



Ripley Parish Council

The Parish Review

Summer 2011



Jennie Cliff
Chairman
224051
Planning
Environment
Highways



Lisanne Mealing
Vice Chairman
225613
Planning
Communication
Environment
Finance



Colin Cross
Councillor
224107
Communication
Environment
Finance



Vernon Wood
Councillor
225098
Planning
Environment



Richard Ayears
Councillor
224989
Planning
Highways



Caspar Hancock
Councillor
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Planning
Environment



Suzie Powell-Cullingford
Councillor
225303
Planning
Finance



Alison Jones
Clerk
Council Office
224847

YOUR NEW COUNCIL

We welcome 3 brand new councillors on to Ripley Parish Council. All our councillors were elected unopposed in the May elections. Below is an introductory paragraph from each of our new councillors.

We wish to thank Mike Baker, Clare Grimes and Tom Harris for their hard work on behalf of the council over the last 4 years and wish them well in their "retirement".



Suzie Powell-Cullingford

I have lived in Ripley since 1998, although my husband Andrew has lived in the village since he was born. Some of you may remember his parents Hugh and Peggy Powell-Cullingford who lived in the village and indeed our house from 1953. Andrew's sister and niece also live in Ripley so we are

definitely a committed village family!

My main activity in the village revolves around the Green, where I am often walking my dog Ruby – she is an energetic bundle of black fur who is likely to have greeted you with a wag and a lick. I am quite a country person, having been brought up in Blackheath over in the Surrey Hills, and our home has dogs, cats, horses and chickens. I am passionate about the countryside and feel that we are so lucky to live in a village located in such lovely surroundings. We can always do more however, to ensure that our green spaces are secure for future generations.

As a new Councillor I shall endeavour to do my best for the parish and in particular I am keen to involve or help my end of the village (living in Kiln Lane near the Jovial Sailor) with any specific issues that they may have.

Congratulations to our Guildford Borough Councillor John Garrett for his re-election to the council and his appointment as deputy Mayor.



Caspar Hancock

I was born and raised in Woking and visited Ripley for many years before moving here 2 years ago. I have always enjoyed the fact that Ripley has a great sense of community and, having attended many bonfires and other events over the years, I now look forward to taking a more active role in contributing to their continued success.

I am a big fan of the outdoors and consider myself very lucky to live in a village that has such a large green and access to the River Wey and beautiful countryside. Having 2 dogs, I enjoy a good walk and can often be seen walking them on the Green and in the surrounding areas.



Richard Ayears

I have lived in Ripley all my life and have a very strong affiliation to our village and the community it forms. I have been married to Justine for nearly 25 years and have 3 children, all of whom attended the village school, just as I did. I am a full time fire officer and currently work for the London Fire Brigade at the

training centre in Southwark. I am the Group Scout Leader for Ripley Scouts and have worked with the young people for over 25 years.

I have served as a parish councillor previously and felt the time was right to stand as a community representative again as I am due to retire from work in 2012 and will have more time to commit to this ever increasing community role. I have been actively involved in Ripley Environmental Preservation Society and I am very keen to see the village grow in a planned way utilising brown field development as the first option where possible and preserving the Green Belt surrounding Ripley. During my time on the Council I would like to see more emphasis placed on the development of genuinely affordable or rented accommodation for the youth of the village.

What does your parish council do?

Manages the Green

- Grass cutting
- Repairs to posts and rails
- Maintains playground areas
- Maintains litterbins
- Protects the Green from encroachment

Examines planning applications in the parish

Manages the allotments

Manages the burial ground

Rents the village car park from Guildford

Maintains the bus shelters

Provides the Christmas Lights in the trees

Communicates via the website, newsletters and notice boards

Makes representations to the Borough and County Councils as appropriate e.g. to SCC Highways regarding pot holes.

Keeps up to date with the changes proposed in the Localism Bill.

Represents the views of Ripley people.

What would you like the new council to do in the next four years?

The new council is meeting at the beginning of August to draw up a list of Aims and Objectives for the next four years

Please contact the Parish Clerk, Alison Jones with your suggestions at:

Ripley Parish Council Office, Ripley Village Hall
High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF

Telephone: 01483 224847

RAGWORT ALERT



As you walk the Green, please pull some plants so they are unable to seed. The plants can be left where they are pulled or left by a ragwort sign on the Green for collection.

Gloves are recommended.

By working together we can help to limit the spread of Ragwort across The Green.

Join us at the next Parish Council meeting

Thursday 21st July in the Village Hall annex
Public questions 7.30-7.45pm

WELCOME

The Parish Council would like to formally welcome the new head of our village Primary School, Mr David O'Brien. Mr O'Brien was appointed to the post at the end of 2010 and visited the school regularly in the spring term to ensure that the handover in April went smoothly. There were many changes at the school to deal with, not least the new building for the pre-school, and improved kitchen and office facilities. These will be in full use before long, and enhance the school greatly. We look forward to a continuance of the high profile of our treasured school in the community, at such celebrations as the Summer Event and the Christmas Fair, and wish Mr O'Brien every success in his role. I am sure pupils, staff and the village as a whole will do all they can to ease him in and make him feel at home!

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Despite years of close association with George Abbot School, there have been changes at County Council level, which indicate that Ripley children of secondary school age are to be denied choice and should attend Bishop David Brown School in the Sheerwater area of Woking. Many rural areas like Ripley are suffering from thoroughly impractical arrangements like this, and many people feel that Surrey County Council needs to reassess the impact of its admissions policies on rural areas as the number of children needing secondary school places grows. The Parish Council will offer strong support to any group of affected people which is set up to carry forward a campaign for choice for Ripley children. There needs to be a means of transferring information to parents year on year. It may be possible to make such endeavours even more effective by working with other affected nearby communities. Our children deserve to have a choice of secondary school and the Parish Council believes that the County Council should be challenged by parents in a co-ordinated, constructive and firm manner.

BROADBAND SPEEDS



Thank you to all of you who responded to our recent Broadband survey. 160 households and small businesses expressed interest in an improved broadband service.

The lowest broadband speed currently experienced in the parish was 0.1Mb/sec with the average speed around 1 Mb/sec. Since our survey, Surrey County Council has made a commitment to improve broadband speeds to rural areas in Surrey by the end of 2013. This would be likely to cost less than the wireless system for the Ripley area which the Parish Council was investigating. Therefore the Parish Council will highlight the need of Ripley residents and businesses for faster Broadband to Surrey County Council rather than pursuing the wireless solution.