A Message from the Chairman

Caterham is a great place to live and I was delighted to be re-elected to the Parish Council following the elections in May.

Many people from the Parish, District & County Councils along with local business groups are working very hard to improve the town and the infrastructure in the area to meet the challenges of the new developments that we have had over the last number of years. With more planning applications being approved, we can expect development on the Rose and Young site, Quadrant House, Bronzeoak and other local Brownfield sites.

Caterham businesses are currently going through the process of a Business Improvement District (BID) which, if agreed in a Ballot of all local business, will co-ordinate businesses and improve, just as a small example, the collection of rubbish in the town. We expect this initiative to be very beneficial to the town.

The CR3 Forum Neighbourhood Plan, of which I am one of the two Caterham Valley Parish Steering Committee representatives, has collated the responses from the recent consultation. Following changes to planning rules, a further resident consultation will take place soon.

Finally, with my colleagues Cherie and Yvonne, I was delighted to be invited to attend an afternoon of celebrations and achievements held by the staff and children at Marden Lodge Primary School and Nursery. It was wonderful to speak to the staff and see the enthusiasm of everyone as they promoted the school following a recent, and very positive, Ofsted report.

Cllr Jenny Gaffney

Check in on your Elderly Neighbours

As the weather turns colder may we also just remind you to consider any elderly neighbours you may have. Perhaps an offer to collect that prescription or do some shopping - or just to check in on them from time to time.

Surrey Police advice for a safe and secure home – Register valuable property free of charge immobilise.com.

For further crime prevention advice, go to www.surreypolice.co.uk or contact your local neighbourhood team on 101.

www.caterhamvalleypc.org.uk
CR3 Forum Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Consultation

Caterham Valley, Caterham Hill, Chaldon & Whyteleafe are working together to get a better deal in the CR3 area. The CR3 Forum NP Steering Committee has collated the responses from the recent consultation. Reflecting residents’ views and following further changes to planning rules, a further resident consultation on the revised document will take place soon. Notices will be put in the local papers, social media and the Parish Council website so please look out for this. Hard copies can be viewed at Caterham Valley and Westway libraries.

This is different from the Tandridge area Local Plan which deals with the whole area of Tandridge. Tandridge consists of 94% Greenbelt which means that most of the development takes place in 6% of the area. Caterham and Whyteleafe have had over 60% of development in the last 10 years. While we cannot stop future development, it is important for our area that we have development that is more appropriate in CR3 which complements the town, encourages people to shop, and allows them to work closer to where they live.

The Neighbourhood Plan has considered all the different needs and pressures in the CR3 area and it will be for you to vote at a referendum next year. The referendum question will be on whether you want the Neighbourhood Plan policies to be used in planning decisions. For more information and to comment, visit www.cr3forum.org.uk or contact info@cr3forum.org.uk.

COUNCIL TAX PHONE SCAM

A council tax phone scam continues to operate in our area. Residents are being called by someone claiming to be able to reduce their council tax band and get them a refund if they pay a fee. They are then asked for their bank details.

Tandridge District Council never contacts residents to ask for bank or other personal details. They ask residents to call 01883 722000 so they can be sure they are talking to council officers. If contacted, please call Consumer Direct on 03454 040506 or call Surrey Police on 101 or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Volunteers for Stroke (Aphasia) Project in Tandridge

Stroke affects 150,000 people a year in the UK. Many live with a disability following their stroke. This can include problems with communication (known as Aphasia). People with Aphasia can think clearly but they sometimes have difficulty talking, understanding a conversation, reading, writing or using numbers which can be very isolating and frustrating.

Tandridge Voluntary Service Council is recruiting volunteers for their ‘Conversation Partner’ Aphasia support scheme. Volunteers are trained and then matched to a client with Aphasia in Tandridge District and visit weekly for about an hour to encourage conversation and provide support and companionship, initially for a 6-month period. Especially welcomed are volunteers who have experience of stroke. To find out more please contact Kay Singleton - Tandridge Befriending Scheme Coordinator on 07796 307 286 / email befriending@tvsc.org.uk.

Southern Rail has announced a consultation on the rail services that operate in and out of Caterham. They are inviting comments on the proposed changes to services which have been billed as “the biggest change to timetables in a generation.” The proposals include detail around the new Thameslink crossings and the coupling of trains at Purley and the loss of off peak services between Caterham and London Victoria. It is really important that your voice is heard in this consultation. The details can be found on the Southern Rail website at www.southernrailway.com/your-journey/timetable-consultation.

www.caterhamvalleypc.org.uk
CHALDON ROAD and BOND ROAD RECYCLING CENTRES
Surrey County Council has introduced changes to its 15 community recycling centres.

Chaldon Road will open weekdays 8am-4pm (except for Wednesday) and weekends 9am-4pm.
Bond Road is open weekdays 8am-4pm (except for Monday) and Saturday 9am-4pm. It will still be closed on Sundays.

What will no longer be accepted at the sites?
Bond Road and Chaldon Road will not accept plasterboard, refillable gas bottles, tyres and large amounts of rubble. The closest sites these can be accepted are Epsom or Earlswood.

Charges – Residents will be allowed to dispose of one 25kg bag a day for free. The free daily allowance of chargeable waste is one bag or one item, such as a concrete fence post or ceramic bath, or one sheet of plasterboard per household. Bicycle tyres can be disposed of free of charge. Charges will apply for waste from construction, alterations or repair of your home or garden, such as plasterboard, breeze blocks, bricks, rubble and soil. Waste in bags no bigger than 50cm x 77cm which will be charged at £4 a bag. If the material is loose, a charge of £50 will apply per car load. A charge of £5 will apply for tyres from cars and motorbikes. You can only pay by credit or debit card.

