

Chilworth Parish Magazine – December 2018 / January 2019

St Martha Parish Council

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The Parish Council continues to take an interest in local planning matters which may affect our village, whether they come within St. Martha or Shalford Parish Council. One such relates to a modification to the new Local Plan which includes a proposal for 80 new homes at Hornhatch Farm. This site is currently within the Green Belt and outside the village's Settlement Boundary. This would produce problems related to traffic congestion, road safety, access and many others. The proposal has been opposed by both St. Martha and Shalford Parish Councils, as well as the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

A local planning application proposed the demolition of 74 New Road, Chilworth to allow the building of 9 dwellings on land behind other houses in New Road. This Victorian house, the oldest in New Road, is also the road's only double-fronted dwelling. The application was strongly opposed by both St. Martha and Shalford Parish Council but was passed by a very narrow majority by GBC's Planning Committee. Our Council also applied to GBC for this house to be Locally Listed for its historic value to our village. This was refused.

In relation to our station and rail service our Council has been liaising with the Sussex Community Rail Partnership and the North Downs Line Steering Group. This has resulted in some improvements at the station and an information notice board for visitors to the area. An excellent North Downs Line Guide has also been produced. The future of the fully renovated station building is still uncertain.

The Council continues to take an interest in the historic and Scheduled Gunpowder Mills site, owned by GBC, and plans to continue its liaison with the Borough. The Parish Council's annual public Chilworth Gunpowder Mills meeting was held on the 8th November and attended by the Mayor and Mayoress. This well attended meeting included some lively discussion following a talk by Matt Furniss of GBC relating to Guildford's new Local Plan. Other interesting talks were from Richard Billington of GBC and currently Deputy Mayor; Andrew Norris on the Gunpowder Mills Group and David Daniels on the North Downs rail line. Refreshments were provided by Chilworth2gether.

There has been concern for several years regarding the low water flow through the ancient canal in the Gunpowder Estate. The canal is now choked with growth along several lengths. The canal, formed before 1654, fed the gunpowder mills on the Scheduled Site and is thus of significant historical interest. Our Council is liaising with the Environment Agency and would like to see the flow increased to normal levels.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on: Thursday 10th January 2019 in Chilworth C of E Infant School at 7.30 pm.

Councillors:

Revd Stephanie Sokolowski (Chair) sokolowski.s@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Michael Lunnon (Vice Chair) lunnon.m@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk
Patricia Allen allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk
Graham Brown brown.g@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk
John Peake peake.i@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk: *Anne Tait* 07976 778864 clerk@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk