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**Surrey's Best Small Village of the Year 2011/12
& Best Community Village**

**East Clandon Parish Council
Annual Report 2012 – 2013**

On behalf of the East Clandon Parish Council (ECPC), I have pleasure in welcoming you to our village's Annual Meeting. This is the moment when we review our activities and finances for 2012-2013 operating year.

Finances

The Parish Council's finances remain in good health reporting a total reserve of £4,953 and shows a decrease of £789 on last year.

Our income for the year was £12,917 and comprises four major on-going sources:

- the Guildford Borough Council (GBC) precept of £6,747
- GBC Concurrent Functions Grant of £2,051
- two forms of income directly from the parish – the tennis court subscriptions of £776 and the rental of Tunmore Fields at £1,500 per annum.

And other income

- the Closed Churchyard grant of £200, and income from last year's Jubilee Jolly

Our outgoings total £13,706: In the year 2012/13 the ECPC funded

- various playground repairs, maintenance of grounds & equipment including Jim Bacon's payments, verges and open spaces, insurances
- the Queen's Jubilee celebrations with the successful Jubilee Jolly
- developing the Common with a wildflower meadow and new rustic seating
- replacing & improving the fences on the Tunmore Field and hedgerow planting
- tree surgery to improve sunlight onto the tennis court surfaces
- maintenance and improvements of the village pond
- stipend for the Parish Clerk.

Village Highlights

This has been another remarkable and busy year of real community spirit and achievement. Some 200 villagers participated in the Jubilee Jolly celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee, then followed by the excitement of the Olympic Cycle Races passing through the village. Our annual village fete was a great success and is as ever, generously hosted and organised by Bug & Neil Robertson and remains a triumph of village spirit and generosity.

The Jubilee Jolly

The Jubilee Jolly produced a memorable evening and was funded partly by a £500 donation from the Parish Council, added to the unspent portion of the Royal Wedding Street Party of 2011 and a modest ticket charge of £10 / adult. The full moon shone on a cold, but blessedly clear evening, villagers danced and feasted on hog-roast and ending with arguably the tallest bonfire-



beacon in the county. The efforts of so many of our villagers ensured that this was a huge success. Thank you to Mark Williams of the Queen's Head for the 'at cost' hog-roast and for the use of the pub's field and marquee, to the 'Bonfire Boys' led by Arthur Hunking who with Colin Abbott and his pyromaniac team created the terrific bonfire, to the ladies of the village, led by Elinor Hogarth, who produced salads and puddings, to Bug Robertson for running ticket sales and Gayle Leader for the music and flowers.



The Olympic Cycle Races

On a beautiful sunny weekend in July, the Olympic Cycle Race passed through the village on the A246 and round Staple Lane Corner. The Parish Council with many village volunteers provided a welcome to the hundreds of visitors. In conjunction with Surrey County Council's Olympic Liaison Team, we arranged traffic Clear Routes, road signage and provided parking on the Tunmore Field. The pub organised a catering van and early opening for breakfast, and the Village Hall provided toilet facilities. We printed information leaflets for visitors describing the facilities being provided and in return for parking, donations totalling some £300 was given to village charities. This was a superb effort by so many of our villagers but in particular we thank Mike Cook for managing the parking and the preparations on Tunmore Field to ensure such a smooth operation.



Men's Cycle Race peloton down to Staple Lane corner
Photo by Peter Smart

Our Open Spaces & Maintenance

We are blessed in having the services of Jim Bacon, a long-time village resident who does a superb job of tending our open spaces, through all weather conditions and especially during 2012 with our memorably wet and cold summer. Ray Corstin, a village resident, also played a major role in helping to maintain our village playground and support for Jim. We thank him for his energy and example of community spirit.

Village Projects

- **Village Neighbourhood Patrol:** Again we thank Paul Richardson for setting up this well organised & supported night patrol of our village – through snow and ice - and his doughty team of 30 village patrollers who have helped to prevent further oil tank thefts.
- **SFBB – Superfast Broadband for the Village:** The ECPC have engaged with Surrey County Council who are spearheading the roll-out of SFBB with the objective of reaching 99% of premises in Surrey and with funding of £30m. That means all of us will have at least 15mbps (about 10 times the speeds we get now) and should be implemented by the end of this year.
- **Tennis Court:** Work to improve the surface of our tennis court has involved removing and trimming trees around the tennis court. Funding has been received from the SITA Trust for the cleaning and re-painting of the tennis court surface. The work will be undertaken in Spring 2013. In addition, we thank Liz Ross for her energy in keeping our village court spic & span and in managing the membership and its important income.

- **Snow Clearing:** Skip McMullan is the village's snow warden and is to be thanked for his snow clearing activities throughout the village.
- **Road Safety:** To reduce the speed at which traffic comes through our village, we have installed on the north end of the Ripley Road a 'gate-style sign' for £840. It is hoped that this installation will signal more clearly to drivers entering the village that it is a 30mph zone. Further Arthur Hunking is the new Speed Watch coordinator and will shortly complete training of the new village team and run speed watch monitoring.

Planning Applications

The rate of planning applications remains low.

Looking Ahead

- **SFBB Superfast Broadband:** We will hear more news on progress of implementation this evening, but expect that villagers will have the capability to connect to SFBB by December 2013.
- **Localism Bill:** We await GBC's Local Plan, due out late summer, on which we will comment. This will have an impact on how much development we as a little village community wish to accept and on issues affecting us. We await further advice as to how we can actively engage in this.
- **Surrey Hills AONB extension:** In conjunction with the CPRE (Campaign for Rural England) and Natural England, we are supporting the possible extension of the AONB to the south of the A246 which incorporates all land currently designated AGLV (Area of Great Landscape Value). The aim is also to include the rest of our village (currently mainly a Conservation Village) and both Hatchlands and Clandon Park. The evaluation report on this proposal is due to be completed by June 2013.
- **Village Archives & History**
 - Proposed oral history recordings from older and long-term residents are being investigated and villagers will be leading the project.
 - Digitizing ECPC minutes going back to the late 1800's and which are held at the Surrey History Society is being discussed. Roger Nickolds will lead the process with the aim of incorporating this history into our village website.

Meeting Attendance

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

Thanks

We wish to record our grateful thanks to our Parish Clerk, Mary Leech, who has in addition taken on the role of Responsible Financial Officer. We also thank Graham Leech for his support in preparing our financial statements

Further thanks go to Arthur Hunking for acting as our internal auditor and Adrian Thompson for arranging & distributing the Village Welcome Packs to new villagers. We also much appreciate the support of our SCC Councillors, Bill Barker (and Keith Taylor before), and GBC Councillors, Jenny Wicks and Jen Powell.

Finally, I would like to thank my ECPC colleagues, Ray Corstin (Vice Chairman), Paul Richardson, Al Mundy & Ian Peacock for their superb advice and support and in particular for their energy in attacking all the tasks which they undertake for our village. They (and all other villagers who play roles and whom I have not mentioned by name) are examples of people with great community spirit. Thank you all.

Sibylla Tindale

Chairman East Clandon Parish Council