLAN/2022/0393 - Cherrywood Blackdown Avenue. Subdivision of plot of Cherrywood, retention of existing dwelling and erection of new attached two storey dwelling with accommodation in the roof space with associated parking and amenity space. pending consideration. RA and PNF have objected. Also PLAN/2023/0388. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(l) PLAN/2023/0431 and 0592 - Prospect Cottage Pyrford Road. Subdivision of existing dwelling into two dwellings including internal alterations and use of land for private equestrian purposes together with the erection of a replacement stables and storage building. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(m) PLAN/2023/0033 - Qaro Pyrford Heath Pyrford - Construction of an additional storey and associated hipped roof and the installation of external insulation, increase in height of ridge, changes to external materials, changes to fenestration, front porch addition and installation of solar panels. REFUSED. The RA strongly objected. Now under APPEAL.

(n) PLAN/2023/0236 - 2 Lady Place Barns Church

Hill Pyrford - Erection of a two-storey rear extension and single storey side extension. The RA wrote expressing concern. REFUSED

(o) PLAN/2023/0331- Pyrford Manor Pyrford Road - Erection of a detached dwelling and detached garage following demolition of existing stable block and garage building. The RA have written a strong letter of objection (Green Belt). REFUSED

West Byfleet

(p) PLAN/2023/0311 - Westby Lodge, 90 Old Woking Road - Erection of four detached, self-build dwellings with garaging and associated works on land to the rear of Westby Lodge, No.90 Old Woking Road. Installation of new vehicular access and cessation of use of existing access. PENDING. The RA have objected.

(q) PLAN/2023/0128 - 25, 29 And 31 Old Woking Road - Conversion of 6 x existing flats into 7 x flats - creating an additional 1 x unit with a commercial unit at ground floor (Class E), part two storey, part single storey extension to south elevation, 8x dormer windows to replace existing flat roofed dormer windows and associated external alterations (including fenestration alterations) (amended description). As this building is in a conservation area there are certain concerns. WBNF have objected. The RA is discussing with the Applicant. ENDING CONSIDERATION

(r) PLAN/2022/0254 - Land Adjacent To 6 Old Parvis Road - Change of use from utilities building (ruin) to Cafe (Class E) and external alterations (Amended red line). REFUSED. Appealed to the Inspectorate. The RA again objected. APPEAL REJECTED

(s) PLAN/2023/0407 - Globe House, Lavender Park Road. Extension of Globe House to create 7 self contained flats. Six flats previously approved. PERMITTED

Article by Stewart Dick
RA Chairman and Planning Coordinator



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Wey Family Practice

From Tuesday 5th September, due to changes in the NHS National contract for GPs, we are introducing a new GP triage system.

The new system will endeavour to improve the system of booking appointments away from the historical 'first come, first served' basis to equity of access for all patients.

From 5th September, all requests for a GP appointment should be made through the NHS App or through our website www.weyfamilypractice.nhs.uk.

Using the NHS app will be the most efficient way of requesting an appointment. (The app can be downloaded through the app store and is linked to your own medical record).

If you do not have access to the internet, our reception team will complete a request form on your behalf, either in person or over the phone.

The reception team will no longer be able to give you a GP appointment.

Your request will be passed to a triage doctor so that you can be given an appointment with the relevant clinical person for your need.

Please bear with the whole team while these changes are being made and we apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time.

Article by Wey Family Practice

Health and Wellbeing

The three GP Practices at West Byfleet Health Centre (WBHC) are making changes to how patients access healthcare appointments. These changes reflect the requirements of the new NHS GP national contract.

If you would like to find out more about these changes and other healthcare topics, why not join the WBHC Patient Participation Group (PPG)?

Becoming a member is free and entitles you to attend meetings, ask questions, make suggestions, receive PPG newsletters, information sheets and PPG meeting summaries.

To join, please send an email to wbhcppg@gmail.com including your name and GP Practice.

The next three PPG meetings are as follows:

Thursday 26th October 2023

In person at a local venue (TBC)
Topic: Changes happening at West Byfleet Health Centre.

Practice Managers will update us on website and appointment booking changes, following government directive to all GP Practices. We hope to also include a GP presentation with Q&A.

Tuesday 27th February 2024

In person & Zoom at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Pyrford. Topic: TBC - but we plan to include an update on the Primary Care Network from Dr. N Jesshop who spoke at our February 23 meeting 2023

Tuesday 18th June 2024

Zoom meeting
Topic: Update on carer's information and an introduction to the BEDSER Hub.

Top tips to get the most from healthcare appointments

Lots of people struggle to speak about their medical concerns. Whether you have an appointment with a GP or healthcare professional, a specialist outpatient appointment at hospital or a mental health assessment etc... Healthwatch and NHS Choices have created top tips to make the most out of your appointment.

Before your appointment:

- Decide which is your most urgent concern or issue you need to discuss.
- Write down your symptoms when they started and if anything makes them better or worse.
- Write the most important questions you want answered.
- Take a list of all your medication (including vitamins and minerals).

During your appointment:

- Don't be afraid to ask if you don't understand anything.
- Write answers down.
- If you need to, take a friend or family member to help you remember details.

Before you leave your appointment:

- Check you have covered everything on your list and understand any terminology.
- Make sure you are clear on what will happen next and when.

Many charities have created condition-specific questionnaires that you can use as a starting point for a conversation with a specialist. Check questions on [British Heart Foundation](http://BritishHeartFoundation.org) or [Macmillan Cancer support](http://MacmillanCancerSupport.org) websites.

Carol Leong-Son
RA Health and Wellbeing Officer

West Byfleet Health Centre

Many patients registered at the health centre will be aware that we have changed our websites to provide greater integration with our patients. Our websites have been designed by NHS England to provide consistency across NHS organisations and also the NHS app. It has also been designed to contain signposts to other organisations that may be able to offer support for patients, including services that can

provide support more quickly than going via the practice.

We are also encouraging our patients to utilise the NHS App. The NHS app is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS service on your smartphone or web browser.

It enable patients to:

- Order repeat prescriptions, change nominated pharmacy and view test results at a time that's convenient to you.
- You can request GP appointments and consultations (where available – dependant on the practice)
- Patients can also get access to trusted advice including from [NHS 111 Online](http://NHS111Online) and to find an NHS service nearby
- Manage your first hospital or clinical appointment with a specialist, once they have been referred by their GP, through the NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS)
- View new entries in your health record
- Proxy access – Users who have proxy access for a patient, can manage or view linked profiles, but only if they are both registered at the same practice. For new proxy access, contact the practice of the person you would like to set up a linked profile for, and ask them to register you for proxy access

We completely understand that some of our patients will not want to use such technology and this is completely understandable. Each practice will still be available for you on the telephone.

Lastly, we have a new health kiosk in the reception area of the health centre. It can be utilised by all our patients for measuring blood pressure, height and weight. All these measurements can be saved into your medical record saving you time when visiting a clinician or you just want an update.

Article by Liz Reynolds
Practice Manager



LCA Fitness & Dance ✨

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Please ring Lesley on **07860 610040** for
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Previewing the 25th Anniversary of the RA's 'Our Three Villages' Video Project

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the production of the 'Our Three Villages' video. This was the output of an RA project to mark the start of the millennium. In 2024, The Resident newsletter will feature an explanation of how the project was undertaken, its intention and its legacy.

The RA, in 1999, was keen to give a contemporary assessment of changes that had touched the ancient parishes of Byfleet and Wisley-cum-Pyrford, within living memory. The project filmed a broad spectrum of village life and interviewed many residents about their experiences and memories.

