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Churt Parish Council Newsletter February 2025

We had an interesting and very informative CPC meeting in February and I would like to share some of the highlights.

Presentation from Ben Habgood from Surrey Wildlife Trust

We were very grateful that Ben gave up his evening to take us through the vision of Surrey's Heathland Connections, part of the Surrey Wildlife Trust - which seeks to extend, protect and connect habitats for wildlife across the county. Ben had, following a site inspection with Cllrs Johnson and Spence, assessed the current status/foilage make up of "Wicket Wood" (the CPC's land near Pond Lane that was many years ago a cricket ground but now is an area for community recreation). He set out a solution that would maximise the opportunities for habitats for all types of wildlife. While the full plan would perhaps be prohibitively expensive, the Environment Committee of CPC will be submitting a grant to facilitate the creation of a small area of heathland.

Government proposals to introduce new unitary authorities.

I included in my January letter an outline of the latest proposals regarding the new unitary authorities. We learned from our Surrey County Councillor, David Harmer, and our Waverley Local Councillor, David Munro, that the views of affected parties are being sought, that the local elections in May have definitely been deferred and that current plans comprise splitting Surrey into either 2 or 3 unitary authorities. Naturally the implications for social care, planning, roads etc are significant so we cannot expect to see full implementation for a few years yet.

Plans for the refurbishment of the Pavilion

Oli Plaistow and Jan Macavoy from the Churt & Hindhead Funding Committee shared the latest plans for the Pavilion and we discussed how best to seek the views of the Churt residents - there will be plenty of opportunity to consider the plans, with information available on village social media, the shop, the pub, the notice board, the Village Hall and the Church. A drop in session at the Pavilion is also planned.

Annual Assembly

The Churt Annual Assembly will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on 16th April 2025. As well as the Annual Parish Council Review, reports from Surrey and Waverley Councillors and speakers from village organisations, the CPC will be reporting back on the outcome of the "Churt 2035" strategy review to which so many of you have contributed.

And in other news - Ukraine

On a slightly different note, Mike and I attended a very moving service to mark the 3rd anniversary of the Russian invasion, as well as celebrating the friendships and connections that have been made. It made us think again how the Churt community was so enriched by our Ukrainian visitors and the opportunities it gave many of us to collaborate (and have some fun!)

With very best wishes

Sally Shorthose, Chair

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The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place in the Pavilion on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend, but it is always helpful to know in advance if a presentation is to be made.