

## SERVICE CHARGE

As discussed at the last AGM, and touched on in last Winter Newsletter, we are reviewing the level of Service Charge with the intent being to significantly increase the annual contribution to the monies held in the Reserve Fund, which currently stands at circa £80,000. With The Village now nearly 20 years old it is starting to show some signs of age and requires a greater level of maintenance and repairs.

In 2019 we needed to undertake a significant piece of repair work to the boundary wall and last year we undertook groundwork repairs in Brigade Place, Weston Avenue and at the main entrance in addition to many other smaller works. This year we will be restricting our maintenance expenditure where we can, but we also have to ensure we undertake essential work as and when the need arises. An example is the tree work and the gravelled area in Gowrie Place as covered elsewhere in the newsletter.

In light of the potential financial impact Covid may have had on residents we took the decision last year to withhold increasing the 2021 service charge beyond that required to manage the annual expenditure. We feel however that from 2022 we will need to start increasing the funding into our Reserve Fund which will mean increasing the annual Service Charge.

At the present time we are estimating the costs of future essential works, as best we can, in order to estimate the level of increase required to the service charge. As in previous years we will share our proposal for the 2022 budget and Reserve Fund contribution ahead of the AGM in November but in the meantime, we wanted to continue to be open and upfront with residents of the need to increase the Service Charges in 2022.

## TREE SURGERY

We commission regular tree surveys to ensure that trees are well maintained and safe. The latest survey reported on 341 trees, identifying and prioritising work needed over the next 2 years on 151 trees, the most urgent of which has already been completed.

Most of the work requires consent from Tandridge Council so this must be obtained first. We are pleased to have been working with Acacia, our gardening contractors, to identify some of the work at a low level that they can do for us which allows us to reduce the cost of the work for tree surgeons.



Now that warm weather is here and Covid restrictions may be further lifted from 19th July (we hope) it's time to start thinking picnics!

We would like to arrange a date for Village residents to have a 'bring your own' Sunday picnic together to celebrate our (hopefully) greater freedoms after a difficult year.



We will wait to see what the Prime Minister tells us on 19th July – details will be posted on The Village Facebook page and, if restrictions allow us to arrange this event, a leaflet will be posted to each home.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Village Association's focus this year is to replenish the financial reserves and to plan for the next round of maintenance and repair work needed in 2022. There are therefore no major projects planned for this year apart from work that is critical, or which presents a safety risk.

Work is scheduled to repair and replace the gravelled area in Gowrie Place. This will be carried out by a specialist company, Penfold Driveways, towards the end of June 2021. We are also in discussion with a number of contractors about repairs to some of the tarmac pathways near the playground and around the cricket green which have been damaged as a result of roots from nearby trees.

If residents or any of the businesses have views on areas requiring urgent attention please get in touch via [office@thevillageassociation.org](mailto:office@thevillageassociation.org).

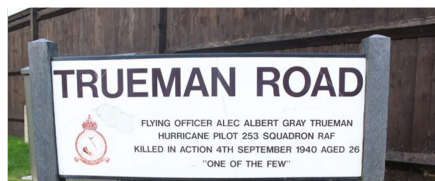
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## ENHANCING ROAD NAMES

The VA is looking to reflect the significance of the road names across The Village. With a wealth of history behind each name we would like to change one sign on each road to give a short background of the person behind the name. Did you know for example that Alexander Crescent is named after Field Marshal Alexander, who served in the Irish Guards in both World Wars and who was awarded both Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross?

At this stage we are scoping out the project but hope to gain permission from Surrey County Council in the coming weeks/months and are working with a resident on the research and wording. We hope to be able to unveil new signs in the coming months and to recognise the importance of the individuals who have given their name to our roads.

The idea is taken from the development at Kenley aerodrome where the signs include:



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## RESIDENTS SURGERY

On Saturday 22 May we resumed our Resident Surgeries and we were pleased with the level of engagement. Issues raised included.....

- Feedback, good & bad, on our landscapers Acacia
- Feedback and questions about Hazelvine and the role of the VA
- Road markings and parking
- Fence repairs and work to trees
- Vehicle access and speeding
- Communications by the VA, particularly via Facebook

The full summary of the surgery is available to read online at [www.thevillageassociation.org](http://www.thevillageassociation.org)