



Speldhurst Parish Council

Working for the whole community

NEWSLETTER

Easy ways to be involved with your Parish



Join us for a walk - Saturday 20th July at 3pm

The last of our parish walks will explore the landscape, history and ecology around Langton Green, on a 3-mile guided walk suitable for all the family. This is a great chance to meet people, particularly if you are new to the area - dogs also welcome. Do dress for the weather and wear walking shoes. We will meet at Langton Green Village Hall car park and finish with a cup of tea. Contact judy.price@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk for more details.

Waste Service charges and fly tipping

KCC has made several changes to waste services this year, with North Farm Household Waste and Recycling Centre now charging for any building waste produced at home, including hardcore, rubble and soil. You may also have heard that your brown bin garden waste collection becomes a chargeable service from 30th September, so remember to sign up before 1st August for 10% off your first year's subscription.

Inevitably, these new charges put our parish at an increased risk of fly tipping, which not only looks untidy but is hazardous to motorists, cyclists, walkers and wildlife too. It is also illegal, so please dispose of your waste responsibly and be vigilant about reporting any fly tipping you see to TWBC.

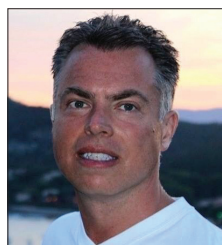
Read more about waste services at <https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/refuse-and-recycling>

Council business

We are happy to report that with the recent co-option of Councillor John Turner and Councillor Benjamin Scarbrough (pictured right) to the Parish Council, all thirteen seats have now been filled.

Both John and Benjamin live in Langton Green, and combine professional expertise and experience with a genuine enthusiasm for helping maintain the thriving parish in which they live. John is a member of the council's Planning, Amenities and Highways Committees, and the Pavilion Management Working Group, while Benjamin is a member of the Planning and Highways Committees, and the Environment Working Group.

Read more about our Councillors via the 'Members' page at www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk



Sign up to Speedwatch

Thanks to all who have already volunteered to man Speedwatch. We look forward to arranging training and re-establishing this service as a way of educating drivers to observe speed limits. If you have spare time and are interested in volunteering, call or email the Clerk – contact details below.

Become a footpaths volunteer

With a vast network of footpaths to maintain, SPC is seeking new recruits to join its task force. Led by Councillor Rupert Milner, this group undertakes vital repairs and maintenance to keep footpaths in good order for residents and visitors. If you would like to help, contact Rupert on 07754533031.

Air traffic update

While the skies around Gatwick Airport were quieter in the winter months, we should brace ourselves for an increase in air traffic as the summer holidays commence. Gatwick continues to make reporting excessive aircraft noise difficult; having withdrawn telephone and e-mail complaints it has now removed the Casper flight-tracking facility. However, complaints can still be made in writing and you can address your letter to Freepost GATWICK AIRPORT FLIGHT PERFORMANCE TEAM (no further address is required). Do also send a copy to your M.P., Greg Clark, so that he is aware of the volume of complaints.

The Government's consultation on the future of air traffic (Aviation 2050) closed in late June and the Parish Council submitted a response to the relevant parts of that consultation.

To view a full version of this article, see www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk under 'News'.

Website

www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

We are now updating the SPC website with regular news alerts such as local road closures, changes to waste collection services, forthcoming meetings, and any other relevant information we receive. With notifications that alert you to the latest planning applications in your neighbourhood now available too, it is well worth signing up to receive news updates from us. Visit our homepage to find out how to subscribe.

While we will continue to send our newsletter by post on request, this edition is also available to view online. So why not take a tea break and explore our site?

Langton Green Recreation Ground drainage project



A wonderful open space for the whole community, Langton Green rec. is also home to a successful youth football club run by Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA). However, teams are often unable to use their home ground, as compressed clay and uneven surfaces cause waterlogged pitches from November - March.

In 2018, LGCSA started exploring drainage and renovation solutions to present to SPC and TWBC, and applied to the Football Foundation for funding. Several options were considered, before it was decided that the best course of action would be to landscape the grounds to create subtle gradients, encouraging rainwater to run off pitches into shallow "swales" or ditches with slight banks beyond. This option was chosen for affordability, success at other sites, and the fact that the finished project would look the same as before. Wheelchairs and pushchairs would still enjoy full access, and a new cricket wicket would be installed, enabling LGCSA to offer youth cricket in the summer.

Planning permission went through the usual processes and checks before being granted by TWBC in March 2019. At the end of May, the Football Foundation confirmed funding. This

presented a narrow window of opportunity to complete the project (funding must be taken up within 6 months, while the earthworks must be finished in time to sow and grow new grass before autumn).

The Football Foundation have committed just over £95,000, SPC has contributed a grant of £12,500, and LGCSA will provide the balance of approximately £57,500. LGCSA received a further grant of £6,000 towards implementing development plans for girls' football, an important growth area.

The appointed contractors, Agrifactors, come highly recommended, having completed similar projects including Southborough Hub for TWBC, and Claremont School. A family firm based near Heathfield, Agrifactors are also favoured by the Football Foundation's approved agronomist expert adviser. See www.agrifactors.co.uk for more information.

Inevitably, parishioners will experience disruption as work is carried out, and LGCSA ask you to bear with them, particularly as their aim is to benefit the community. To view a schedule of works, please read the full version of this article at www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk under 'News'.

By November, LGCSA hope to have an improved recreation ground that supports the sporting activities of local children. SPC is grateful to LGCSA for raising funds and steering this project, to Langton Green Cricket Club for their patience during a disrupted season, and to all rec. users for their continued understanding. For further updates, visit <https://langtongreencsa.org.uk/>

Diary date

AUTUMN OPEN MEETING

This meeting will be held on Monday 14th October at Speldhurst Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend from 7.30pm when drinks will

be served. The meeting will begin at 8pm and an agenda will be available to view in advance via the SPC website and Parish noticeboards. Please do take this opportunity to get to know your Parish Council.

FOR REGULAR UPDATES ON ALL OUR ACTIVITIES GO TO OUR WEB SITE
www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

Speldhurst Parish Council

Neil Barrington-Johnson
(Chairman)
Rupert Milner
(Vice Chairman)
Richard Ellery

Katrina Lyle
David Pate
Joy Podbury
Judy Price
Alan Round

Alan Rowe
Benjamin Scarbrough
Julia Soyke
John Turner
Millie Woodliffe

This newsletter will be available, as will future issues, on the Parish Council web site.

All enquiries to the Parish Clerk;
Chris May on (01892) 862927 or at
clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk