

Surrey's Best Small Village of the Year & The Best Community Village

**East Clandon Parish Council
Annual Report 2011 – 2012**

On behalf of the East Clandon Parish Council (ECPC), it is a pleasure to welcome you to our Annual General Meeting. This is the moment when we review the past year 2011-2012 and to report on progress on various projects.

Finances

The Parish Council's finances are in good health reporting a total reserve of £5,743 and shows an increase of £1,961 on last year.

Our income for the year was £14,461 and comprises three major on-going sources:

- the Guildford Borough Council precept of £6,425 - an increase of 4%,
- two forms of income directly from the parish; the tennis court subscriptions of £1,401 and rental of Tunmore Fields £1,600 per annum and paid in advance for 2 years

And other grants

- the closed Churchyard grant of £200
- the Big Lottery grant of £2,690 – for the Wildflower Meadow project
- prize monies for winning Village of the Year Award & Best Community Village too

Our outgoings total £12,501: In the past year the ECPC funded

- various playground repairs, maintenance of grounds & equipment, verges and open spaces and replacement of tennis area benches which had twice been stolen
- establishment of wildflower meadow & new benches on our Common
- maintenance of the village pond
- stipend for the Parish Clerk
- three new salt bins placed on our verges.



Village Highlights

This is a remarkable community with energy & spirit. It is a testament to how communities should best operate. We have won awards, enjoyed a Royal Wedding Street Party, and plan a further village-wide event for the Queen's Jubilee, and one of our own treasures, Bug Robertson, has been awarded the prestigious Mayor's Award for Service to the Community.

Village of the Year Award

Winning two lovely awards sponsored by Fullers Ales:

- the Best Surrey Small Village of the Year Award
- AND the Best Community Village Award.

A team of villagers entered this competition last July, making a presentation to the judges followed by a round-village walk and visit to Cherry Trees. We were delighted to win £350 prize monies which are being put towards the village's celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. Our thanks go to the presenting team, Bug Robertson, Elinor Hogarth, Gayle Leader, Peter Davey (Cherry Trees), Roger Nickolds, Skip McMullan. The plaque and certificates adorn the Village Hall.



Presenting team with Winner's Plaque & Certificates

Bug Robertson wins Mayor's Award for Service to the Community:



Guildford's Mayor, Terence Patrick, awarded Bug with the Mayor's Award for Service to the Community in April. In nominating her, the ECPC described Bug as a person who "embodies the reason why East Clandon won the *Best Communities Award* in the Small Villages of the Year Competition. "Her natural empathy, her desire to create a 'togetherness' in our village, and her effervescent personality combined with her unstoppable energy, has drawn all of our 110 families into East Clandon's community and is central to it. Jokingly, we villagers refer to her as 'Queen of Hearts for Clandon'".

Village Open Spaces & Maintenance

The village is very grateful to Jim Bacon, a long-time village resident who does a superb job of tending our open spaces, through snow, wind, cold, rain and sunshine and is also our tree warden. Another villager, Ray Corstin, plays a major role in helping to maintain our village spaces, and we thank Ray for his energy and his example of community spirit. Further, work has been done on Tunmore Field fencing and new hedgerow planting.

Last November, the village had three new salt bins delivered to help us cope better with snow & frost, alongside the commitment of Skip McMullan who is our doughty snow warden, appointed by SCC, and clears our village roads with his snowplough.

Village Projects

- **Wildflower Meadow & Walk - grant funding:**

We are grateful to the Big Lottery Fund which awarded the village £2,690 to create a Wildflower Meadow and Walk on The Common and also to increase further our biodiversity and improvements to our environment. Three lovely rustic oak benches have been placed to create a 'magic circle' and a child-delighting 'magic mound' was formed from the earthworks arising from establishing the new wildflower meadow area.



