



# Mickleham Parish Council

## September 2023 – Report

The Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September was well attended, with a number of residents both of Mickleham and Westhumble in attendance. The reason for the meeting being held in church and the number of residents present was that two of the leaseholders of Ryka's had accepted an invitation to talk about their plans for the site and to explain ways in which Ryka's and the surrounding neighbourhood can work together for the well-being of residents and the countryside.

In the event our guests from Ryka's failed to appear but we were joined by our two neighbourhood police officers Stephen Grout and Gabriella D'Ademo. They invited questions from those present, which came in plentiful supply! Particular concern was expressed about the increased activity at Ryka's as a result of the introduction of a new programme of events for motorcyclists on a Wednesday evening. This has caused a considerable rise both in the number of motorbikes and the volume of noise, which affects residents as far away as a mile from the Ryka's site.

Concern was also expressed at the granting of an alcohol licence to Ryka's, a fact of which the officers present had no knowledge. They agreed to look into the matter, as clearly motor vehicles and alcohol are not happy partners. One of the residents also expressed real concern and disappointment that all the work that had been done in bringing the various agencies together to address the issue of noise and road safety during the pandemic seems to have been ignored. It seemed tragic that such good work had to be re-created in order to make real progress.

PC Stephen Grout accepted that there was a need to address all these issues and also the additional problem of cars using the Zig Zag Road and surrounding area as a racetrack. It was suggested that the issues could be partly addressed in several ways.

Firstly by the reporting of all incidents of anti-social behaviour using the website address [www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/](http://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/) rather than getting frustrated waiting for a response on the 101 phone number. The more incidents reported, the better the chance of action.

Secondly a questionnaire is being prepared for circulation to local residents immediately affected by the noise, to monitor activity on the Old London Road in particular. The hope is to build up enough evidence to support appropriate action to address the current issues.

The remainder of the meeting was occupied with more domestic issues, including the authorisation to purchase Dog Waste Bag dispensers and appropriate notices and also the purchase of a new picnic bench, both for use on the Recreation Ground.

Attention was drawn to a number of issues causing concern in Norbury Park including the sale of residential properties by Surrey County Council, which has caused distress to some existing tenants; and the on-going issue of repairs to both Cowslip and Swanworth Bridges, both of which need urgent attention.

The neighbourhood Speedwatch group has held two sessions in the Old London Road and seven vehicles have been caught speeding, including two motorbikes.

Damage to the bus shelter outside St Michael's Church has been considerable and a delivery vehicle which was caught on camera reversing into the shelter is being pursued.

Several community events were advertised, including 'There is a Child in all of Us' in aid of St Michael's Community Nursery and the Sausage and Skittles evening on October 14th. Enthusiastic support was given to the idea of a Community Summer Fete next summer.

The next meeting of Mickleham Parish Council will be on **Wednesday November 8th at 7.30pm.**

**David Ireland (Chair)**