The below is an image of poster created in 1999 to advertise the video.



The video was enabled by a 'Millennium Sub-committee' of the RA which included Barbara and Arthur Provis who filmed, edited and produced the video

at home and Jane Pearce who collated and wrote the script. The video and wider project received many accolades, including one from Dr Norman Barfield, former director of British Aerospace and a trustee at Brooklands.

The Byfleet Heritage Society screened the video recently on 20th July 2023 at St Mary's Centre for the Community - to a full house! We look forward to telling you more about this in next year's 'The Resident'.

Article by Eleanor Grady

St Mary's Church, Byfleet

Watch Out there's a Squirrel About!!

The spire of St Mary's Church, the Parish Church of Byfleet needs some major TLC.



Squirrel and woodpecker activity has resulted in some damage but more seriously on the south side of the spire aging and weathering has caused many of the cedar shingles (wooden tiles on the spire) to curl up and become partially detached.

The best solution would be to totally re-cover the spire in new cedar shingles – which was last done over 70 years ago. Other solutions of partially doing the job and returning later to finish would double up on scaffolding costs which are expensive.

Total cost for completely re-covering the spire in cedar shingles would be approximately £35,000.

Fund raising is ongoing with a number of funds received or pledged from various charitable and community organisations, including a generous grant from the Residents Association, and various fund-raising events in the church hall, plus funds from Rector John McCabe's "just giving" page for his participation in the world biathlon championship.

We are approaching the target we need but not there yet. Keep an eye open for opportunities to donate to this.

Article by Nick Bradshaw



NOW IS THE TIME TO START CONTRIBUTING YOUR SPARE GARDEN SEEDS TO THE FREE SEED SHARE SCHEME!



Share spare seeds with fellow residents, whether it be

Share spare seeds with fellow residents, whether it be

- Seed heads you have collected from your garden and saved from your green bin
- Part-used bought packets
- Magazine freebies you are unlikely to use in 2024.

Hundreds of packets were made available for free and used by villagers in 2023. Many packets and seeds-heads were kindly donated including these:



FREE SEEDS AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM AND DONATE AT:

- The Byfleet Community Library, Plough Green, Byfleet
- St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close, Byfleet
- The West Byfleet Community Library, Rosemount Parade, West Byfleet

The above seed boxes will be restocked in March 2024 for the 2024 season. We are collecting and packeting over the winter, in readiness. If you would like to be involved in the scheme please contact vr@the-residents.org.

Article by Eleanor Grady



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WRFC's endeavours for Byfleet Pavilion

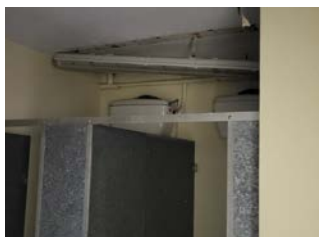
Since 1993 Woking Rugby Club has been hiring the pitches and changing facilities from Woking Borough Council at Byfleet Rec, sharing them with other local sports teams and community groups.



In December 2022 the pavilion was closed due to the roof collapsing and disturbing asbestos.

Whilst the roof was initially repaired to prevent further damage, the club was forced to play its remaining home fixtures at Chobham RFC. As a grassroots club this was unsustainable.

With the well-publicised financial challenges faced by the local council, Woking



Rugby Club has decided to start the repair work to ensure the building is in a fit state to be used in time for the new rugby season starting in September. Based on current estimates the total repair bill will be in the region of £10,000 to £12,000.



Phase one and two was completed in June 2023; the aim was to achieve safe access by removing

the remaining ceiling in the gents and lady's toilet, disposing, and cleaning the affected areas as per asbestos removal regulations. Some minor electrical works replacing existing strip lights with energy efficient LED strip lights was also undertaken. New moisture resistant plasterboards were installed, plastered and made good.

To ensure the work was completed in time for Parish Day and preseason,



Woking RFC covered the full cost of these first two phases which totalled £6,213 including VAT. Over half the required amount (£3,700) was raised in six weeks by the players and supporters via a Go Fund Me page and fundraising.



Looking ahead the club is in conversations with Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council to secure funding to recoup some of its initial costs and further funding to complete the final phase of achieving fit for purpose changing room and improved shower and toilet facilities for use by the club and general public. The details of which are being finalised and are subject to the additional funding being secured.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and if you would like to donate go to www.gofundme.com/f/byfleet-rec-pavilion-repairs/donate.

Article by The Committee
Woking Rugby Club (based in Byfleet)

76th Pyrford and Wisley Village Show, 8th July

Wow, what a show!

Our 'Inventions Past Present and Future' themed show was held at Pyrford Cricket Club on 8th July. We were honoured to have the show opened by Woking's Mayor Councillor M Ilyas Raja, who was joined by the Mayoress Mrs Nargas Ilyas Khan and Jonathan Lord MP. Just before the show opening light showers dried up and we were blessed with perfect show weather.

The Junior, Domestic & Handicraft and Horticulture sections saw over 2,000 entries! The companion dog show also again proved to be very popular.

The judges awarded a total of 52 prizes across the various sections of the show. Standout winners included: Elina Birk, winning the children's shield for 'The most outstanding entry in the junior section' and Pyrford Primary School winning - The Roy Davey President's Cup for 'The most interesting and attractive display of children's work'. A new cup was also presented for 'Best flower arrangement in a garden setting', kindly donated by Thrive Living.

Arena events included performances by Parkour Action, which proved to be very popular and included the Parkour team inviting participation

from the community. It was also great to see performances from local groups Julie Sianne Theatre Arts and Prime Acrobatics.

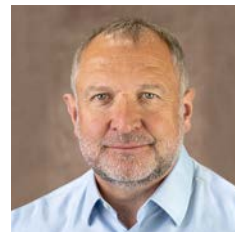
Live music throughout the day and evening again proved popular, and it was fantastic to see wonderful performances by local artists including Pyrford Primary School and The Show Choir. The evening was closed by the ABBA Stars Tribute Act which saw many dancing into the evening.

The show only happens thanks to the 100's of people who volunteer, both on the day and those who serve on the committee during the year. To enable the show to continue we need more volunteers and so if you would like to support this wonderful annual event, please contact me using the details below.

We would love to hear from you as to what you would like to see at future shows and so please visit our website at www.pyrfordvillageshow.com to provide feedback.

Looking forward to seeing you all again at next year's show. Put it in your calendar, Saturday 13th July 2024!

John Attrill
Chair, Pyrford & Wisley Village Show
Email: johnattrill@hotmail.com
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Crime in our Communities Update



We are fortunate to live in an area with a relatively low level of crime and over the previous 12 month period the Woking area has experienced some very positive results with solve rates, particularly on drug offences and burglaries:

- Two major county lines disrupted. County Lines are where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people. Since its inception in 2020, Centurion-Surrey Police's joint team, with Sussex, have disrupted 300 county lines across Surrey and Sussex; and
- Burglaries - worth noting that many of the burglaries were thefts from sheds; and that it is evident that house break-ins tend to be at the back of the house so do ensure access to the rear of your property is always secure where possible. All the burglaries were attended and police chiefs have committed that the police will attend all home burglaries.

Vehicle Security

Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is the main method used by the thieves. Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture its signal (even if it is in the house) and can then amplify and use the signal to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and enables the ignition to be started. Generally, this type of theft will be planned and not opportunistic.

There is another method whereby the thieves will have hidden a signal blocking device on the car on an earlier visit. This stops the car locking as you walk away.

So always look back to check that the car is locked ... sound of lock? Mirrors folded? Indicators flash?

