

THE WOLDINGHAM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



HELPING TO PROTECT THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF OUR VILLAGE

Autumn 2023

Message from our Chairman

I hope that 2023 has been a good year for you. It has been a very busy one for us at the WA. Our mission is to promote and conserve the unique character of Woldingham and its surrounding countryside, and this mission feels more needed than ever right now. As land values have increased in recent years, so has the pressure from developers – large and small – who seek to maximise their profits and who are perhaps not always cognisant of the character of our village. Character is made up of lots of small details – hedges, wooded hillsides, glimpses towards the open countryside between houses, plot sizes, the rhythm of each particular street scene. And as these are lost, so character gradually dissipates as can be seen in Warlingham. We are proud to live in the only Victorian planned village in the UK, and we see it as our duty to ensure that the village continues to progress and flourish – through BT Broadband, rail services, better village infrastructure, all of which we have lobbied for – but that new development respects William Gilford’s unique vision and is sensitive to it. There are many great examples of development in our village that achieve this – and equally some that are proposed that we feel would permanently change the character of the village.

Our role is not to decide on planning decisions – that is for Tandridge District Council and, ultimately, the Planning Inspectorate – but to point up any relevant pieces of planning policy that relate to Woldingham, such as the Woldingham Neighbourhood Plan, as well as the Tandridge Local Plan and the National Planning Framework. Defining ‘character’ is a huge part of these documents and I would recommend them to anyone to gain an understanding of how planning decisions are made at local and national level (they can all be found readily online, and there are more resources on our website: www.woldinghamassociation.co.uk).

I also wanted to invite everyone to the WA AGM which takes place from 7pm on Monday 27th November. As well as hearing what we’ve been up

to this year, we are all very pleased to confirm that David Winstanley, CEO of Biggin Hill Airport, will be our special guest speaker this year. Given its proximity, Biggin Hill is a particular area of interest for our village and we liaise closely with them, especially on the issue of low-flying aircraft. It’s good of David to give up his evening to come and speak to us, and I hope many of you will be there to listen and to ask him any questions. It will also be a chance to have a glass of wine and socialise with the WA Council and other members.

Lastly, we will be supplementing these annual newsletters with more regular email bulletins that give information on what we’re doing and on important village news. We’d love to be able to send that to as many of you as possible so please do take the time, if you can, to fill in the slip in this newsletter and return to us, or email us. We will be fully GDPR-compliant in how we manage your information: in other words, we will keep it securely, we will only email you when there is something notable to relay (a few times a year), and we won’t pass on your details, ever, to any other organisation or permit anyone else to email you.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM. As ever, please do email me at info@theWA.co.uk with any questions or comments.

David Shelley



The WA aims

to promote and protect the unique character of our village and the surrounding Green Belt and to uphold the Gifford Covenants.



The WA supports

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
London Green Belt Council
Surrey Wildlife Trust
The Downlands Management Project
Flightpath (an alliance of residents groups opposed to the further development of Biggin Hill Airport)
The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign
Open Spaces Society

Biggin Hill Airport News

It is now nearly seven years since the idea of a GPS (Southernly approach) to runway 03 was first proposed. Unfortunately, although some test flights have been flown, the relevant authorities appear to be no further ahead in giving their approval, especially whilst UK airspace is under review. Accordingly, the visual / Southernly approach to runway 03 remains. Turning to more recent events, the predominance of Northernly winds in early June resulted in an increased number, especially the larger Category C; aircraft such as the Embraer 190 LR using this



approach at a level which residents considered to be below a safe height. Concern was raised with the airport with special reference to two flights during the Summer and the following reply was received giving greater insight to the relevant circumstances:

"On both occasions can confirm the above aircraft were carrying out a circling approach to land on runway 03 and were between 1,440ft and 1,446ft AMSL (Above Mean Sea Level) as they passed your location. The aircraft followed standard procedures; therefore, no further action will be taken. Aircraft carrying out a circling approach to land on runway 03 are flown visually and accounts for the variation in track as aircraft will not be flown using specific navigational guidance system. Whilst there is a procedure minimum height, aircraft are flying visually under visual flight rules in class G airspace and will reduce the height to position the aircraft to land. The NSA is a Noise Sensitive Area and not a 'no fly zone', so an aircraft can enter an NSA for safety reasons. If following ATC instructions or procedure. The above investigations have reached Stage 3 in the complaints process and are compliant, therefore these are now closed. Visibility was excellent."

The WA are delighted that the airport's CEO, David Winstanley has agreed to be their speaker at the WA's AGM in November.

