



# Spotlight

Your Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council comprises of nine councillors, from both Charlwood and Hookwood. The Parish Council has responsibility for maintaining the leisure & recreational areas in the community. The Recreation Ground, The Millennium Field and the Withey as well as management of the Glebe Field. If you think you may like to support our activities, do get in touch with our clerk, Janette at [clerk@charlwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@charlwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## THE MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 116

### HOUSES IN HOOKWOOD

The 446 home planning application for Hookwood Greenbelt was refused by MVDC in 2023 but this decision was 'appealed' by the applicant and unfortunately the appeal was 'allowed' by the Government Inspector earlier this year. The Parish Council participated during the entire hearing and many residents gave passionate and heartfelt statements on the opening day. The Parish Council were unable to present new evidence from 18<sup>th</sup> March, due to being threatened with significant legal costs by the applicant.

The Parish Council understand how much pressure this situation has been putting on residents and we remain here to support you.

A last minute appeal for the Povey Cross location seems to have been withdrawn. A new application has just been published for 126 homes has just been lodged. Application reference MO/2024/1264 on MVDC's web site.

To get involved or keep up to date, email [hookwood.greenbelt@gmail.com](mailto:hookwood.greenbelt@gmail.com)

This 2<sup>nd</sup> location has additional reasons as to why it is not a suitable location for building:

- Flood risk, particularly when associated with culverting a river
- Highways issues, the single entry point would be at Rivoli
- Protected species and Proximity to ancient woodland

## CAR PARK CONSULTATION

The original **car park** application for Charlwood was refused planning permission by MVDC. Please take part in the new consultation and have your say over what you would like to see. If approved, the Parish Council will start working on the finer details of the installation. The consultation will start on 1<sup>st</sup> September and run for 6 weeks. You can complete the paper version or go on-line. The Parish Council will accept 1 entry per adult resident across the Parish.

## GATWICK EXPANSION HEARINGS CONCLUDE

The huge amount of airport noise experienced by residents in Hookwood on 28<sup>th</sup> August marked the passing of the final deadline for comments on the 'Development Consent Order' was 27<sup>th</sup> August. If the 5 Government Inspectors decide they have received all the information they need in order to make their decision, they will have 3 months to consider, and put their recommendations to the Secretary of State, who will then have a further 3 months to make their decision.

- There have been 10 sitting days of 'Issue Specific Hearings' (ISH)
- 'open Floor' sessions where any person or organisation was able to make a statement either written, in person or in an on line statement
- Numerous rounds of questions from the Inspectors to various parties

The Parish Council has attended all but 1 of the ISH meetings, discussing topics such as noise, air quality and construction period, responded to many questions and requested an improved noise insulation and relocation package and a significant mitigation fund specifically for our community. Our thanks to Cllr Lisa Scott for her time spent on this

## WHAT ARE THE PARISH COUNCIL WORKING ON

### ROUTINELY?

**Services and Amenities** committee oversees care of recreation grounds and related projects:

**Car park project** look out for the consultation!

**Traffic calming project** We plan to meet with Surrey Highways in the coming weeks to work on next steps.

**Community speedwatch.** Is currently suspended due to lack of volunteers.

**Planning, Highways and Environment** committee reviews all planning applications in and near the Parish to ensure our community is represented.

**The Resilience, Emergency, staffing and finance** committees meet as needed. If you have skills or equipment that could be useful in an emergency, such as drought, flood or prolonged power outage please contact us so we can keep our lists up to date.

**Waterflow project** do you know of a blocked culvert? Are you a landowner interested in mole-ploughing pilot scheme or digging a pond? Please get in touch.

### CLEARING OUR PAVEMENTS

We want to be able to leave our cars behind for shorter journeys, but none of us want to use a pavement if it means we arrive at our destination with scratches on our arms or muddy shoes. To bring them back up to use, the Parish Council are exploring having all our pavements cleaned and scraped back to their original width this winter.

Keeping ditches cleared and hedges cut back and not overhanging pavements or blocking public footpaths is householder responsibility. Please help us by having any overhanging hedges cut right back in October/November. If you will struggle to get this done, please contact us.



## PARISHES IN BLOOM

**Cllrs and volunteers** worked hard to spruce up Charlwood with planters of flowers for this year's entry in to the **Parishes in Bloom** competition. It would be great to see both villages enter the competition in 2025, so anyone with green fingers or able to make a fun flowerbed please get in touch. There is a special award for biodiversity, so hedges, mow-free verges and other areas of wild biodiversity can receive additional recognition. We look forward to the results announcement!

### HELP OUT!

#### JOIN IN WITH A PROJECT THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

The Parish Council has lots of projects on going, with more to come. If you have an idea for a project, please let us know – either by contacting our clerk or coming to our monthly Parish Council Meetings or cllr surgeries. We always welcome help, even if it is for just a couple of hours here and there.

### DISAPPEARING NATURE

Shockingly, only 2.2% of all mammals in the UK are wild animals (that is, not human, our pets or our food). Taking care to protect biodiversity has never been more important.

When out walking, please don't tread new 'paths' through the woods to avoid the mud, and please take your dog poo home with you or dispose of it properly.

Some residents may be fortunate enough to live by open areas or have big gardens, but many rely on the Parishes' open spaces to support their mental health. Something that may look 'untidy' to one person can be a reservoir of fascination to others.



There are lots of ways to help nature in our own gardens, like including hedgehog gates when installing a fence.

Proper disposal of poo bags is an important responsibility of any dog owner, so please do ensure you are taking your doggie left-behinds to a suitable bin or back home with you. An old treat pouch can be a convenient carrier.