Car security advice

- **Lock your vehicle** : Even on your own drive- and check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open. If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked use that to confirm you have locked it properly. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.

- **Safeguard your keys:** If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry. But always keep the keys safe and out of view and away from your front door, and not visible 'in the kitchen' if burglars can get access to the rear of your property.
- **Keyless car entry:** Keyless entry cars unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag. Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car. Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.
- **Consider fitting a good in-car security device/locks:** bear in mind that built-in steering locks are not necessarily thief-proof. Many can be forced and broken. Choose a good standard device. Two of the best products are Disklok and Stoplock.
- A cheaper, "claw" type steering lock can take less than 10 seconds to bend and remove from the steering wheel, so should be avoided.
- Double-check electronic locking: electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.
- **Other measures:** you might consider (i) adding motion-sensing lights to the area around your car. These can act as a deterrent to any potential car thieves. (ii) Fitting a tracking device. (iii) If you're in a two-car household and one of the cars does not have keyless entry, use it to block the other one in. (iv) Fitting a lockable post to your driveway.

For more advice: www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe

Secure by Design – Police Security Advice
www.securedbydesign.com

Article by Sheila Carrol

West Byfleet Community Gardening Group (WBCGG) – Brightening up Platform 1 for commuters and residents



Since the West Byfleet Community Gardening Group (WBCGG) was founded three years ago, the volunteers have been propagating, potting on and planting to make West Byfleet more appealing to local residents and wildlife.

One of the group's main projects is the local railway station, where troughs and borders outside the ticket office and on the central platform are weeded and planted as part of an adoption scheme lead by Community Rail Network.

Up to now there has been little colour on

Platform 1, where the majority of commuters wait for their London-bound trains. The group successfully bid for a Southwestern Railway grant to provide some much needed planters on the platform.

Collaborating with the nationwide community group, Men's Shed, the [Woking and District Men's Shed](#) were commissioned to build four wooden planters which the gardening group volunteers then planted.

More volunteers are always welcomed to help the friendly gardening group tend the planters and borders. Please contact westbyfleetcommunitygardening@gmail.com



or search [West Byfleet Community Gardening Group](#) on Facebook to follow.

Article by Isabelle David

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Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme: September 2023

Survey Update

Our specialist aquatic ecology team are currently carrying out macroinvertebrate surveys. We want to make sure the scheme won't damage the river environment.

Macroinvertebrates are organisms without backbones that are visible without the aid of magnification. Examples include dragonfly and may fly larvae, beetles and freshwater shrimp and can include various life stages, such as insects in their larval or nymph form.



We monitor them because they can act as long-term indicators of the condition of a watercourse. The species presence and abundance can indicate river degradation and pollution, flow conditions and sedimentation. Aquatic macroinvertebrates live on, under, and around rocks and sediment at the base of lakes, rivers, and streams.

Many live part or most of their life cycle attached to submerged rocks, logs, and vegetation.

Our surveys involve taking samples and doing hand searches of the riverbed and vegetation. Samples are then preserved, sorted and species identified to provide an accurate assessment of what is present in the river.

Construction Update

Our contractor BAM Nuttall is preparing for Phase 2 of the Ground Investigation works due to start at the end of September 2023. Ground Investigations assess the conditions of the site prior to construction commencing. We will also do additional survey work including:

- A topographical survey to map the site boundaries, features and levels
- Utility surveys to identify any below ground cables, pipes and drains

Archaeological trial trenching will be carried out in October to assess the potential impact



River Wey in Common Meadow

of the proposed works on any archaeological heritage on the site.

Article by Justine Glynne,
Flood Risk Advisor, Environment Agency

Understanding the Embankment Construction:

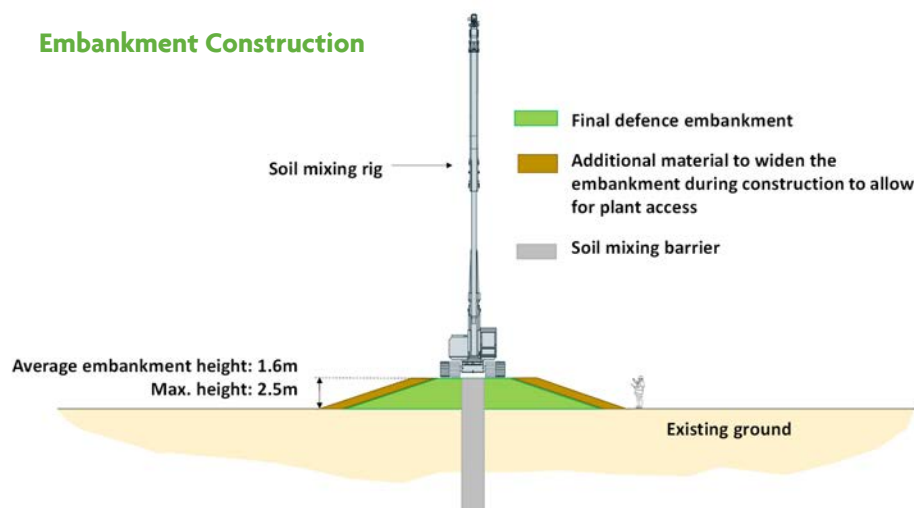
The sketch below shows how the embankment is likely to be constructed.

This shows the flood embankment, soil and piling rig. Water held back by the flood embankment would naturally slowly seep through the soil onto the dry side of the embankment. To stop this, we will install an impermeable 'cut off' through the embankment into the ground below. Our preferred method to create the cut off will be to mix the existing soil with cement to create an impermeable wall in the ground.

To find out more about the scheme, scan the QR code on this page or visit the website: www.consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/sanway-byfleet-flood-alleviation-scheme.



Embankment Construction



Praise for sustainability and social and community standards at Botanical Place

With construction underway to build the UK's first whole-life net-zero carbon integrated retirement community at Botanical Place, in the heart of West Byfleet, the team on site has been awarded Excellent following its first Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) Monitor visit.

Building with sustainability in mind

Being developed in the heart of the village of West Byfleet, Surrey on the site of the former Sheer House office block and shopping precinct, Higgins Partnerships and Retirement Villages Group are committed to creating a sustainable new community, that not only connects to the thriving centre of the village, but also breathes new life into the location. The development will be the flagship in the new [Thrive Living collection](#) that Retirement Villages has developed to give older people more choice and flexibility in later life.



Catalina Geapana, Quantity Surveyor and Hayley Hussey, Site Administrator

Social and community connections

With significant emphasis on engaging closely with the local community throughout the development, the CCS report praised the team for the detailed community plan and engagement with neighbours through 'meet and greets,' highlighting the high levels of interest from local people on the work taking place as the site has remained dormant for a number of years. Strong support for local shops and businesses and charitable support from site and head office was also recognised. The social engagement plan has involved reaching out to local businesses to find out who they are and how we could work together, through a [Meet West Byfleet](#) campaign that looks to build long-

term relationships with these local businesses.

Living up to the sustainability promise

Setting new standards for sustainable later living at Botanical Place, the implementation of the Environmental and Social Governance Policy, which is heavily promoted and adhered to, was also noted, with 98% of waste diverted from landfill and bamboo and ceramic cups used on site. Low carbon vehicles are also being used in the fleet along with a year-on-year carbon reduction strategy.

A supportive working environment with open door management style along with strong training and personal development was also celebrated in the report, with emphasis placed on equality and diversity, including working with Women into Construction.

