



Windlesham Parish Council

**Annual Report
2015-16**



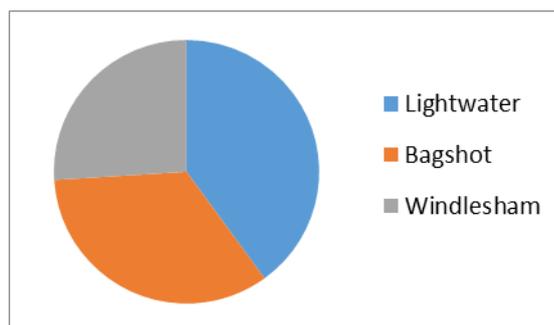
Windlesham Parish Council

Annual Report 2015/2016

This report describes the main activities of Windlesham Council during 2015/16 and also gives details about the services provided by the Council.

Windlesham Parish consists of the 3 villages of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham and lies to the east of the town of Camberley in the Borough of Surrey Heath.

There are approximately 13,300 electors in the Parish with Lightwater the largest village, followed by Bagshot and then Windlesham - which is the most rural part of the Parish and set within the Green Belt.



Windlesham Parish Council is one of the oldest parish councils in England, originally established in 1894 with the passing of the Local Government Act which took the administration of the Parish out of the hands of the Church (at the time Lightwater was primarily heathland and Bagshot residents had to travel to the only church in the parish - St John the Baptist - so the parish is called Windlesham).

The main areas of the Council's work are covered by 3 Committees:

- Finance & General Purpose
- Civic Recreation & Amenities
- Planning
-

Full Council meets on the last Tuesday of the month (except for August) with the committees meeting regularly.

A full schedule of meetings can be found at:

<https://www.windleshampc.gov.uk>



Windlesham Parish Council

Parish Councillors: 18 councillors represent the 3 villages in the Parish with 6 members elected in each village every 4 years. The elections held on 7th May 2015 saw 12 new members elected.

Bagshot Ward:

Cllr Abu Bakar - 07753 234596
Cllr Nick Chambers – 07799 037871
Cllr Paul Cowlshaw – 01276 471675
Cllr Colin Manley – 07808 369205
Cllr Geoff Marston – 01276 476992
Cllr Ursula Trentham – 07810 656244

Lightwater Wards (East & West):

Cllr Surinder Gandhum – 01276 472117
Cllr Christine Hartshorn – 01276 474694
Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans – 07973 549673
Cllr Katia Malcaus-Cooper – 07767 455718
Cllr David Yu – 01276 780005

Windlesham Ward:

Cllr Mike Goodman - 01276 471675
Cllr Ashleigh Martin – 01276 471675
Cllr Barry Stacey – 07554 019591
Cllr Valerie White – 01276 479233
Cllr Conrad Sturt – 01276 473329

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of the various Committees are elected annually in May. During 2015/16 the following Councillors held chairmanships:

Chairman

Cllr. Rebecca Jennings-Evans

Vice Chairman

Cllr Valerie White

Civic, Amenities & Recreation Committee

Cllr Christine Hartshorn

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Cllr Paul Cowlshaw

Planning Committee

Cllr. Geoff Marston

The Council staff has seen a number of changes this year, including the retirement of Philip Cottell, the Assistant Parish Clerk. After 17 years working with Windlesham Parish Council, Philip has become a familiar face in the local community and the Council wish him a long and happy retirement.



Windlesham Parish Council

Council Facilities

The Parish Council owns and manages 4 recreation grounds: at School Lane Field and Freemantle Road in Bagshot; Lightwater Recreation Ground and at Windmill Field in Windlesham. It also owns and manages a playground at Kings Lane in Windlesham, the south side of High Curley (an area of special scientific heathland), Bagshot Chapel, Bagshot, Windlesham and Lightwater cemeteries, and the Lightwater Memorial Gardens as well as numerous small open spaces throughout the parish.

Cemeteries

Windlesham Parish Council owns and manages three burial grounds one in Bagshot, one in Lightwater and one in Windlesham. Bagshot is a closed burial ground but ashes are still accepted for interment. Lightwater and Windlesham are still popular choices for the final resting place of many residents, ex-residents and non-residents and at the year ended March 2016, we have managed 43 interments. Research has been undertaken and a plan made initiating discussions for the creation of a memorial garden area for the scattering of ashes at Lightwater cemetery.

Allotments

The Council provides allotments in Hook Mill Lane Windlesham for more than 50 residents of the parish. With half plots becoming more popular we now have 10 half plot owners and 46 full plot owners. This year 7 plots have changed hands and 1 plot was taken out of use and converted into a community compost area.



Windlesham Parish Council

Heritage

Bagshot Chapel was opened to the public again as part of Heritage Open Days on 12th September 2015 and received much interest from the public. We received many comments including

“A beautiful place for peace and worship”

“Didn’t realise the Chapel was here and was great to see inside it”

“Walked past for 15 years, at last I’ve looked inside, excellent”.

The restoration project completed this year has restored the Chapel to its former glory and seen tile repairs to the roof, external brick repairs to the building and bell tower, full refurbishment of the internal woodwork and tree surgery to adjacent overhanging trees. We hope to participate in the Open Day again in September this year.





Windlesham Parish Council

War Memorials and Remembrance

We successfully obtained grants from the War Memorials Trust towards the costs of restoration of the Lightwater and Windlesham War Memorials.

Lightwater War Memorial has been cleaned, failing cement mortars raked out and replaced with a lime based mortar and the lettering has been repainted with enamel based paint.

