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Churt Parish Council Newsletter April 2023

Surrey Climate Commission Grant Success

We were very pleased to be successful in our application to a small grant scheme announced by the Surrey Climate Commission to enable local Surrey community organisations and groups to take action for sustainability and climate change, in line with the priorities within Surrey's Greener Futures Strategy. We received funding to purchase a number of tools and protective gloves needed in support of the work which Churt's scout groups and residents do to enhance biodiversity in Wicket Wood. This work focusses on removing invasive species such as holly which are out-competing other lowland heath species in the woodland. New litter-pickers will also help in keeping the area free of litter.

Richard Essex, Chairperson of the Surrey Climate Commission, said "Communities play a vital part in tackling the challenge of climate change. Through the small grant fund for sustainability, Surrey County Council and the Surrey Climate Commission are delighted to be helping groups across the county accelerate their excellent work for the environment."

Playground Inspections

One of the many things I was unaware the Council did before I got involved was weekly playground inspections. We have a rota of five Councillors who have been checking the functioning of the playground equipment for some time and who have more recently added circling the Recreation Ground to check the stability

of all the manhole covers. This is in addition to the annual thorough inspection by RoSPA which will take place in June. Please help us by letting our Clerk, Dawn Barrow, know if you see anything which appears dangerous or needs some maintenance. We can usually quickly respond to things. If you have any suggestions for additional equipment you'd like to see in the playground or the wider recreation ground, please let us know about that too. There are often grant opportunities we can take advantage of to improve the facilities available.

Pot holes and road surfacing

One of the topics that exercise us most in our meetings is the ever increasing number of pot holes on local roads and the extremely poor surface of the A287 between Pond Lane and Jumps Road. We were therefore delighted to get news from Surrey County Councillor David Harmer this month that the A287 was slated for resurfacing this financial year and a date has now been set for the end of April.

The heavy rain and underlying poor road surface is the cause of the many more pot holes appearing on our roads. Anyone is able to report a pot hole to Surrey County Council and they are committed to having someone inspect that hole within 24 hours and decide what timeframe it needs to be attended within. If you'd like to report a pothole please visit Surrey's website at this address:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem/road-or-cycle-lane-issues

Local Elections

The next Borough and Parish Council elections will take place on 4th May. We have been informed that the Churt Parish Council election will not be contested, but there are a number of candidates standing for the election of Waverley Borough Councillors for the Western Commons ward, where there are two Councillor vacancies.

For the first time, voters are required to bring photo identification to the polling stations before they can place their vote - don't forget!

Lisa Martin, Chair

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The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place in the pavilion on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.