Terry Unitt, Senior Project Manager, leading on the development comments,

"We've worked closely with the team at Higgins to ensure we live the promise on sustainability. West Byfleet. With open green spaces, an active tree planting scheme, and powered by green energy from the get-go, Botanical Place looks to build a sustainable footprint for the future."

Steve Leakey, Managing Director of Higgins Partnerships says, *"We are continuously working to raise the standards of the construction industry and build trust with the public so to receive this Excellent rating on our first visit is a testament to the hard work and procedures our team puts in place on a daily basis."*

"We are extremely proud of what we are delivering here at West Byfleet in partnership with Retirement Villages Group and look forward to continuing to build our relationship with the local community."

[Botanical Place](#) is creating 197 homes for older people and properties will be available to

Are you looking for a construction work placement?

Join us for two weeks for an onsite insight into the Construction world at our Botanical Place project in West Byfleet.



Insight in to the range of construction careers



Shadow an experienced professional



Build three essential skills



Improve your CV



Discover future opportunities with Higgins

Candidates must be:

- Aged over 18
- Available for the full 2 week placement
- A resident of West Byfleet
- CSCS card preferable



To apply please send your CV to:

CSR@higginspartnerships.co.uk

Please include 'Work Placement' in the subject line.



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PARTNERSHIPS

buy and to rent. Community is at the heart of the development, focusing on upholding independence, flexibility, and wellbeing. Excellent facilities including health and wellbeing amenities will be available on site, as well as a range of services and retail options for the wider public. A new, landscaped public square will provide a central focus with surrounding shops, a restaurant and a community space.

Work experience with Higgins Partnerships

We are proud to be offering work experience placements to members of the community interested in pursuing a career in the construction industry.

Selected applicants can spend up to two weeks with the team, building essential skills and learning on the job. There is a wide variety of roles and experiences on offer. If you are, or know someone who might be, interested, email your CV to CSR@higginspartnerships.co.uk. For more information about Higgins please visit www.higginspartnerships.co.uk.

Article by Leah Honychurch
Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator

Higgins
PARTNERSHIPS

Reviving Our High Streets: A Vision for Thriving Local Communities

Jack Stirling, Retirement Villages Group's development manager at Botanical Place, met with experienced retail specialist, Stephen Fixman, of Forty Group, to discuss Stephen's thoughts on the challenges facing retail and the opportunities created by projects like Botanical Place in West Byfleet.



Stephen Fixman,
Forty Group

Here Stephen explains why, with the benefit of more than twenty years' experience, he has such confidence in Botanical Place as the catalyst that will help West Byfleet thrive and prosper.

Jack: Let's start by addressing the historic challenges faced by West Byfleet. Can you share your perspective on this?

Stephen: It's a pleasure, Jack. West Byfleet has certainly seen its fair share of challenges. The rise of e-commerce, out-of-town retailers and the pandemic have all taken their toll. Many traditional retail businesses have struggled.

Jack: Yes. We have all seen many much loved and long-established retailers disappear over recent years. But, Stephen, you've mentioned that you're optimistic about the future. Can you tell us why?

Stephen: Absolutely, Jack. While there are challenges, there are also opportunities. The key lies in embracing change and adapting to the evolving lifestyles of the public. Good architecture creates retail areas that have a unique charm and character that online shopping cannot replicate. Take Botanical Place for example. It combines a public square with sensitively proportioned retail spaces and extensive soft landscaping – trees, shrubs and planted-out areas. The key is to create a sense of place so that people enjoy the whole experience, not simply the convenience of being able to walk up to the till to buy something.

I specialise in retail property but I firmly believe that today's retail spaces have to be about a lot more than shopping. Botanical Place will give the wider public a wide range of options to enjoy, including places to sit and linger or simply as somewhere convenient to meet up with friends or family.



Jack: That is interesting. Are there any examples of the types of businesses that could add something extra to West Byfleet?

Stephen: One exciting option is artisanal and craft shops: handcrafted jewellery boutiques, bespoke furniture stores, and local pottery studios. These businesses offer unique and personalised products that can't be found online. Another promising alternative is specialised food and beverage establishments. Think of local bakeries specialising in artisanal bread or cafes serving locally roasted coffee. These create not just places to shop but places to gather and enjoy.

Jack: So, how can local businesses, entrepreneurs, and the community come together to make these ideas a reality?

Stephen: Collaboration is key, Jack. Local authorities can offer support. As can landlords, for example by providing car and cycle parking. Entrepreneurs should explore partnerships with existing businesses and tap into community networks. The community itself can play a significant role by actively supporting these new ventures and spreading the word.

Jack: That's excellent advice. Stephen, can you share any success stories? Places that have successfully revitalised their high streets?

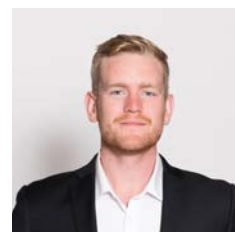
Stephen: Despite the headlines, there are a surprising number of places seeing a renewal. Totnes in Devon transformed their high street by focusing on sustainability and localism. There's a strong emphasis on eco-friendly businesses, including zero-waste shops and refill stations. This has not only boosted the local economy but also helped their carbon

footprint. There's Litchfield in the Midlands, or Tunbridge in Kent. A lot of neighbourhoods in London are seeing a real resurgence of independent, traditional shops such as green grocers and fishmongers.

Jack: I know that you're going to say that these all depend on customers, but what else can local people, like the readers of *The Resident*, do to help?

Stephen: Obviously, Forty Group is working on securing a Post Office and a pharmacy, which I know are top of the local request list. I'd like to encourage people to see the potential in our high streets. These spaces are not just about commerce; they're the heart and soul of our communities. Often the more well-known high-street names want to know that there is an existing retail 'spirit' – local people supporting local enterprise. By supporting unique and independent businesses, we can create high streets that reflect the character and spirit of our towns. Together, we can ensure that our high streets remain vibrant and thriving for generations to come.

*Jack Stirling, Retirement Villages Group's
Development Manager*



Thrive Living
by Retirement Villages

Register your interest



Hello West Byfleet.

Botanical Place

Live, do, belong. Join a community
that knows how to live.

Broadoaks Park – Works Progress at The Mansion House

Ranging from new build apartments and terraced houses, to stunningly refurbished and converted homes, including a Grade II Listed Mansion House, original lodges and Coach House - this exclusive Surrey development has been overwhelmingly popular amongst prospective homeowners.

As we head into the autumn and winter months, work is rapidly progressing, with over 100 new residents now moved in at Broadoaks Park. Work is underway on the Grade II Listed Mansion House, which commands an impressive presence within the development. Dating back to 1876 and designed by Ernest Seth-Smith, a member of a long-distinguished line of Scottish architects known for building areas of Belgravia, the Mansion House is the jewel in the crown of the Broadoaks Park development. Despite its various alterations throughout the years, the original Mansion House features and architectural detailing can still be seen to this day.

Octagon's specialist in-house team are undertaking extensive restoration to return this outstanding home to its former glory, and



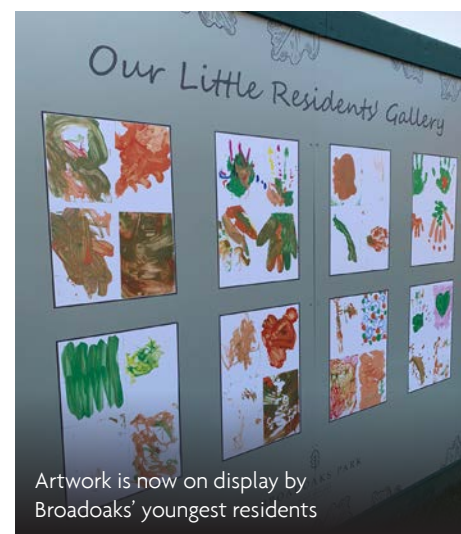
hard at work to renovate the beautiful Mansion House in a way that reflects its fascinating and far-reaching heritage. Protecting and enhancing a building like this takes patience and a team of expert craftsmen to deliver – it has been fantastic to witness and it has been great to see such an important feature of this community advance."