Windlesham War Memorial underwent the same cleaning and repair treatments as the Lightwater Memorial along with the addition of lettering, the organisation of which was assisted by Mike Sheard Chairman of the British Legion. The additional lettering was added to the left hand side of the memorial to mark those who have died serving the country in conflicts after 1945 with Lieutenant John C Sanderson of The Mercian Regiment, who died as a result of his wounds in Afghanistan on 11th August 2010, as the first additional name.

In the last year there have been a number of significant anniversaries, including the 70th anniversary of VE day. Council again arranged for large poppies to be displayed in all 3 villages for Remembrance Day in November and Councillors Jennings-Evans, White and Stacey were very pleased to lay wreaths on behalf of Windlesham Parish Council at the Remembrance services held in the villages.





Windlesham Parish Council

The Community Reception

The annual Community Reception recognises the important role played by the many volunteers within the 3 villages. We were pleased to hold our community reception at All Saints' Church Hall in Lightwater in January. The Mayor of Surrey Heath attended the event and presented well-deserved community awards to:

Anne Brummer and Dr Brian May - in recognition of their commitment to the prevention of cruelty to wildlife

Keith Hand and Meurig Williams - in recognition of their time given, service and dedication to the village of Bagshot and its' residents

Bob Webb - in recognition of the time he freely gives and the musical pleasure he brings to the community

Thanks to the volunteers who helped on the day.





Windlesham Parish Council

Grants

Each year the Council sets aside a sum of money which can be given as grants to local groups or voluntary organisations requiring financial support.

Organisations can apply to the Council for grant funding in either one of two categories – general grants – is any payment made by the Parish Council to a qualifying organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council; or open spaces maintenance grants – a grant for the maintenance of open spaces including ancillary facilities essential to their use.

During 2015/16 the Parish Council awarded the following grants:

Curly Park Rangers	£3,000
Windlesham Darby and Joan	£800
All Saints Lightwater	£500
Bagshot Good Companions	£500
Valley End Institute	£500
St Johns Youth Club	£450
Windlesham Field of Remembrance	£3,500

How your money is spent: Each December, the Parish Council sets a budget for the next financial year which includes the amount to be raised via Council Tax (precept).

In the last 2 years the Council has managed to significantly reduce its reliance on the precept by increasing its other sources of income. The precept now accounts for 76% of income compared to 91% 5 years ago.

The net budget for 2016/17 is £384,000 of which £293,678 will be collected through the precept as part of the overall Council Tax demand. This will represent an increase of 1.9% on last year. Each household contributes 69p per week to the Parish Council's expenditure.

There are over 8500 precepting parishes in England of which Windlesham Parish Council is one of just 360 larger councils (i.e. with a precept over £250,000)

With a precept demand of £36.47 (2016/7) per household compared to a national average of over £99 for larger precepting councils (2014/15) Windlesham Parish Council offers exceptional value for money. Windlesham ranks in the top 15 of all larger councils for the lowest precept demand per household in England.

2016-17 will see the Council continue to offer value for money for services to the Parish.



Windlesham Parish Council

Villages in Bloom

Hundreds of daffodils planted throughout the 3 villages bloomed again this spring and the several hundred more daffodils, bluebells and tulips that were planted last Autumn also produced beautiful displays of colour. We will continue to maintain these displays and plant further bulbs to keep the three villages looking pretty throughout the Spring.

Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets were again supplied to the 3 villages and provided dazzling displays of colour throughout the summer. The Villages in Bloom scheme was extended this year, with flower boxes along the barriers on the A30 in Bagshot and large flower tubs in Windlesham village centre.



Windlesham Parish Council

Planning

The Parish Council has the power to be notified of all planning applications in its wards. As such it is responsible for commenting upon all the applications and raising concerns. These comments are passed to Surrey Heath Borough Council who take them into account when reaching planning decisions. In the last year we have reviewed over 200 applications.

Neighbourhood Planning

2014 saw the launch of Neighbourhood Planning in Windlesham village and work has continued on the plan during 2015. The purpose of the Windlesham Neighbourhood Plan is to set out planning policies for the years up to 2028 that will ensure that the Windlesham area develops and grows in a way that is sustainable economically, socially and environmentally, and which enhances and improves the community.

Two surveys have now taken place, with many residents taking the time to complete the surveys, helping to understand how residents want to see Windlesham evolve and contributing to the formal Neighbourhood Plan.



Windlesham Parish Council

Communication

The Council is continuing to modernise its communication methods and maintains a Facebook page which is supported by a direct link to a Twitter feed.

In 2016 we hope to develop our use of social media further, to make sure local events are well publicised and residents are kept up to date with the work the Council undertakes.

We currently have a working party who are developing a new website for the Parish Council. The aim is for the website to be modernised, be more user friendly and engaging and be the main platform of communication with local residents.

Consultation

The Parish Council plays an important role in consulting with the public, other local authorities and organisations. During the last year we have raised public awareness and/or worked with other local authorities and organisations on the following proposals: - SCC on Local transport (buses), parking and plans for highway improvements - Heathrow on noise pollution - SHBC on Bagshot Village Conservation area and Camberley Town Centre plan. - Surrey Heath Police on burglaries and flytipping - M3 Smart Motorway - Surrey County Council is responsible for highways matters and Surrey Heath Borough Council for planning matters and the Parish Council advises both authorities on matters of local interest.



Windlesham Parish Council

The Council welcomes views from residents and people working here on any aspect of life in the 3 villages. Please contact your local Councillor if you have any issues you wish to discuss.

The Parish Council Offices & Chamber are located in The Avenue, Lightwater,
GU18 5RG.

Tel No. 01276 471675

Email address: clerk@windleshampc.gov.uk

Website: www.windleshampc.gov.uk

Facebook: Windlesham Parish Council

Twitter: @WindleshamPC