

## News from St Martha Parish Council

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**St Martha Parish Council** wishes all the Magazine readers a Very Happy 2024.

Please remember to feedback anything you would like us to consider at our meetings in 2024, any improvements to our parish or across Chilworth, or anything you think we can help you with. The Annual Assembly of St Martha Parish will be held in May, this meeting is an opportunity to voice your opinion and request improvements you consider would enhance the Parish. Details of Councillors and the Clerk are at the end of this article.

Forthcoming Parish council dates are: 20/02/24; Tuesday 19/03/24; Tuesday 16/04/24 and Tuesday 21/05/24, all held in Chilworth Village Hall at 7 p.m.

Here are a few things we would like to highlight or bring you up to date on at the start of this new year.

### **Removal of 'Bring Bank' recycling sites in the Borough**

For those who aren't yet aware, Guildford Borough Council has been removing the 'bring bank' recycling sites across the Borough (although charity collection banks will be staying). 'Bring banks' were the collections of skips and bins for cardboard, glass bottles, clothes, etc that you came across in car parks around the Borough. These sites pre-dated household recycling collections and everything you could recycle at one of these sites can be collected with the household recycling collections anyway.

Slyfield Recycling Centre will remain open for everything that can't be collected from your doorstep. The biggest reasons given by GBC for removing the 'bring back' sites were that they duplicated the household recycling collection service and they were also often misused – they were a magnet for fly-tipping and when the bins were full (despite the fact they aimed to empty them daily) people often just dumped stuff on the ground where it got contaminated, making it unrecyclable. GBC was one of the few councils in the area which still had 'bring sites', and it is thought that some of them were being abused by people from other areas using them to get rid of business waste for free. On top of that, GBC says that getting rid of them will save about £40,000 a year, which is money which then doesn't have to be found from savings elsewhere, or from Council Tax rises.

GBC says it is very aware that the household recycling collections don't work very reliably at the moment for things like bags of textiles, or batteries, but more people using this service will force the Council to get better at it, and should also improve recycling rates overall once people get used to using it. Obviously, this change isn't going to please everyone, but GBC says it needed to be done sooner or later, and now seemed as good a time as any!

### **Climate Change related matters**

St Martha PC continues to be part of a large inter-parish Climate Change Group and this Group focusses on matters relevant to all the parishes across south west Surrey. This has led to a recent face-to-face discussion with Clare Upton-Brown, the new Waverley and Guildford Boroughs Head

of Planning Development, on the effectiveness and use of **Climate Change and Sustainability Planning Checks Lists**, which are now part of all planning applications; and concerns about **Pre-application Tree Felling**; and **Enforcements & Appeals**. It is hoped that the suggestions and concerns raised by the Group will lead to some improvements across the two Boroughs' planning departments! The Group also discussed the recent **Farnborough Airport Expansion Proposals** to significantly increase the limit on the number of flights per year, mainly private jets, and the impact this would have on the surrounding areas, including the Surrey Hills, with increased noise and air pollution. St Martha Parish Council submitted objections to this application, highlighting where it was failing to follow the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **Tree Warden**

A number of Surrey Parishes have managed to find volunteer **Tree Wardens** but St Martha is still looking for one! So why not think about becoming a **Surrey Tree Warden** if you are interested in the protection and promotion of local trees to benefit and enhance our environment. No experience in tree management is needed – just a love of trees and a few hours to spare. Training, events & local support all offered. Just get in touch with us.

### **Council's Precept**

In case you wonder what a **precept** is, it is the way that local Councils raise money and it is collected as part of Council Tax. Every Council has a budget, and the precept is what the council needs to fund its operations for the upcoming year, after allowing for any other income it expects to receive and any expenses that will be charged against its existing reserves. The precept is calculated on the number of households in the Parish eligible to pay Council Tax. ('The Parish' in this case being St Martha Parish which only covers part of Chilworth Village. The other part being covered by Shalford Community Council.) St Martha Parish Council will be keeping its precept for 2024/25 the same as last year, being mindful of offering good value for money to its residents.

Want to Help your Community?  
Become a Parish Councillor  
**Your Parish Council Needs  
YOU**

Councillor Patricia Allen

### **Councillors:**

*Patricia Allen* (Vice Chair) - [allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*John Peake* - [peake.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:peake.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*Clare Price* - (Chair) [price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*Jean-Pierre Pugh* - [pugh.jp@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:pugh.jp@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

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