Broadoaks Park not only provides high-quality homes but generates a real community spirit. Offering seven acres of green space, with private gardens and communal lawns, Octagon have designed Broadoaks Park with community living in mind - an aspect often overlooked by contemporary developments.

As a welcome to new residents, Octagon hosted a residents' picnic on the green in July – the perfect opportunity for family and friends to come together to enjoy an afternoon of food, drink, and socialising. The star of the show was the unveiling

of the 'Little Residents' Gallery', a selection of spectacular artworks created by Broadoaks'

youngest residents. On display behind the new playground, located at the heart of the development, the gallery showcases the fantastic artistry by the community of children living at Broadoaks Park.



Artwork is now on display by Broadoaks' youngest residents

The latest collection of two bedroom apartments and three and four bedroom houses are available with Guide Prices £750,000.

www.broadoakspark.co.uk

Article by Kate Geraghty
Octagon's Group Marketing Manager



CGI of Plot 5 at Broadoaks Park - Guide Price of £2.2m

convert it into two unique and expansive, grand family homes, due to complete in early 2025. These five and six-bedroom homes will feature open plan living spaces and intricate original features as well as beautiful, landscaped gardens, with every aspect meticulously designed to be in-keeping with the extensive historical architecture.

Tim Banks, CEO of the Octagon Group comments, "We are delighted with the response that our flagship site, Broadoaks Park, has received and the community that has formed here as a result. The Octagon team are



The Broadoaks Park Residents' Picnic

Waste and Recycling - How can we all make a difference?



Reducing what you waste and recycling as much as possible is a great way to reduce your impact on the planet. It can save you money too! From thinking differently about what you buy to making sure that any necessary waste is effectively reused or recycled will make a real difference.

Surrey CC is amongst the top performing authorities in England when it comes to recycling, but of course there is much more we can all do.

Recycling in Surrey 2021-22

What happened to Surrey's waste



54.4%
RECYCLING RATE

3rd best of 29 similar councils



27.9%
TURNED INTO ENERGY

Only 15.1% of waste sent to landfill



89.7%
TREATED IN THE UK

Only 10.3% of waste exported

Clearly, reducing what we throw away would have the biggest impact on the environment, however, the good news is that 54.4% of Surrey's waste is recycled. This puts Surrey in 3rd place out of the 29 similar waste disposal authority areas in England and well above the national average of 44.1%. Of the remaining non-recyclable rubbish, 27.9% is turned into energy and 15.1% is sent to landfill. The quantity of landfilled waste rose significantly compared to the previous year (when only 3.8% was landfilled,) due to a long technical shutdown at one of the energy-from-waste facilities used by Surrey. 89.7% of Surrey's recycling and non-recyclable rubbish stayed in the UK*

Nevertheless, much more waste could have been recycled:

- Typically, nearly half the waste put in rubbish **(BLACK)** bins was recyclable – mostly food.
- If all food waste had been recycled (via anaerobic digestion), it is not only good for the environment but it would have also saved Surrey councils (and Council Tax payers) a considerable amount of money. It costs £130 per tonne to dispose of rubbish (black bin) compared to £40 per tonne of food waste. **The change that would make the biggest difference of all is for all food waste to be recycled by using the food caddy.**
- Putting non-recyclable waste into the recycling **(BLUE)** bins can also cause a problem as it can mean that the whole truckload needs to be rejected for recycling.



If you are unsure if an item is recyclable, place it in the rubbish (black non-recyclable bin).

*Source of Surrey waste data: Surrey Environment Partnership. Recycling in Surrey 2021-22 www.surreyep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Recycling-in-Surrey-2021-22.pdf

Quiz: Test your knowledge on waste disposal in Woking Borough Council Where does this waste go?

WASTE TYPE			RECYCLING BIN	RUBBISH BIN	FOOD BIN	GARDEN BIN	COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE
							
1.		Tea bags					
2.		Glass bottles & jars					
3.		Plastic: trays, pots & lids					
4.		Takeaway coffee cups					
5.		Grass cuttings					
6.		Meat, fish & bones					
7.		DIY waste, inc. wood					
8.		Dry paper & cardboard					
9.		Used tissues					
10.		Food & drink cartons					
11.		Metal tins, cans & foil					
12.		Polystyrene					

Answers on [Page 24](#)

What we can all do to reduce waste and improve recycling

REDUCE WASTE	
Only buy what you need and use what you buy	✓
Use reusable items such as cloth bags, reusable drinks bottles and cups	✓
Don't buy items with lots of packaging. Think about shopping at Zero waste and refill shops	✓
Buy second-hand clothing and consider hiring clothing	✓
Reuse items, e.g., plastic bags can be used to line food waste caddies	✓
Check if an item can be fixed before throwing it away. Visit the WeAct Woking Repair café: https://wokingenvironmentaction.com/woking-repair-cafe/	✓
Donate items that are in good condition to charities and charity shops	✓
Register with Surrey Environment Partnership's new waste reduction scheme 'Rethink Waste' which has lots of waste reduction and recycling ideas. You can donate to charities, earn rewards, or win prizes! https://www.greenredeem.co.uk/rethink-waste/	✓
RECYCLE MORE WASTE	
Make sure you know what can and cannot be recycled and put the right things in the right bins. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check the labels on containers• Check the Surrey Environment Partnership website for what can and cannot be recycled: https://www.surreyep.org.uk/what-to-do-with-an-item/• Check the 'Bin Collection and Recycling Guide' leaflet sent out by Woking Borough Council every October/November If you are unsure if an item is recyclable, put it in the black rubbish bin	✓
Make sure recycling waste is clean, dry, and loose – with nothing in bags, sacks, or liners	✓
Place dry excess cardboard next to the recycling bin on the collection day	✓
Keep food waste, garden waste, electricals, batteries, and textiles out of recycling bin, as they are collected separately	✓
Consider buying a compost bin, so you can compost your garden waste at home, plus, food waste can also be added to a hot composter. A range of home compost bins are available, all subsidised by Surrey Environment Partnership: https://www.surreyep.org.uk/reduce-reuse-recycle/garden-waste/composting/compost-bin-sales/	✓
If you need more recycling bin space, or require a garden waste bin, order via: https://asjws-wrpwokingmunicipal-live.whitespacews.com/#	✓
Check if other organisations can recycle other types of waste, e.g., some local supermarkets provide recycling services for things that can't be recycled by Woking BC, e.g., plastic bags and other packaging	✓
Recycle textiles and small electricals which are collected weekly, by putting them in a small, tied carrier bag and placing it by the side of the waste bin	✓
USE THE FOOD WASTE CADDY!!!	✓

A Night of Variety from the Byfleet Players



Saturday 17th June saw The Byfleet Players return to Byfleet Village Hall for their Summer Variety Night, an evening of song, dance, and silly shenanigans!



The show opened with a flash mob, featuring a medley of songs from the band Queen and was followed by a series of sketches, skits, songs and verse, to entertain and delight the audience. The wonderful [Allegro Performers Academy](#) also



took to the stage, with lively and dynamic performances from the shows Matilda and Six. The evening closed with a

rousing medley from the Abba musical, Mamma Mia, which put everyone in a summer mood. The Variety Night was a great success and a fun and entertaining evening was had by all.

