

Winnersh Matters

The community magazine for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



Winnersh Parish
Council



Cllr John Southgate, WPC Chairman, opens the refurbished playground at Bearwood Recreation Ground with Cllr Jill Plant and children from Bearwood and Winnersh Primary Schools

Welcome to the first edition of *Winnersh Matters*, Winnersh Parish Council's new newsletter.

A major focus for the Council this year is to encourage residents and local organisations to participate in activities that will enhance the spirit of community in Winnersh and Sindlesham. First we need to better understand what people want to see happening in our area. As a start, we have spoken to many of you at the *NAG Forum* held in June, at our stall at the *Green Pastures* event held at Dinton Pastures in August and we will be asking you to respond to a survey in the coming months.

This newsletter gives us an opportunity to keep you updated but also to invite you to give us your input. We'd like to hear

from you if you have ideas for the future of Winnersh and especially from anyone who would be willing to spend a little time helping to make things happen.

The Council is organising a **Village Fete on 14th June 2008** to get the community together. Please put the date in your diaries now! We need as many individuals, local organisations and businesses as possible to play a part, big or small. We will be contacting many organisations directly but would like to hear from *you* right now so we can gauge interest – please contact us via the Clerk with ideas and offers of support.

Winnersh is a growing and vibrant community and the Parish Council, in partnership with other local organisations, wants to help to make it better. But please remember that in the end it will be up to all of us to make a contribution!

John Southgate

Chairman, Winnersh Parish Council



The Winnersh Christmas Lights will be switched on at **6pm on Thursday 20th December** at the Bearwood Recreation Ground. Carols with Bearwood and Winnersh Primary School choirs. Please bring lanterns or torches. All welcome!

Autumn 2007 In this issue:

Welcome	1
Road Safety	2
Recreation & Amenities	2
New Parish Clerk	2
Local Heroes	2
New Leisure Facility	3
Allotment Competition	3
Planning Decisions	3
Veteran Trees Project	3
Useful Contacts	4
Flooding in Winnersh	4

Have your say...

An idea, a solution, an observation, a kindness, a triumph, a worry... Why not share your thoughts by attending a Parish Council Meeting or contacting the Parish Office?

Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
New Road, Sindlesham,
Wokingham RG41 5DU
Phone: 0118 978 0244
Email: clerk@winnersh.gov.uk

Road Safety Improvements for Bearwood Road and King Street Lane

The Parish Council formed a working group last year to look into road safety improvements in the Bearwood Road area. The main issues were the 40mph speed limit outside Bearwood Primary School and the difficulties experienced by children and parents trying to cross King Street Lane on their way to and from school and the working group lobbied the Borough Council for action. The result has been backing for a proposal to install a zebra crossing on King Street Lane and an extension of the existing 30mph limit to the end of King Street Lane and around the Recreation Ground. A formal consultation is currently being conducted before the scheme can be given the go ahead. The installation of an electronically controlled variable speed limit outside Bearwood Primary School is also being progressed in conjunction with similar measures for other schools in the area.

Committee Focus: Recreation and Amenities Committee

The Recreation and Amenities Committee (R&A) tries to provide as many community facilities as possible for the use of Winnersh residents. We are limited to what we can afford but we hope that our activities enable residents to enjoy the playing fields and other facilities owned by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council provides a large main hall that is hired to clubs and individuals. Some of the activities are as follows: mother and baby groups, ballroom dancing (why not try Ceroc Dancing?), war games and keep-fit for the more hardy and healthy among us. The hall is popular for weddings, christenings and many other family functions. The R&A also manages the Allnatt Pavilion, which is used by Winnersh Rangers Football Club during the winter but has proved popular throughout the year for meetings and smaller clubs.

The bar has now been redecorated and upgraded in order to provide a comfortable venue for the community to enjoy. During the summer of 2007 the play equipment located on the playing fields has been replaced and now reflects the needs of older children; facilities for disabled children will be added soon, funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. The R&A committee hope that all residents will come and enjoy our various facilities all year round.

Jill Plant

Chairman, Recreation & Amenities Committee

Welcome to new Clerk and FAO

Winnersh Parish Council welcomes our new Parish Clerk, Clive Hudson, and Finance & Administration Officer (FAO), Sylvie De Groote.

Clive joined us at the beginning of July and Sylvie at the beginning of November following the departure of Janet Haines and Marcia Toft who have moved on to new challenges after eight years with WPC.

The Clerk is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Council's facilities and for supporting the work of the Council and its Committees. If you have any queries about the Parish Council the Clerk will often be the best person to contact first.

The FAO is responsible for keeping track of the Council's finances, dealing with bookings and invoicing and helping with the many administrative tasks that keep the Council running effectively.

Nominate your Local Hero

Who would you like to nominate as a 'Local Hero'? Let us know who you consider has contributed to the Winnersh community and made a difference so that we can share good news and reward the unsung heroes who make everyone's life a bit easier.

Your nomination should include your name and contact details, those of the nominee and a description of why that person or local organisation deserves to be recognised and be sent to the Parish Clerk.

Also, the Parish Council would like to hear from residents who have achieved a personal goal or passed some sort of milestone. Good news is worth sharing.



Councillors talked to residents from Winnersh and neighbouring parishes at the WPC stall at the Green Pastures event at Dinton Pastures in August.

