A Message from the Chairman

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government. The term of office for a Parish Councillor is four years and it is an unpaid position. Civil Parish Councils should not be confused with Parochial Church councils which administer parishes of the Church of England.

Parish Councils receive funding, levying a precept on the council tax paid by residents to the local District Council. The District Council must notify the Parish Council of all planning applications in our area. We make objections to some applications and these comments are submitted to the Planning Department at Tandridge District Council for consideration. With the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 the Parish Councils have been given some new powers and, when the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, we should be able to establish general planning policies for developments and use of land in our neighbourhood. In this important change to the planning system we will have more control over the decisions on planning applications.

In 1974 the law was changed so that any Parish Council could declare its area a “town” with the council being known as a “Town Council”. Their powers are exactly the same as Parish Councils although the Chairman is entitled to style themselves as “Town Mayor”.  

Cllr Michael Lincoln
On the 2nd of January 2015 TFL lowered the daily cap on the pay as you go Oyster card for peak rate travel for zone 6 to £11.70 a day. If you are a daily commuter to London (who occasionally does 4 or less days in London) this can save you over £6 compared to a daily ticket.

Additionally if you tap in before 6:30am or after 9:00 am in the morning and before 4:00pm or after 7:00pm on your return journey into central London this can cost as little as £3.70 each way (£5 peak rate). If this is your normal routine you can save almost £20 pounds a week on a weekly travel card to central London (without bus or underground).

You can top up your Oyster cards at Caterham station, Valley News (211 Croydon road - near Beechwood Gardens) and Caterham News (16 Croydon Road).

Having used the Pay As You Go Oyster card for over two months now (instead of weekly or daily travel cards), I will carry on using them as there are big savings to the cost of commuting (which makes up for the bad service on the Caterham line recently). Cllr Peter Roberts

Caterham Valley Parish Council and Tandridge District Council have combined funds to enable the reinstatement of the play area at Timberhill Road. The play area had to be removed earlier this year as it was in a dangerous state. It is anticipated that the play area will be ready for the beginning of the Summer holiday. However the lead time for ordering the equipment and the design of the area takes approximately 8-12 weeks.

In addition to Timberhill Play Area being reinstated it has been confirmed that Tillingdown Play Area will have a complete refit, with additional items of play equipment, between April 2016 and March 2017. However, it is hoped that if additional funds are identified that this area may also be refitted in the 2015/16 period.

HELP PLEASE! Good news - East Surrey Hospital is to get the much needed Cancer Support Centre. Currently those needing services are diverted all the way to Guildford, a 100 mile round trip depending on what part of Tandridge and what type of Transport you have access to. Bad news - it’s going to cost £1.3 million pounds and sadly Tandridge does not have a Macmillan Fundraising Team. Would anyone be interested in joining a team giving up whatever time you can spare? .. If we were to talk about clubs then consider this - Cancer is one of the biggest clubs in the world and it’s not by choice that people join it. What is by choice is the necessity to make a difference by joining the Tandridge Team. Please email Cllr Mark Jones for further information at markcaterhamjones@gmail.com.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
DeFest at DeStafford School
Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th May 2015
Caterham Street Party
Sunday 31st May 2015
Caterham Festival International Market
Sunday 7th June 2015
Soper Hall Summer Fair
Sunday 7th June 2015
Caterham Carnival
Saturday 13th June 2015
Waller Lane Cycle Ride
Sunday 14th June 2015
Christmas Market and Lights Switch On
Saturday 29th November 2015

The General and District Elections are on Thursday 7th May 2015
Don’t forget to Vote
CR3 Forum Neighbourhood Plan Update

Caterham Valley, Caterham on the Hill, Chaldon & Whyteleafe have been working together for the last two years in an attempt to get a better deal on developments in the CR3 area.

The CR3 Forum is close to having a draft of the plans and policies which will be available for public review in a 6 week consultation period which will take place after the local elections in May of this year. The target date for a Local Referendum on the resulting plan is Autumn 2015.

You can really help shape the Plan with your views on what kind of Town Centre you want, including action on Rose & Young, Quadrant House and other significant sites for redevelopment. Do please take part in the survey. A strong consensus view of what the town needs will strengthen the case that is made for what YOU want. The link is https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/caterhamtowndesign

The Plan has been put together from research and feedback (including resident questionnaires) and topics included are Green Belt, Brownfield sites, Character and Heritage, Jobs, Schools, Youth, Elderly, Health (expansion of medical/hospital facilities), Transport, Parking (including long term car parking in the centre of Caterham Valley), Shopping, Town Centres, Leisure, Community, Utilities & overall Infrastructure.