The 'magic circle' of rustic oak benches on the Common near to the new Wildflower Meadow

- **Village Neighbourhood Patrol:** A huge thank you must go to Paul Richardson who set up this beautifully organised & well-supported late night patrol of our village – through snow and ice - and his doughty team of 30 village patrollers helped to prevent further oil tank thefts throughout the village.



Litter-picking villagers

- **Tunmore Field Fencing & Hedgerow:** Again, we recognise Paul Richardson who has masterminded the addition of new fencing and the planting of hedgerows.
- **Village Litter Day:** Thanks go to Mary Leech, for organising the village litter pick with over 20 people wearing fluorescent flak-jackets on April Fool's Day, and enticed by delicious cakes and an impromptu gathering.
- **IT Projects:** The upgrade on our website last year is proving to be very useful and the village intra-mail googlemail system superbly aids our communications within the village. We say a big thank you to Chris Harlow & Peter Smart who manage this in their own time for us.

- **SCC & the Olympic Cycle Race Information Evening:** This had a good turn-out where villagers came to share their view with the Surrey County Council representative about improvements to be effected after the trial race through the village last August.
- **Superfast Broadband (SFBB):** Our villagers have expressed great interest in getting SFBB and as soon as possible. Paul Richardson & I attended the SCC launch of their project supported by Jeremy Hunt MP to provide 100% coverage to the county by 2014. We have asked to become a guinea-pig to encourage them to focus on us, and soon!
- **Tennis Court:** Liz Ross is to be thanked for her energy in keeping our village court spic & span and in managing the membership and its important income.

Planning Applications

There have been noticeably fewer Planning applications in the year. However, villagers were angered by the threat of Green Belt encroachment, the application by Hilltop Farm for 2 x gypsy pitches etc on Green Belt in the Surrey Hills AONB, and have provided great support to try to prevent this erosion of our Surrey Hills. This went to Appeal in December after Guildford Borough Council's second refusal. Unfortunately, due to GBC's negligent lack of forward planning to provide sufficient gypsy pitches, temporary permission for five years was granted under strict conditions to two named families.

Looking Ahead

- **Localism Bill:** the government has published this bill which will have an impact on how much say our village community can have on issues affecting it. We will consider our response and take advice as to how we can actively engage further.
- **The Village 'Jubilee Jolly' to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee:** The Parish Council has awarded £500 towards this June event to make it accessible to all our village families. Community spirit in abundance again – bunting, live music sponsored by Hatchlands Park, chocolates sponsored by Bendicks of Mayfair, the venue, marquee and hogroast provided by the Queen's Head, and salads provided by our villagers. The evening ends with lighting the Jubilee Bonfire Beacon to coincide with that being lit by the Palace. Thanks go to the organising committee of Bug Robertson, Elinor Hogarth, Gayle Leader, Arthur Hunking (& his Bonfire Boys), and Ian Peacock for extra music.
- **Tennis Court Surface Improvement:** An application will be made to the SITA Trust for funding to improve the playing surface and reduce the hazardous moss growth by rebinding the surface. This will reduce the amount of jet-washing & biocides applied to the surface. The surrounding trees will also undergo tree surgery to reduce shading.

Meeting Attendance

The ECPC has met 9 times during the past year and Councillors' attendance is high.

Thanks

Our grateful thanks go to our Parish Clerk, Mary Leech, for her valuable support. As we take our leave of our Finance Officer, Keith Grange, we thank him for his advice and management of the ECPC's finances. Also, I would like to thank Arthur Hunking for agreeing to continue in his role as our internal auditor and for completing the audit so well.

We also thank Adrian Thompson for continuing to be involved with arranging & distributing the Village Welcome Packs to new villagers.

Finally, I would like to thank my ECPC colleagues for their energy, their superb advice and support for all the issues we have faced. They, and all the villagers who play their part and not mentioned by name, are examples of people with great community spirit. Thank you all.

Sibylla Tindale

Chairman East Clandon Parish Council

Dated: 16th May 2012