

Churt Parish Council Newsletter September 2018

It seems a long time ago that I last wrote a newsletter, in fact it was after our annual meeting in May! Since then I missed the June meeting of the Council as I was on holiday and the scheduled July meeting did not take place as a quorum could not be raised

Whilst on holiday, I was saddened to hear that Councillor Gerald Stiff had decided to stand down. Gerald had been a Parish Councillor for many years and during that time had acted as Vice Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Recreation Ground Trust, Chairman of the Planning Committee and Chairman of the Emergency Planning Committee. I would like to thank Gerald for his hard work and unstinting support to Churt over the years of his service. His experience, knowledge and wisdom will be missed.

We are pleased, however, that Lisa Martin was co-opted onto the Council at our September meeting. Lisa grew up in Churt, went to St John's school before obtaining a BA Hons degree in Planning Studies and subsequently a Master of Science degree in Transport Planning. Since her graduation she has worked professionally in these fields. I believe that we are very fortunate to obtain Lisa's services and we very much look forward to working with her.

Earlier in the summer ROSPA carried out their annual inspection of the playground equipment on the Recreation Ground. They provide us with a detailed report covering every aspect of the playground and every item of equipment. We were delighted that only a number of minor issues came to light all of which have since been fully resolved. This reflects well on a small team of Parish Councillors who carry out weekly inspections and ensure that any issues identified are resolved immediately.

You may be aware that the Hindhead Tunnel was recently closed for a week, during the night, for planned maintenance work to take place. Churt Parish Council together with Thursley Parish Council, Haslemere Town Council, Surrey County Council, Highways England and Waverley Borough Council has been working hard to make sure that the official, approved diversions work and work well. We were alarmed, therefore, to read an on-line article from *Get Surrey* entitled, "Beat the Hindhead Tunnel closure with a 20 minute detour". *Get Surrey* were encouraging motorists to ignore the official diversionary route, which commences at the A31 at Guildford, and to take a totally unsuitable route

involving Hale House Lane and crossing the A287 at The Crossways. A formal complaint was made to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and directly to the Surrey Advertiser Group who own Get Surrey. IPSO determined that the Editor's Code had not been breached and, therefore, this article was fair and accurate reporting! Get Surrey also responded and assured us that these and other comments would be taken fully into account when reporting on any future tunnel closures. Though, in fairness, Get Surrey did stress that their suggested diversion was not suitable for HGVs I am sure that you will agree that Hale House Lane in particular is totally unsuitable as a trunk road diversion.

The annual litter pick will take place this year on Sunday November 4th commencing at 10.30am, any and all helpers welcome, meet at the pavilion on the recreation ground.

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place on Weds 17th October 2018 in the pavilion at 7.30pm