

Annual Parish Meeting 2019

Chairman's Report

It is always encouraging when one can start an Annual Report by stating that the projects proposed in the last report have now been executed.

Last year I referred to the urgent need to address the problems caused by the potholes in Swanworth Lane. These have now been repaired, thanks to the generous support of Box Hill School and Brakspear Brewery (owners of the Running Horses). We also repaired similar potholes in the Old London Road end of Dell Close.

Mention was also made last year of the proposal to install average speed cameras on the section of the A24 between the Burford Bridge roundabout and Givons Grove. These have also been installed and appear to have greatly reduced the traffic speed on that stretch of road. However it has created another challenge, as motorbikes in particular exit the A24 at the Mickleham turn and speed through on the Old London Road.....thus avoiding the speed camera at the Burford Bridge.

Finally the Westhumble and Mickleham Badminton Club, which I reported as having had its first meeting just before our last Annual Meeting, has now met 47 times and has a membership of 41 subscribing members and a number of visitors.

In the year under review a number of other issues have been identified and, in many cases, addressed. Car park charges have been increased across M.V.D.C. and charges introduced by the National Trust at the Norbury Park and Crabtree Lane car parks. The latter two have had a very mixed response.

The Parish Council supported the village's World War One 100th anniversary by providing part of the funding for the Silhouette figures in St Michael's churchyard, as well as attending the special Armistice Day service held in church.

Surrey Wildlife Trust received very mixed publicity from their courses of action taken in the past year. Firstly an application to introduce 'Glamping' in the Phoenix Field, Norbury Park which was finally turned down by M.V.D.C. Planning Department. Also a response to the 'ash die back' in Norbury Park requiring some fairly heavy-handed work, which appeared to ignore some of the advice given by local conservationists, met with some active opposition from local residents. There has been much discussion as to the repairs needed to the bridges at Swanworth Farm and that leading to Lodge Farm and as yet no final decisions have been taken, despite an urgent need to make them safe for agricultural use.

Some considerable time has been given to the Future Mole Valley Project, which aims to provide much needed additional homes by the modest expansion of rural villages. A presentation was given by M.V.D.C. officers who also drew councillors' attention to the proposed change to existing boundaries. Two locations for possible housing developments were identified by M.V.D.C., one being the Burmester Field and the other at Hall Farm, Swanworth Lane.