September sees rehearsals get underway for The Byfleet Players pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, which runs from 11th-13th January 2024 at The Byfleet Village Hall.

It's a hilarious fun-filled panto for the whole family to enjoy...Oh yes, it is!

For information and ticket sales, visit the website at www.thebyfleetplayers.co.uk.

Fabulosos Band Christmas Concert – Byfleet

Our Christmas show at Byfleet Village Hall features Paul Hudson. He is a great singer who had some top-twenty hits with his band in the eighties. In a change of style, he will be singing a few hits of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Bobby Darin - plus a few of our own.

We will be playing from 2.30pm - 4.30pm and doors open at 2pm.

Admission is £10 and includes refreshments and mince pies.

Some tickets will be available on the door but to be sure of a seat you can reserve your place by contacting me on the details below.

Thanks.

Simon Phipps

Tel. 07914 539012

Email: Fabulososbigband@gmail.com

THE FABULOSOS BIG BAND
CHRISTMAS CROONER

Featuring **Paul Hudson**

Saturday 9th December 2023
Byfleet Village Hall, Byfleet KT14 7QL
Tickets Only £10
Doors open 2pm; Music 2.30 - 4.30pm

* To be sure of a seat, please contact us for tickets:
Fabulososbigband@gmail.com 07914 539012

Includes Tea & Mince Pies!

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WBBA WEST BYFLEET Business Association

Fish for Thought! Some years ago, I ran a number of 'change management' sessions for over 300 managers and supervisors of an American company that had been acquired by a Japanese global organisation.

The purpose of the training and information delivered was to inform staff of the changes in company structure, working practices and the cultural differences that existed between the old firm and the new one. A key factor was to reassure the staff and to motivate them to adapt and accept change as a challenge and a new route to achieving personal and professional success in their respective careers.



Change is constant and inevitable. Great emphasis was put on business and personal development as well as seeking out sales and business opportunities. We used some very interesting and often light hearted materials to support the learning and create a friendly introduction to the new company. I would like to share the following story that I was asked to present to the various groups although thought provoking it still makes me smile whenever I read it and resonates with the drive for success at the heart of many organisations. The story has been adapted over time but the message remains the same. Following the reading of the story the groups engaged in long debates and discussed the moral(s) behind the storyline.

Not everybody Lives to Work, many do, most Work to Live. People have different ideas on what being successful means to them personally.



Not all people feel the need to be successful in order to be happy..

We are not all motivated by the same things, be more with less..

Hope you enjoy it!

I shall give a full update on recent business activity within West Byfleet in the next edition of the RA Newsletter.

The Mexican Fisherman

An American investment banker was at the pier of a small coastal Mexican village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked.

Inside the small boat were several large yellowfin tuna. The American complimented the Mexican on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them.

The Mexican replied, 'only a little while.'

The American then asked why didn't he stay out longer and catch more fish.

The Mexican said he had enough to support his family's immediate needs.

The American then asked, 'but what do you do with the rest of your time?'

The Mexican fisherman said, 'I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take siestas with my wife, Maria, stroll into the village each evening where I sip wine, and play guitar with my amigos. I have a full and busy life.'

The American scoffed, 'I am a Harvard MBA and could help you. You should spend more time

fishing and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat. With the proceeds from the bigger boat, you could buy several boats; eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Instead of selling your catch to a middleman you would sell directly to the processor, eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing, and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to Mexico City, then LA and eventually New York City, where you will run your expanding enterprise.'

The Mexican fisherman asked, 'But, how long will this all take?'

The American replied, '15 - 20 years.'

'But what then?' asked the Mexican.

The American laughed and said, 'That's the best part. When the time is right you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich, you would make millions!'

"Millions - then what?" said the Mexican

The American said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take siestas with your wife, stroll to the village in the evenings where you could sip wine and play your guitar with your amigos."

Article by Gary Elson
Chairman West Byfleet Business Association

TRY OUR COMMUNITY MEALS FOR FREE

"More than just a meal"



Our Community Meals team delivers hundreds of delicious and nutritious affordable meals to residents across the borough every day.

This also means a daily, friendly visit from the Community Meals team to check in on you, offering reassurance for you, your family and friends.

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- receive meals only on the days you require them
- frozen meals can be delivered for you to prepare at a time convenient to you
- choose if you would like your meal plated up or left for you to serve yourself
- choose your menu every two weeks.

Order additional items including:

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- soups
- sandwiches
- fruit
- cakes
- drinks.

To find out more, and start your free trial, call **01483 743 668**, or email **HealthAndWellbeing@woking.gov.uk**.

*One free trial per household

**To claim your two day
free trial*, quote:**

RB02

[woking.gov.uk/livingwell](https://www.woking.gov.uk/livingwell)



Shepherds Market Charity Fair – Church of the Good Shepherd - Pyrford

The annual Shepherds Market Charity Fair, organised by the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford, will be held on Saturday 11th November at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Coldharbour Road Pyrford. Between 10.30am and 2pm the church and its adjoining halls will be transformed into a bustling marketplace and restaurant to raise money for the charities supported by the church.

The theme this year will be ‘The Movies’ and this will be reflected in the names of the various stalls and how stallholders will be dressed. There will be a wide range of stalls including plants, toys and puzzles, handbags, jewellery, homemade jams, homecrafts and pottery, paintings, embroidered gifts and Pyrford calendars and prints. Visitors can try their hand at a restaurant raffle and a champagne raffle or win a hamper or cash prize.

Refreshments will be available throughout and lunches will be served to sustain busy shoppers.

Article by Eldon Sands

Council Service Review Consultation Underway

A consultation seeking your views on proposals to make changes and reduce council services and become a smaller authority is underway. Local residents have until Sunday 12 November to have their say.

The six-week consultation gives residents and community stakeholders the opportunity to have their say on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which recommends a revised 2024/25 budget that includes £12 million of savings to meet future budget shortfalls.

Proposals include the reduction or removal of discretionary services, unless they can become ‘self-funding’ and internal measures such as reducing the size and cost of the Civic Offices, as well as management costs. Meanwhile, certain services, such as family and living well services, will be transferred to alternative public sector providers.

Analysis of the recent resident engagement undertaken over the summer on how the council should deal with its budget shortfall has informed the development of these proposals.

CLlr Ann-Marie Barker, Leader of Woking Borough Council, said:

“I know many residents will have strong views on these proposals, particularly the proposed phased closure of Pool in the Park.

I totally understand residents’ frustration. I don’t want to see the pool close and will consider all feasible alternatives to keeping it open. Yet the harsh realities are that the council must make significant savings in order to tackle the severe financial crisis that my administration inherited.

It is vitally important that residents formally submit their views on these proposals to the council. The council must fully understand the impact that

these proposals could have on individuals and communities.

No decision has been made on the future of these services, but the council’s financial challenges are so severe that future decisions will not always align with residents’ views.

There is no doubt that the future is challenging and things will get worse before they get better. It requires the determination and resolve of councillors, the staff that support them, residents and stakeholders. I want Woking to recover and become a council that delivers for residents.”

Consultation

The consultation specifically seeks views on three proposals: the closure of public toilets; handing over the management and maintenance of pavilions (excluding pitches) to alternative organisations; and the phased closure of Pool in the Park.

You can also tell the council your views on its approach to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2024/2025.

You have the option to provide your feedback on all areas or just the specific area that is of most interest to you, whether you use these facilities or not.

