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East Clandon Parish Council - for the AGM
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022

This report covers the year from April 2021 – 2022.

In summary, this has been an eventful year with a return to full action which is welcomed after two years of Zoom meetings and interruptions to our village life and plans due to the pandemic. I, on behalf of the Parish Council and villagers, thank all those who kept going, kept helping, kept contributing to village life during those times. This includes saluting our long-standing County Councillor, Julie Iles, who then was replaced in last year's local elections by Cllr Cross and the new GBC Cllrs Tim Anderson, Chris Barrass, and Catherine Young. Welcome and thank you.

FINANCES

Our thanks go to the Parish Clerk, Diana Thornhill, who reigns over our finances and facilitates our work. The Parish's finances are healthy with a reserve of £21,433 unaudited at March 31st 2022.

Our income over the year 2021-22 was £13,825 arising from four on-going sources and a donation.

- from GBC precept of £8,500;
- GBC concurrent functions grant of £268;
- Vat refunds of £348
- Tennis Court income £1035 and Tunmore Fields income £1709;
- Donations to the village from generous The Shere Hill Climb team £1000 and from the filming company for use of Tunmore Fields £840
- The balancing income being early ticket sales for the Queen's Jubilee Street Party.

Our outgoings for the year total £12,114. This uses as follows

- The village gardeners (Groomed Gardens/ Ben Robertson Clandon Gardens), keeping our open spaces in tip-top shape;
- Improvement to the village playground, jet-cleaning equipment, cleaning and treating village benches, tree removal/ clearing;
- New Bollards on Green Lane and replacement of gates at the Common
- Tennis Court surface clean
- Stipend for the Parish Clerk
- And a substantial donation of £1000 to The Clandon School towards their new heating system.



Reserves has built up over the years mainly due to successful fundraising and donations received for our major village projects. It is useful to have a good reserve to cover the unforeseen expenses like trees falling during Storm Eunice in February and needing expensive tree surgery.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

East Clandon continues as a village with a great spirit of togetherness. Thank you to all who contribute to make it this wonderful close-knit village. There are number of new projects in the pipeline.

Village Open Spaces, Playground and Tennis Court.

Our open spaces have been a boon to all. Families could enjoy fresh air, picnics and recreation, and much tennis. The village garden team, Groomed Gardens/ Ben Robertson-Clandon Gardens, are maintaining our trim looking open spaces. With huge thanks to our Cllr James Eves for leading this on our behalves, and doing so much to ensure it is all superb.



The improved tennis court facilities provides much fun for our families and thank you again to the team, James Eves, and Chris Ross in particular for running the tennis subscriptions and maintenance schedule.

The village Common has benefited from three new Cherry Trees planted to create a grove and part of the generous donation made by the Shere Hill Climb team. Further, to improve the Common's wildflower meadow, a new mowing regime is in place to encourage flowers and less grass. This will be taken a step further in the Autumn with sheep being grazed on the Common to do the 'mowing' and in a more environmental way – better removal of grass trimmings, exposing the earth a bit more to help wildflower seeds to settle and also with the benefit some 'muck' to further enhance the meadow.

The Village Welcome Pack

Our thanks go to Adrian Thompson, who is stepping down from running this delightful and important service. He has coordinated a pack of information to provide a history and context to the village life and it also acted as a welcome new residents. It reaches out at a time when people feel 'so new'. It helps them to integrate. It helps them get answers to questions, it provides village history.

Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Ultrafast Broadband Initiative

Another villager Andy Hay is to be thanked for mobilising the village take-up of a government voucher scheme to get BT OpenReach to provide ultrafast broadband fibre to the village. It is slowly but surely now being installed.

Despite believing that East Clandon north of the A246 would be the only beneficiary, those south of the A246 at High Clandon/ Blakes Lane also now are getting the FTTP benefit. Thank you to Andy and Cllr Al Mundy for their role in moving the project forward, keeping us all informed and in touch with OpenReach.

Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury (FROST) Activities

FROST continue to add to the richness of village life with a wonderful return to the Quiz Night, a Fun Walk and a Bingo Night. These raise valuable funds to protect and enhance the fabric of our beautiful 10thC church and is more glue for our active community. Bravo.

The War Memorial

With thanks to Roger Nickolds and Ron Ward, who continue with the task to keep the lettering legible.

NEW PEOPLE FOR THE ECPC – PARISH COUNCIL

We continue to seek to refresh our Parish Council which consists of six councillors and the Parish Clerk. We really wish to see more villagers taking their turn to join the ECPC. Clare Goodall stepped down last year and has been replaced by Greg Ganjou who has taken on the Planning portfolio. Thank you to Clare for all you have done to help the village in its Planning commentary and presence and a huge welcome to Greg who picks up this important portfolio.

Then last month, Ian Peacock, a longstanding Cllr, has stepped down due to family reasons and has been replaced in the portfolio of Highways Supremo by Lucy Matuszynski. Thank you Ian for all you have done with minding the potholes, ditches and verges, by keeping SCC on their toes, and in particular for building the village Speedwatch team. Hello and welcome to Lucy and thank you for joining and taking over Ian's portfolio.

Having a vibrant and capable Parish Council is essential to our small village being able to punch above its weight at both Guildford Borough Council level and also at SCC level importantly, to ensure we have the ability to lobby for extra funds necessary to keep our village in great shape.