Providing space for the area's future needs: All these needs require space to put them and the CR3 Forum has asked for any owners or organisations with available sites, with priority to any within the existing town boundary, to come forward. We are also looking for what may be needed in the wider area too in the future and if there may be justifiable causes to suggest changes to current boundaries. In space terms during the last 20 years, over 3% of the area has been converted from commercial to residential and we are considering how to recover some of the lost local employment.

Getting the right balance: The priority is for what the town needs for all the purposes listed and not simply to squeeze in more housing everywhere. Tandridge has similarly called for available sites and is doing a review of the same needs across the whole of the District, for its own wider area Local Plan. The work of the Neighbourhood Plan and TDC must be complementary to help create a framework for our area for the future while meeting our local needs.

Rose & Young: Tandridge District Council has obtained funding to develop the case for a Compulsory Purchase Order. The CR3 Forum similarly obtained some small scale funding assistance to help bring forward a CPO and proposals that the community would support. The Rose & Young initiatives will consider the overall needs of the Town Centre too and a Town Design Statement is the outline summary of what will be produced. Its aim will be to help set directions for the future within the Valley Town Centre in particular. 20 to 30 volunteers and people drawn from local organisations, councillors and officers are being identified.

Caterham and CR3 area: The area we live in supports about 10-15% more people than actually live here. This is through people registering from outside CR3 for doctors and schools. The same is true with travel, with more than 30% of travellers choosing to use stations here, while living outside CR3. This adds to the stress on parking. Of course some also shop or add value to our local economy in various ways too. With employment we have seen that almost 150 acres of land has been converted in the last 20 years, from commercial sites to residential, providing homes for about 3,000 people, with another 1,500 or so in the pipeline, on sites approved but not yet built. This will take our local CR3 Population towards 30,000. The overall land supply within CR3 is about 4,000 acres. All this will continue and will therefore help us justify better facilities locally. We are trying to consider all the different needs and pressures and it will be for you to vote at a referendum later this year on whether a good future plan for the area has been created.

For more information visit www.cr3forum.org.uk where over the next few weeks you can get information on all the policies and background data to review and comment on. For queries contact info@cr3forum.org.uk or email Cllr Jenny Gaffney at jenny.gaffney@caterhamvalleypc.org.uk / tel: 01883 340465.
Victim Support is here to help anyone affected by crime. Our volunteers in Surrey help people traumatised by crime to move on with their lives. You can help by supporting victims face-to-face, as a fundraiser or in lots of other ways. We pay your expenses and give you free training. You don't need qualifications or previous experience of this kind of work to volunteer for Victim Support. All you need is the willingness to help and a little time. We welcome volunteers from every walk of life and from every community. For more information contact: Jo Wills on 01273 456151 or email SurreyVolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk

Illegal tobacco, a drag on our communities

Common brands of illegal tobaccos to look out for include Jin Ling, Raquel, Richman, Pect, Camelford, Fest, NZ Gold and Gold Mount which cannot legitimately be bought in the UK. However, if tobacco products do not contain health warnings written in English or display the 'UK DUTY PAID' fiscal mark, they are also illegal. Further information on the campaign including How to spot Fake Fags can be found at www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fakefags

COUNCIL TAX SCAM

Elderly residents are being called by someone claiming to work for Tandridge District Council. They are being offered a reduced council tax band and a refund if they pay a £59 fee. They are then asked for their bank details. TDC never contact residents to ask for bank or other personal details. They always ask residents to call 01883 722000 so they can be sure they are talking to council officers. Please call Consumer Direct 03454 040506, visit www.adviceguide.org.uk, or call Surrey Police on 101 if you have any concerns.

Tree Preservation Orders

The Tandridge District Council Tree Team is reminding residents to make sure any trees on their land are not protected before they start carrying out work, as they may commit a criminal offence if they carry out tree works, or damage a tree which is protected. In the Tandridge district there are over 800 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) covering thousands of trees. A TPO makes it a criminal offence to carry out any work to the tree without the Council’s permission. To find out if a tree is protected go to www.tandridge.gov.uk/localview.asp, the Council’s LocalView mapping service, or contact Customer Services on 01883 722000, e-mail customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk. To make an application to carry out tree works, residents need to complete an application form and submit it to the Council. Felling licences: While a licence to fell trees in gardens is not needed, it is for trees outside gardens. The Forestry Commission’s can be contacted on e-mail southeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or 01483 326200. For more information about TPOs and tree protection the Council’s website www.tandridge.gov.uk/trees.

YOUR CATERHAM VALLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Caterham Valley Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 19.30 in Soper Hall, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, CR3 6HY. Residents may participate for a period of up to, but no longer than 15 minutes, where the Parish Council will hear questions or statements from members of the public. Individuals are allowed to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to speak at any of the meetings.