Gatwick Airport Update

There is an increasing volume of opposition to the proposed second runway with accusations that the airport has misrepresented the results of the various consultations that have been held. The latest report which has further increased the general ire is the airport's approach by the 'back door' claiming that the conversion of the emergency to a 'second' runway is a 'change of use'. This would enable the airport to avoid

many of the additional and time-consuming work that would have been required had this been an outright request for the construction of a second runway. Many further details can be obtained by accessing the CAGNE (cagne.org) and CPRE SUSSEX (cpre.org.uk). Further disappointing news is that the Gatwick Northern Runway Project application has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate.

Emerging Local Plan Update

Tandridge District Council continues with its emerging Local Plan, which is to set the strategic policies for the District, including how many homes and where they will be built, until 2033. This emerging Local Plan is the same emerging Local Plan that commenced in 2015. The Woldingham Association has participated in every consultation stage, the Examination Hearings in late 2019, and reviewed the ongoing correspondence between

Treasure can be found...

...in so many places around Woldingham.

With the weather on our side, the WA's Coronation Treasure Hunt attracted more than 30 families and many adults. Starting at St. Paul's Church, treasure hunters had to follow more than 20 clues through the centre of the village and along Park View Road. Each stop featured some historical facts or other snippet of interest. Did you know – for example – that the horse trough on The Green was removed during the war to confuse the enemy, as it had "Woldingham" carved into its stone?

The treasure hunt also explored some of the special characteristics of our village and how these and the surrounding countryside are protected for future generations. Finally, the hunt mentioned many of our local clubs, societies and wonderful volunteers - the "human treasure" that makes our village such a wonderful place to live. Concluding at the WA stand on

Tandridge District Council and the Examiner since. The most recent event was the recommendation from the Planning Policy Committee to request that the Local Plan Examiner write a final report explaining why he concludes that the emerging Local Plan is unsound. This recommendation will then go to the next full meeting of Tandridge District Council for a final vote. We continue to monitor the situation.

The Glebe, treasure hunters had to identify some of the most iconic views of Woldingham's countryside, from the bluebells at Great Church Wood, to the chalk grassland at Madeira Walk and the rolling hills of the Marden Park AONB. Finally, children were rewarded with sweets from the treasure chest and got to decorate their own crown before taking selfies on the throne.

We had lots of fun hosting the treasure hunt, and we hope that it will inspire all generations to protect the treasures of Woldingham. Please do encourage any newcomers to look up the WA and (if they wish) join by contacting us by email or through our website. We appreciate your support.

The WA would like to thank Jenny King and Linda Dickinson of the Woldingham History Society for their comments and support, and the Scouts, Rainbows and Woldingham Panto for lending some of the "equipment" for the treasure hunt.



What interests you?

WA projects make use of a wide variety of skills and knowledge and we welcome individuals with an enthusiasm for protecting Woldingham. Are you interested in the environment, roads, woodlands, planning?

You can help

by contributing some of your time and expertise to work on a WA project. Individual projects bring together people with a variety of interests, knowledge, talents and skills for a period of time to achieve a specific objective.

Contact.....

The WA Council

The Lord Christopher CBE
Dr June Wakefield
David Shelley (Chairman)
Karen Cooper
Sue Edwards
Mandy Fletcher (Secretary)
Geoffrey King
Adam Miller (Treasurer)
Gina Miscovich (Co-opted)
Tony Potter

Review of District Councillor Wards

The Local Government Commission is conducting a review of the District Councillor ward boundaries in Tandridge District as part of its nationwide review of ward boundaries. Tandridge District Council had recently agreed to continue a three-year electoral cycle, and so the Commission's default position was to draw District ward boundaries that each had three Councillors. The current District ward boundaries are not the same as the Parish boundaries.

The Woldingham Association submitted a detailed response to the consultation questions which

focused on how little had changed in Woldingham since the last review concluded that Woldingham should be a single councillor ward. Our response also explained how a single Councillor ward would fulfill the criteria used by the Commission better than merging Woldingham to create a new two or three councillor ward.

There is a second consultation underway for the Draft Recommendations, and we hope that the Commission retains Woldingham as a single District councillor ward in the Final Recommendations.

Questions you ask

Q&A

Answers you need

Q Where do I look for planning guidance if I want to do an extension?

A The Woldingham Association does not give planning advice but the relevant guidance and planning policies that cover Woldingham and are referred to by Tandridge Council, Parish Council and ourselves can be found on our website



New Notice Board

An asset to The Crescent with information about The Woldingham Association and village matters. Last year we commissioned a local bespoke craftsman to make us a new notice board. Our thanks go to www.johnstonandsons.co.uk

Let us know

Do you have a particular local environmental concern? If so, please contact us



Contact us

By e-mail:
info@TheWA.co.uk

Internet:
www.woldinghamassociation.co.uk

or by writing to the address below:

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