New Leisure Facility Funded by Developer Contributions

At a recent meeting of Winnersh Parish Council it was resolved that the Chairman of the Council should write to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) in order to initiate the first steps in a process to develop Arbor Meadows as a leisure amenity for the residents of Winnersh. It is intended that the project be paid for using "Section 106 money", funds that are paid by developers when they build within the parish.

The initial response from WBC has been positive and WPC will be working with other groups within the community to develop more specific, costed proposals. This is an exciting opportunity for Winnersh to establish facilities for use by both young people and other age groups and we will keep you updated and give everyone the chance to input as the project progresses.

Winnersh Allotment Competition

On Tuesday 9 October a presentation took place during the Winnersh Parish Council meeting to the winners of the 2007 allotment competition. Mr Les Moody of the Royal Horticultural Society judged the competition after two visits to the allotments. Cllr John Southgate presented the prizes to the following winners:

- 1st **Mr Jim Dyke**
- 2nd **Mr Robert Wigley**
- 3rd **Mr Arnold Thompson**

A **special presentation** for the most "interesting and original use of an allotment" was made to **Mrs Paola Widdison**. Henry Street Garden Centre (Arborfield) was thanked for their donation of some of the prizes.

WPC Inputs to WBC Planning Decisions

The WPC Planning Committee meets every three weeks to review planning applications. We do not have the power to approve or refuse applications, but we are able to object to or comment on every application. We are also one of the parties that speak at the Borough Council's Planning Meetings along with the local borough councillors and a residents' spokesperson.

To ensure our opinion is taken into consideration our objections have to take into account the constraints placed on planning authorities by government guidelines and policies. This occasionally results in our returning a 'No Comment' even though there may be significant objections from near neighbours. We would welcome input from residents and be better able to take your views into account if you let us know of your objections soon after plans are announced, or by being copied in on any letter of objection being sent to the Borough Council.

Special report on anti-social behaviour

Our local police have reported that the dispersal order that was placed on the northern part of Winnersh has been very successful in that groups of young people no longer congregate around the railway station and antisocial behaviour has reduced.

But we must all play our part if this improvement is to continue so please do report any anti-social behaviour to the police. If it is not reported no action can be taken and the police will allocate less resources to any area where there appears to be no problems.

Do you or your children have specific ideas for what would help? Would you be willing to volunteer to help run a community activity? If so do let us know.

Veteran Trees Project comes to Winnersh

Can you help with the survey of our Veteran Trees as part of a UK wide project? One objective of the exercise is to provide planning officers with a comprehensive record of these valuable trees so that it can immediately be seen if a planning application is likely to affect them. For further information please contact:

Fee Young
Winnersh Parish Coordinator
Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association
28 Dunstons Drive, Winnersh, RG41 5GT
Tel: 07952 469949
Email: one_cog_of_infinite_cogs@hotmail.co.uk



Saturday 14th June 2008

Winnersh Village Fete "Midsummer Madness"

A traditional village fete with fun for all the family!

Please support this local event:

- **Local organisations:** run a stall or activity?
- **Local businesses:** sponsor an activity or give a prize?
- **Everyone:** offer to help and come along?

Useful Contacts

Thames Valley Police

For urgent matters dial 999 - anything else dial 0845 8 505 505

Local PC's: Marc Robinson and Simon Pink

PCSO's: Wayne Plowright and Shelly Townsend

Community Wardens

Emma LeRoy Emma.LeRoy@wokingham.gov.uk

Lesley McCambridge. Lesley.McCambridge@wokingham.gov.uk

or phone 0118 974398

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Thames Valley Police

Christine Seal – Christine.Seal@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Winnersh NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group)

Email: Winnersh.nag@btinternet.com

Website: www.seeds.org.uk/winnersh.nag

WRAP (Winnersh Residents for Action on Planning)

Email WRAP@btinternet.com

Website www.seeds.org.uk/wrap

Sainsbury's shopping trolley hot line: 0800 316 1241

Why not hire our hall, bar or other rooms for your group, family or company event?

WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL offers:

- licensed bar
- capacity for 190 people (150 for seated meal)
- kitchen facility
- facilities for disabled
- professional catering available
- car parking
- a beautiful setting

The John Grobler Room, the Allnatt Pavilion and (at suitable times) the bar alone can be hired for smaller events. Contact the Parish Clerk on 0118 978 0244 for details and availability.

Flooding in Winnersh

The recent floods showed us all that Winnersh is vulnerable to both rainwater and river water flooding. The deluge that flooded the houses at the junction of Churchill Drive and King Street Lane came from the M4 and was the result of a combination of blocked drains and freak levels of rainfall.

The parish council has asked the Wokingham Borough Council for all the drains to be cleaned in Winnersh as they will have filled with silt. The river flooding to the west of the village around the Showcase cinema roundabout caused roads to be closed but it was also noted that neighbours showed a willingness to assist those who found themselves in difficulty.

Clearly future developments in Winnersh will have to take account of the fact that certain areas of the village are low lying and prone to flooding. The parish Planning Committee will continue to question any proposals that are located in the water meadows and cause a restriction of the natural flow of surface water.

Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month commencing at 7.45 pm (except August), although the January meeting next year will be on the 15th. There is a Public Session near the beginning of the meeting when residents can ask questions and express their views.

If you have issues that concern **Wokingham Borough Council** you can attend one of their meetings at Shute End in Wokingham on the last Thursday of the month at 8.00 pm.