Proof of address – Both sites will be checking users live in Surrey, have a van permit where appropriate and are not using CRCs for business waste. Contact Surrey County Council’s website www.surreycc.gov.uk/recycling or call the waste management team on 03456 009009 or email waste@surreycc.gov.uk.
For more information visit www.sitasurrey.co.uk or contact SITA Surrey on 020 8329 1030 / email surrey@sita.co.uk

Stafford Road Recreation Ground is a great resource for the community, and has been well used by those who live nearby. Last year, due to issues with the protective surface, Tandridge District Council made the difficult decision to remove the play area for small children, leaving the nearest play areas at the top of Tillingdown and Timberhill by the police station. The Parish Council is now working hard to get the play area reinstated. To support this, in September, the Parish Council approved the installation of a CCTV camera to cover the park. The installation of this is currently being pursued. Once this is installed, we can then start the hard work to get the children’s play area reinstated. Keep your eyes peeled on the website where we will keep you updated on the progress.

A further consultation stage for the Tandridge District Local Plan
The Tandridge Local Plan, which has caused much controversy, will go to a second public consultation towards the end of October. The consultation will be extended to 8 weeks to allow for comments over the Christmas and New Year holiday.

A Sites Consultation will set out assessments of the impact of potential sites on landscape, ecology and other important criteria. The consultation will make it clear which sites at this stage, in the Council’s view, should no longer be considered for development. No decisions on which sites could be in the final Local Plan have been taken. Once the consultation is published, the Council will invite residents and other interested groups to submit comments. This means a revision to the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan and the Council is confident this extra step will ensure the best decisions are made for the future of Tandridge. The final agreed Local Plan, due to be published next year, will set out the vision for the district and provide a framework for the future improvement, development and local protection of the area and Green Belt.

No decisions on the plan have been made and will not be until after the final round of consultation. Residents can still get involved and be kept up to date by registering on the consultation portal to receive e-mail updates at http://consult.tandridge.gov.uk/portal/. Send your e-mail address to localplan@tandridge.gov.uk to be added to the updates list or write to Planning Policy, Council Offices, 8 Station Road East, Oxted RH8 0BT or call 01883 722000 with their preferred postal address to be sent updates.

www.caterhamvalleypc.org.uk
New “Singing for the Brain”® group for people with dementia in Oxted

Singing for the Brain, which has been launched by the Alzheimer’s Society, is a new singing group for people living with dementia. The programme promotes communication through singing which can help with articulation, concentration, focus and motivation. Specially trained facilitators deliver a varied programme of vocal, rhythmic and gentle physical exercise and dance, along with songs from different eras and styles. This group is a partnership with Tandridge Trust, Alzheimer’s Society and Surrey County Council’s Members Allocation fund from County Councillor Nick Skellett CBE. Sessions run fortnightly in Oxted on Fridays between 2pm and 3.30pm at Oxted Community Hall, 53, Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9NB and on Mondays in Lingfield from 10.30am to 12.00pm at Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre, High St, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6AB. There is a £3.50 charge per person per session which includes refreshments. Call 01932 855582, email surrey@alzheimers.org.uk or log on to alzheimers.org.uk/localinformation.

Councillor Alun Jones – Parish Councillor’s first months as a Parish Councillor

Parish Councils usually conjure up images of the Vicar of Dibley with conversations about Mrs Cropley’s tripe and pineapple cake, but this is not the case. My first meeting as a Parish Councillor was the annual meeting, and this is where I was able to meet my fellow elected councillors for the first time. It was an opportunity to go through the annual report and the plans for the following year. What I have found is that the Parish Council, which is the first tier of local government, is also the one that is the closest to the people who elect you and their concerns. All sorts of issues come through, whether it is the ongoing parking issues in the town centre, planting of flower beds or planning applications.

I have worked on a number of planning applications with residents, learning from my more experienced colleagues, allowing me to support local residents in expressing their concerns in planning terms with some success. My first success which sounds small, but does fill me with pride every time I drive past it, is the flower bed at the bottom of Church Hill. A resident spoke to me about how untidy it was looking and following conversations with the Clerk and the people tasked with keeping it maintained, I was then able to get it re-planted to a much more attractive display.

The second was a larger planning application, the first major one in which I had been involved. We analysed the application in detail, and the more established Councillors gave support on some of the finer details, culminating in a Council meeting with over 40 people in attendance. This was one of the best attended we have had. Seeing so many people in attendance looking to you for support was daunting, but we listened to their concerns and were able to represent their concerns to Tandridge Council. I have been impressed with what we can deliver, and the way that we do that is through you telling us what is needed, so please let us know. It will help to inform the work that we do in the future.

YOUR CATERHAM VALLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Jenny Gaffney 07813 846683
Cllr. Peter Roberts 01883 344031
Cllr. Cherie Callender 07956 280485
Cllr. Yvonne Gomes 07946 30995
Cllr. Alun Jones 07598 335334
Cllr. Della Simpson-Shipway 07881 912131

Parish Councillors can be contacted by email on firstname.surname@caterhamvalleypc.org.uk

Caterham Valley Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Soper Hall, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, CR3 6HY. The agenda is posted at Marden Lodge School on Croydon Road, Soper Hall at Harestone Valley Road and St John’s School at Markfield Road as well as on the Parish Council website. 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.

CONTACT CATERHAM VALLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS
Via the Parish Clerk – Mrs Maureen Gibbins
Email: clerk@caterhamvalleypc.org.uk / Tel: 07510 226989

Caterham Valley Parish Council wishes all residents a very Happy Christmas and New Year

www.caterhamvalleypc.org.uk