Key stakeholders, community groups and sports clubs will be consulted separately and all responses to this consultation will be evaluated and considered as part of budget decisions by councillors in February 2024.

Give your view by visiting www.woking.gov.uk/servicereview.

Paper copies of the consultation are available at locations across the borough including the Civic Offices and centres for the community.

The consultation ends midnight, Sunday 12 November 2023.

Article by Andy Denner
Communications Manager, WBC

Answers - to ‘Test your knowledge on waste disposal in Woking Borough Council’

- 1. Tea bags = Food waste; 2. Glass bottles & jars = Recycling; 3. Plastic trays, pots & lids = Recycling; 4. Takeaway coffee cups = Rubbish; 5. Grass cuttings = Garden waste; 6. Meat fish and bones = Food waste; 7. DIY waste = Community Recycling Centre; 8. Dry paper and cardboard = Recycling; 9. Used Tissues = Rubbish; 10. Food & drink cartons = Rubbish; 11. Metal tins, cans & foil = Recycling; 12. Polystyrene = Rubbish

Parish of Wisley with Pyrford
SHEPHERDS MARKET CHARITY FAIR
Church of the Good Shepherd, Coldharbour Road, Pyrford GU22 8SP
Saturday 11th November 10.30am—2pm

On the theme of
The Movies!



Be a star, and join the stars, at our annual Shepherds Market where you will find plants, toys, books, a Restaurant raffle, lunches, jam stall, refreshments and so much more!
Lights, camera, action.....!!!

ALL proceeds will go to charities supported by the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford.

Alan was born in Twickenham in 1936 and was the only child of Charlie and Alice Tullett. They lived in a modest terraced house on the Staines Road. Grandad was a plasterer and Granny ran the home and kept Alan on the straight and narrow, or so they thought! He married Tricia in 1960. They had two children Ian and Paula whilst living in Twickenham before moving to Pyrford in 1974.



The family remember tales of a young Alan and his group of young friends visiting bomb craters during the second world war looking

for souvenirs to take home. This was an early indication of his sense of adventure. He enjoyed spending time cycling and exploring the countryside with his mates and getting up to no good!

He left school at 14 and began an apprenticeship at Kew Gardens which ignited his passion for gardening and Dahlias in particular, some of which he planted this year and we see before us today.



Alan enjoyed playing football and according to him, he was on Brentford's books - missing out on playing in the Premiership by about 70 years.! He was a loyal Brentford fan.

His love of the outdoors and sense of adventure inevitably lead him towards the



Scouting movement, where he enjoyed many years as an active member and later as a Scout Leader of the 13th Twickenham Sea Scouts. Both Alan and Tricia dedicated a lot of their formative years to Sea Scouts and Girl Guiding.

Alan like many young men in post-war England spent time in the Royal Navy during National Service. He was clearly proud to serve and enjoyed his time, evident by his beaming smile whilst "on ship" as seen in many photos.

Alan's love of the water continued. His professional football career was put on hold when he discovered canoeing. This was a sport that captured him and gave him that competitive outlet he craved. He was a member of the Royal Canoe Club in Twickenham and specialised in long distance canoeing.

Soon after came pigeon racing he absolutely loved this sport and dedicated huge amounts of time to training and racing his pigeons. Alan was president of the Pyrford & Horsell Invitation and Guildford Pigeon Racing Clubs doing so much good work for both clubs and the Three Borders Federation.

When the family moved to Pyrford he and good friend George opened a sports shop 'A & G Sports'. This was not the success they hoped for and forced Alan to try

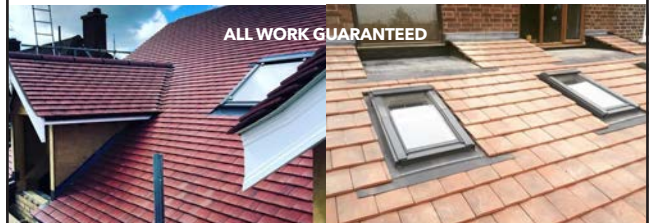
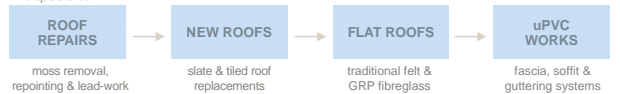
other jobs.

Alan drew on his experience from Kew Gardens and became a green keeper at Foxhills Golf Club. He worked for Poolserve in Chobham and was the Barman at Woking Police Station in the evenings. Whilst doing all these jobs he maintained a trophy and engraving business which he had started to develop during the sports shop days. In his late 50's he opened a Trophy shop in Pyrford called "Heritage Trophies" which he ran until five years ago.

remedial roofing

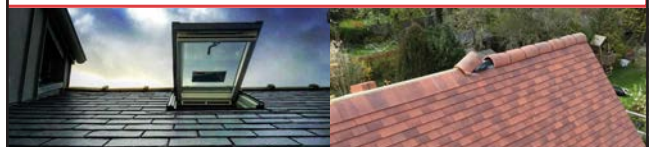
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📺 Live feed video roof inspections

As your Member of Parliament, I wanted to take the opportunity to write and give an update on my work to support Woking and our villages.

It will not surprise you that much of my current focus is on the financial challenges at Woking Council and the repercussions for Council services and the voluntary sector. I have been speaking about these issues with the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities and with the Minister of State for Local Government, in addition to having regular update meetings with the Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council, Julie Fisher.

I have assured Mrs Fisher that I will support any efforts by the Council to try to secure appropriate further support from the government or other stakeholders as these financial challenges are fully worked through over time. I am also routinely meeting with the Government-appointed Commissioners, with whom I will continue to raise the concerns of residents. I am very concerned about many of the proposed Council cuts, but I will be lobbying hard and campaigning hard to try to save Pool in the Park and vital services for the vulnerable such as St. Mary's Community Centre, Dial a Ride, Bustler and Citizens Advice.



When it comes to the three beautiful villages of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford, I wanted to give you a quick snapshot of my recent activity locally.

In late summer, I was pleased to invite and welcome the Secretary of State for the Environment to Byfleet Village to discuss the Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme. I was hugely disappointed that Woking Council have pulled their share of funding for this vital scheme. Following this important visit, I have written to the Environment Agency and to Surrey County Council with the aim of exploring the ways in which the scheme can be delivered as originally envisaged. Both the Environment Agency and Surrey County Council have been



terrific partners in the scheme so far, and we now need them to go the 'extra mile' in terms of their support.

I have continued to work with the M25 Action Group to secure an appropriate repair or resurfacing by National Highways of this noisy stretch of the M25. I am delighted that National Highways have now written to me with the excellent news that they will be repairing that noisy and bumpy stretch of the M25 between Junctions 10 and 11 over the next couple of years. Our thanks and congratulations must also go to Cllr Amanda Boote and the indomitable M25 Action Group of committed local residents – it has been a pleasure to work alongside them.



I am also in regular contact with the redevelopment team at Botanical Place and I am monitoring the building progress with great interest. I am pleased that the development continues at pace and I am keenly supporting residents' wishes to have a new pharmacy and a post office amongst the new shops.

I was absolutely delighted to attend once

again the Pyrford Village Show this year and it was great to chat with so many stall holders, charities and community organisations. I have attended the Pyrford Village (Flower) Show events for many years and every single year, and like a good wine, it only gets better with age! I was so sorry that the Byfleet Parish Day had to be cancelled but I am certainly looking forward to both events next year.

As always, if you have any questions for me please do get in touch by email: jonathan.lord.mp@parliament.uk.

