

The Village Newsletter

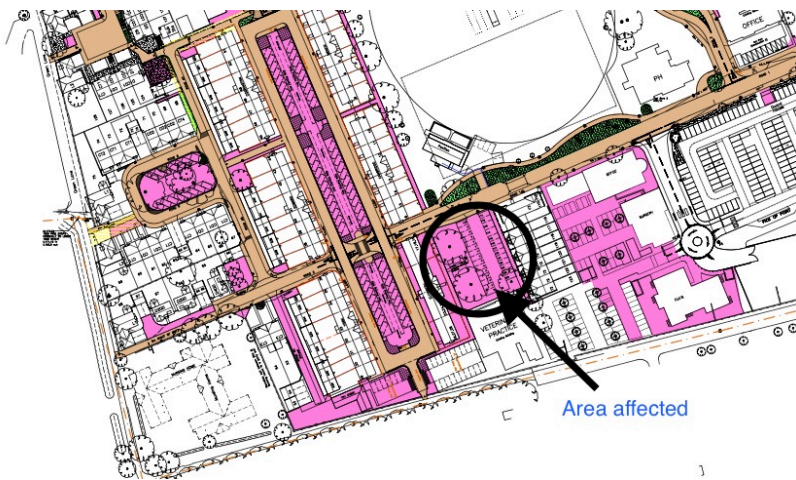
FOR THE RESIDENTS
ISSUED BY THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Issue No.10 June 2017

TREES

As part of the on-going maintenance and preservation of the Village, the VA undertakes regular professional and scientific inspections of our trees to ensure their long-term health and safety.

Disappointingly, during the latest inspection, two Turkey Oaks and one English Oak in Sergeants Place were highlighted for urgent attention.



All three trees have been found to have major decay in their trunks and pose a potential safety risk. Reduction of their crowns or pruning may only alter the wind loading to other surrounding trees so the report recommends that the only realistic option is to fell them and to replant.

Safety must be the priority and therefore these trees will be removed during the Autumn. The replacement trees will take time to become as well-established as before but, for the long-term beauty and the safety of the Village this must be done.

Inevitably there will be localised disruption during their removal so Hazelvine will contact affected residents when the date for the work is confirmed.

WARDEN SERVICES

The new Warden Service run by John West started on 1st April. Since then the VA has received many positive comments about the increased visibility and efficiency of this new service.



The Warden's hut has been completely refurbished and all residents received the Warden's postcard which confirms their new email address and phone number.

John West's team consists of Jamie Hanmore and Wayne Cooper. John and the team have been undertaking minor Village repairs, addressing inconsiderate parking issues and other anti-social behaviour in and around the Village.

In May alone, the Warden service team covered over 100 miles on their patrols around the Village.

DIRECTORS VACANCIES

As notified on the VA website, in newsletters and at the recent Residents' Meeting, there are 2 vacancies, one for a commercial property owner and one for a residential property owner at The Village. One resident has put themselves forward and unless there is another applicant (supported by 2 other members and who has no conflict of interest), the VA will ask that applicant to join the board. These are voluntary roles involving working with the present directors for the benefit of all residents, helping to maintain the Village as an attractive place to live, securing the repair of the public buildings and helping us manage the services here.

The deadline for applications is now set at **Monday 17th July** so if you are a resident member, owning a home, and would like to be involved then please email a brief CV to office@thevillageassociation.org

PARKING

The VA is very aware of frustrations and issues parking causes. It is also conscious that it is not going to be possible to resolve all issues. There are simply more vehicles on the development than was accommodated for. We will therefore focus on how we can improve the situation and in doing so hope to reduce the frustrations and make the development safer for pedestrians and all road users.

The VA use a system of issuing, via the Wardens, [yellow] notifications where it is felt a vehicle has been parked dangerously or inconsiderately, thereby is a danger or is having a negative impact on other residents, road users and/or pedestrians. Where a vehicle has repeatedly parked in a way that it presents a continued risk to others and the owner/driver has not responded to prior notifications then the Wardens may seek assistance from the police to resolve the issue.

The five focus areas for 2017 are:

1. Address areas where parking is considered most dangerous and/or inconsiderate to others.
2. Seek to clarify existing parking space usage rights and ownership.
3. Engage with TDC's parking review and explore options and benefits to change/add road markings.
4. Undertake review of existing parking signage and markings.
5. Engage business owners and organisations in the better use of their car parks.

The VA will also review and clarify/amend, as appropriate, existing parking arrangements as set out in the village code, such as the use of visitor spaces.

The VA does not consider its role being to mediate or be the arbitrator in individual parking disputes. It will however assist in clarifying the ownership of and right to use specific parking spaces. The VA is not aware of individually negotiated or exclusive use arrangements with the purchase or rental of a property. If you therefore believe you have an exclusive right to parking space which is not being respected or are a neighbour being excluded from using a space then please get in touch at office@thevillageassociation.org and we would be happy to investigate, clarify and assist all parties, where we can.

The VA's full parking strategy document can be found on its website, which contains a list of the actions being undertaken in 2017.



NEW BENCHES

During the residents meeting on 24th April it was noted that there was great approval for the new benches which have been installed around the Cricket Green. The VA plans further refurbishment to the seating and waste bins around the green later this year.

STREET LIGHTING

There have been several residents asking about the street lights being turned off between midnight and 5am.

This is a Surrey County Council initiative and is explained in detail on their website.

Residents with questions should contact SCC directly but we are aware of the security concerns and the Parish Council continue to discuss the situation with SCC.

PLAYGROUND

The VA continues to work with Linden and Tandridge District Council to progress with the transfer of the Playground.

Further meetings have been held with Linden and TDC as we try to conclude this project. The VA will keep residents informed as the situation develops through our newsletters and on the VA website.

BALL GAMES

We are lucky to have plenty of open space to enjoy. If playing ball games please respect other people's property by avoiding garage areas and keep away from parked cars. There have been a few reports of damage happening as a result.

COMMUNICATIONS

Please subscribe to our electronic mailing list at www.thevillageassociation.org. We also host The Village, Caterham-on-the-Hill Facebook group. The group is intentionally a small community which consists of home owners, tenants and business owners in the Village. If you would like to join then simply email office@thevillageassociation.org and we'll send you an invite.