

For your diary:

Secret Gardens of Weston Green - a self-guided walk taking in some of the best gardens in the village

Sunday 25th June 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Tickets £5. For further information, including where to buy tickets, please see the Hinchley Wood website and posters round the village.



## Contacting Hinchley Wood Residents Association



Your residents association councillors for Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward (L to R) :

Tannia Shipley

Nigel Haig-Brown

Janet Turner

HWRA works with Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association to ensure that the interests of residents of the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward are fully represented on Elmbridge Borough Council.

Our councillors are available to deal with any comments or concerns about council services or other local issues.

For matters relating to Hinchley Wood, please contact Janet or Nigel:

[janet.turner@hinchleywood.org.uk](mailto:janet.turner@hinchleywood.org.uk) 020 8398 1565

[nigel.haig-brown@hinchleywood.org.uk](mailto:nigel.haig-brown@hinchleywood.org.uk) 020 8398 4060

For general enquiries, please e-mail [enquiries@hinchleywood.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hinchleywood.org.uk)

## Local Plan and Long Ditton Green Belt

Just under 3800 people or organisations responded to the consultation. These responses contained a total of 50,000 separate comments on different aspects of the consultation document. This clearly demonstrates the level of interest and concern generated by this exercise, particularly in relation to possible encroachment on the Green Belt in the Hinchley Wood and Long Ditton area, and elsewhere in the borough.

The council has issued the following statement on how it now plans to proceed:

*"The Government [has] announced that it will be consulting on a standardised approach to assessing housing need but, unfortunately, this consultation will now not take place until after the elections on June 8. As such the Council can no longer rely on the housing need it assessed through its Strategic Market Housing Assessment (SHMA). The Council is also uncertain as to the impact of all the consultation responses received by the Government to the HWP [Housing White Paper] consultation.*

*For both these reasons, the Council considers it to be premature to progress work on the Local Plan until such a time as the Government makes all the necessary information available to resume work on the Local Plan.*

*The Council will, however, publish a report on the issues raised in response to the Strategic Options consultation as soon as it is able to do so. Given that the consultation was extended by two weeks, the large volume of comments, and to ensure that all comments and issues raised by all the respondents are fully considered, it has not been possible to adhere to the timetable for the Local Plan. As mentioned above, the general election and delays to Government policy have further delayed work on the Local Plan. Once there is some indication of the standardised methodology for assessing housing need the Council will issue a revised timetable.*

*We fully understand residents' concerns over the amount of housing that the Government requires the Council to provide and the impact this might have on the Borough. Indeed, the Council shares those concerns. None of the Members of the Council want to give up any areas of the Borough's Green Belt to development and will consider all options in order to protect it. However, in order to produce any Local Plan, the Council needs to follow due process, without which it lays itself open to challenges. It is with that in mind that all three leaders of the political parties at Elmbridge Council wrote to the Right Honourable Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to seek clarification on a number of matters relating to the Local Plan. That letter, together with the response received, are on the Council website at [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plan](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plan)."*

## One Tree Hill

Further to the preceding item on the Local Plan, we understand that the builders Taylor Wimpey have taken an option to purchase One Tree Hill (part of the Long Ditton Green Belt) for development at a cost of £2.5m (10% of the full purchase price). Residents are encouraged to contact us if they would like to be involved in consideration of how to respond to any such proposed development.

## Parking review

The review by Surrey County Council has been concluded and we await formal notice of the proposed changes in parking restrictions. We understand that the main change will be more yellow-lining around junctions on residential roads.

## Builders' noise nuisance

A number of residents have expressed concern about noisy building works, particularly when these take place outside normal working hours. The council's guidelines state that noisy construction works (i.e. works which cause noise to be audible beyond the site boundary) should only be carried out within the following times: Monday to Friday 8a.m. to 6p.m., Saturday 8a.m. to 1p.m., and not on Sundays or Bank Holidays. If noise nuisance is experienced outside the permitted times, it should be reported to your ward councillor or the EBC planning department.

## Street lighting

As residents will be aware, as part of their programme to renew all the street lighting, Surrey County Council have installed systems enabling the lights to be controlled remotely, so that they can be dimmed or turned off at certain times. The decision was taken, for reasons of economy, to turn off the lights in residential roads from midnight to 5 a.m. This has caused much concern, particularly for residents arriving home by late evening trains. Following representations by HWRA councillors, SCC have agreed to leave the lights on in the vicinity of the station until half an hour after the arrival of the last train, but unfortunately this does not help the situation when residents have left the station area and main roads (which remain lit through the night).

## Litter picking

In the coming months we will be organising some litter-picking parties, particularly for the area around the station and Memorial Gardens. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this, please contact Roy Turner at [roy60janet@gmail.com](mailto:roy60janet@gmail.com) or on 020 8398 1565.

## Collaboration with Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association (TD&WGRA)

We have now concluded an agreement with TD&WGRA, which sets out (among other things) how our two associations will work together to select candidates for Elmbridge Borough Council elections in the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward. The next such election will be in May 2018, and the collaboration agreement aims to ensure that there will always be a single residents candidate supported by both associations. A copy of the collaboration agreement can be found on the Hinchley Wood website by following the links to *Document archive*>>> *Miscellaneous items*>>> *Collaboration agreement*.

## Scams

We are once again hearing reports of tricksters preying on residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. Tactics include:

- turning up on the doorstep claiming to have noticed a loose tile or other property defect, offering to fix it cheaply, then demanding extortionate payments (sometimes with menaces) for unnecessary work and/or work badly done or not at all
- claiming to be working next door and to need to check the boiler or other appliance in the resident's property – this merely being a pretext to gain access for theft
- inducing elderly people to accompany them to their bank to withdraw substantial sums of cash in payment

The golden rule is not to allow access to your property to any tradesman or purported tradesman unless you have made an appointment for that person to call: and remember these three pointers

- Just say NO to uninvited doorstep callers.
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Unsolicited phone calls – it's not impolite, it's your right to hang up.

Please be vigilant about any suspicious activity, particularly if it seems to involve your elderly neighbours, and report it to the police on 101 or to Trading Standards on 03454 04 05 06.