Jonathan Lord
MP for Woking



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RA Committee meetings take place on 3rd Wednesday of each month (except August & December) – check RA website for further details (www.the-residents.org).

Date & Time	Event	Details
Saturday 11th November , 10.30am to 2pm	Shepherd's Market	
Saturday 11th November	St John's Xmas Fair	West Byfleet
Saturday 11th November, 10.30am to 12pm	Byfleet village litter pick	Meet on Plough Green
Saturday 11th November, 10.30am to 2pm	Shepherds Market	
Sunday 12th November, 10.50am for 11.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service	Join the community (usually over 200 residents) to pay our respects at the War Memorial
Thursday 16th November 6.30pm	Switch on of Byfleet Festive Lights	Plough Green, Byfleet
Saturday 25th November, 10am to 4pm	Byfleet Autumn Art Exhibition	Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, Madeira Road, West Byfleet
Saturday 25th November, 3pm	Illuminated Boat Procession	Byfleet Boat Club
Saturday 2nd December, 10.30am	Christmas Market	Byfleet Village Hall
2024		
January 2024	PLT Pantomime	
Last Saturday in the month	Return of the West Byfleet Farmers Market	Car park of 'Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church', Madeira Road
Saturday 13th July	Pyrford Village Show	
Saturday 4th December, 10am to 4pm	Christmas gift and decoration stalls	Byfleet Village Christmas Market Plough Green, Byfleet Village
Wednesday 4th – Saturday 7th December, 4pm to 8pm	Community Christmas Tree Festival Byfleet Trees decorated by local organisations including RA	St John's Church West Byfleet The Trees are being judged the day before by the Mayor of Woking
Saturday 18th December, 12 noon to 4pm	Farmers Christmas Market A wide variety of produce and gift stalls from local, independent businesses in our community	Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Madeira Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6BH

The Committee 2023

Chairman	Stewart Dick	chairman@the-residents.org
Deputy Chairman	Ian Mason	deputychairman@the-residents.org
Treasurer	VACANT	treasurer@the-residents.org
Secretary	Lynette Davies	secretary@the-residents.org
Membership Secretary	VACANT	members@the-residents.org
Planning Coordinator	Stewart Dick	planning@the-residents.org
Rights of Way Officer	VACANT	footpath@the-residents.org
Events Coordinator	Gary Elson	events@the-residents.org
Newsletter Editor	Robert Munford	editor@the-residents.org
Advertising Manager	Robert Munford	advertising@the-residents.org
Website	Anita Flavell	web@the-residents.org
Committee Member	Sheila Carroll, David Bell	
Health & WellBeing Officer	Carol Leong-Son	hwo@the-residents.org
Environment Officer	Helen Orledge	environment@the-residents.org

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES (VRs)		
Byfleet VR	Eleanor Grady	vr@the-residents.org
Deputy	Jean-Pierre Frossard	depvr@the-residents.org
West Byfleet VR	VACANT	vrwb@the-residents.org
Deputy	Emma Slaymaker/Liz Leese	depvrwb@the-residents.org
Pyrford VR	Andy Grimshaw	vrp@the-residents.org
Deputy	Gordon Brierley	depvrp@the-residents.org
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REPRESENTATIVES		
Byfleet	Andrew Weiss	See page 28 for Contact Details
West Byfleet	Wade Pollard	
Pyrford	Andy Grimshaw	

How to pay your subscriptions

The annual subscription remains at £5. If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, there are a number of ways to do so.

1. The preferred method is to make a direct online payment. We have a separate bank account for each of the 3 villages, so please can you contact your Village Representative for details on how to pay, as well as confirming your email address to them:

Eleanor Grady,
Byfleet Village Representative
vr@the-residents.org

Andy Grimshaw,
Pyrford Village Representative
vrp@the-residents.org

2. Alternatively, you can contact your Street Rep to provide you with a subscription envelope in which to place your cash/cheque* and return the completed envelope to your Street Rep.

3. Finally, if you don't know who your Street Rep is, or perhaps the position is vacant, you may **send a cheque*** to The Residents' Association c/o Byfleet Village Hall, 54 High Road, Byfleet KT14 7QL.

***CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "BWBPRA".**

WOKING BOROUGH COUNCILLORS					
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email	Surgeries
Byfleet & West Byfleet	Josh BROWN	Conservative	07340 102891	cllrjosh.brown@woking.gov.uk	Residents can contact Josh to arrange an online or a face-to-face meeting regarding concerns.
	Amanda BOOTE	Independent	01932 344811	cllramanda.boote@woking.gov.uk	Byfleet Library on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 11am. They are also available to meet any of our residents on a 1:1 basis at all times if they contact us.
	Daryl JORDAN	Independent		cllrdaryl.jordan@woking.gov.uk	
Pyrford	Steve DORSETT	Conservative	07729 829658	cllrsteve.dorsett@woking.gov.uk www.facebook.com/CllrSteveDorsett	1st Saturday of every month 12 noon - 2pm in the Pyrford Social Club
	Chris MARTIN	Liberal Democrat	01483 363224	CllrChris.Martin@woking.gov.uk	Last Friday of every month 9am - 11am
	Peter GRAVES	Liberal Democrat	07398 596895	cllrpeter.graves@woking.gov.uk	Church of the Good Shepherd No appointment necessary.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS				
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email
The Byfleets	Amanda BOOTE	Independent	07824 776961	amanda.boote@surreycc.gov.uk
Woking SE	Liz BOWES	Conservative	01483 768257	liz.bowes@surreycc.gov.uk

Further details of elected Councillors can be found at www.woking.gov.uk and www.surreycc.gov.uk.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER				
Surrey	Lisa TOWNSEND	Conservative	01483 630200	SurreyPCC@surrey.pnn.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS			
Contacts	Byfleet	Pyrford	West Byfleet
Chairperson	Andrew Weiss	Andy Grimshaw	Wade Pollard
Secretary	Lynn Cozens	Andy Grimshaw	VACANT
Email	info@ByfleetForum.org	info@pyrfordforum.org	Contact via website
Website	www.ByfleetForum.org	www.pyrfordforum.org	www.wbnf.org
Facebook/Twitter	www.facebook.com/Byfleet Forum	www.facebook.com/Pyrford Forum www.twitter.com/Pyrford Forum	www.facebook.com/groups/2004486373140529
Postal Address	The Secretary, Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum, 32 Magdalen Crescent, Byfleet, KT14 7QL	The Secretary, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum, Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall, Coldharbour Road, Pyrford, GU22 8SP	N/A

“The Resident” Newsletter

Advertising rates and sizes (effective from Issue 172, February 2023)

RATES		
Size	1 issue (£)	3 issues (£)
SINGLE (50x58mm)	35	95
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TREBLE (either option) (T1 - 50x189mm) (T2 - 85x124mm)	90	250
Full page advert	250	700

- Newsletter produced 3 times a year (under normal circumstances)
- 28 page, full colour, A4 publication
- 3200 copies printed
- distributed across three villages using network of volunteer street representatives
- lodged in libraries, health centres, local shops, etc

If interested, contact:
advertising@the-residents.org

Sudoku Puzzle Answers from Page 2

9	5	3	7	2	6	4	1	8
6	8	7	1	5	4	9	3	2
4	2	1	8	3	9	7	5	6
1	6	9	4	8	7	5	2	3
8	3	2	9	6	5	1	7	4
7	4	5	2	1	3	8	6	9
2	7	8	6	4	1	3	9	5
3	1	6	5	9	8	2	4	7
5	9	4	3	7	2	6	8	1