We continue to need active interested villagers to join the Parish Council. So PLEASE apply to help in this important grouping for our village. There is so much we need to achieve and having extra 'person-power' is a boon to the village. **'PLEASE TALK TO US'**.

LOOKING AHEAD

GREENING EAST CLANDON

This initiative is the brainchild of villager Adrian Thompson and a member of the Guildford Environmental Forum. It is about adding to our trees and hedgerow stock, and to preserve those already there.

It is farsighted in its aims to reduce pollution, to add carbon-capturing green planting, to combat climate change damage and best of all to add to the fresh air we all love to breathe.

A subset of this project is the possible addition of trees on the Tunmore North field and also around the village. The village has and will be asked for opinions as the project evolves.

Adrian has presented a plan which will develop over this year and with costings. Cllr Matt Pitt partners Adrian on this project. Already, we can report that more than 800 hedgerow plants have been planted. Thanks Adrian, Hatchlands NT and other owners who are planting too.

So in a nutshell, the project will be broken down into three areas

- Village land (Parish Council owned) and look at adding to the tree and hedge stock and health.
- Villagers properties – to encourage your participation in protection, improvement and planting of trees and hedges and of course we can provide advice and possibly even help find some funding!!
- Neighbouring farms/ properties – to inform, work with and encourage the same approach.

THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

The planning for this event has been led by Clare Goodall and a team of villagers. Thank you to all for this marvellous plan for a Street Party and other commemorative events to celebrate this historic 70th anniversary of the accession. The plans consist of a Street Party on 5th June with music, hog-roast and a children's magician. This will be preceded by a show organised by Francesca Lamont in the Church with village children performing.



Our Rector, Barnaby, will hold a special church service on 22nd May which will be followed by a tree planting ceremony on Tunmore Triangle with a commemorative plaque to be unveiled by Jane Thorold. Thank you to all involved for selecting and planting the tree, a Catalpa bignonioides. This was chosen for its decorative shape and flowers and as advised by the gardening gurus, John and Gayle Leader.

PLANNING

The rate of planning applications has been growing steadily. The backlog occasioned by GBC Planning is reaching an unacceptable level of delay. Most applications are well over the 8 week period for decision. We will ask our GBC Councillors to relay our frustration at the delays.

The village remains greatly concerned by the impact that the GBC Local Plan will have and which has now been adopted against immense opposition by various parties. The outcomes will have an impact on our amenity, on traffic and general threat to the surrounding Green Belt and Surrey Hills.

This means that the village will look at the implications of developing a Neighbourhood Plan, which might help protect it from unwanted developments and protect the character of East Clandon. Greg Ganjou has offered to lead on scoping out the implications of such a plan. The ECPC will have a GBC expert talk to it at a forthcoming meeting in the next few months to help us learn more and decide whether we should take this forward. It is an immense project and will require a village-wide involvement.

Further on planning: the Natural England AONB Boundary Review is a welcome initiative to which some villagers responded and these views were forwarded to add to the evidence to extend the boundaries of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to include in our case the AGLV (Area of Great Landscape Value). We await the outcomes of their review with interest. This will provide further protection from unsuitable/unwanted developments around the village.

PARISH COUNCIL - MEETING ATTENDANCE & COUNCILLORS

The ECPC has managed to meet regularly despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic. Attendance is good by all Councillors.

THANK YOU

Parish Clerk. Our especial thanks go to Diana Thornhill who has made a great contribution to this important role and to getting us into the 21st C with On-line banking. Bravo.

Further and grateful thanks go to the many villagers who play their roles

- Bug Robertson for keeping the village Fete alive and to her and husband Neil for hosting the forthcoming 'phoenix arising' of the village fete in 2022 after two years of not being able to host it.



- Ian Peacock and his team for running Village Speed-Watch!
- Liz and Chris Ross who run our village 'tennis club' facility.
- Peter Smart's team for watching over our village website / google group/ social media.
- Pix Pickering acting as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.
- Skip McMullan for snow warden duties.
- Arthur Hunking for acting as our internal auditor.
- The Village Hall Committee for care and attention of this lovely village amenity



Our Surrey and GBC Councillors

- Particular thanks to SCC Councillor Julie Iles for her hugely active support for our village and targeted SCC grants. She was the most visible and active Councillor right through the pandemic. She has now been succeeded by Cllrs Colin Cross. Welcome.
- GBC Councillors, Tim Anderson, Chris Barrass and Catherine Young for their advice and help and care.

Hatchlands NT

We would like to thank the General Manager of Hatchlands, Daniel Morey for encouraging villagers to use their green spaces and walks. Bravo Daniel for being such a wonderful partner in our village affairs.

Finally, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to my ECPC colleagues for their support, advice and zest, all of whom are volunteers; James Eves (Vice Chairman and lead for Open Spaces), Greg Ganjou (Planning guru), Al Mundy (IT) & Ian Peacock (Highways supremo!) and Matt Pitt (Greening and Trees), and now welcoming Lucy Matuszynski into the ECPC.

You and all other villagers who play roles and whom I have not mentioned by name are examples of our great community spirit.

Sibylla Tindale

Chair: East Clandon Parish Council

30th April 2022