

# Mickleham Parish Council

## Annual Report 2023-2024



It seems there is no time at all since I was writing this report for last year's Annual Meeting, but a lot has happened since then, not least the Coronation of HRH King Charles III. The occasion was marked by a very successful Village Tea Party, which brought together over 120 members of the community of Mickleham and Westhumble.

Judy Kinloch, one of our past Councillors and a stalwart member of our community died in November and a tree in her memory has recently been planted at the front of the churchyard to acknowledge all she gave to the community over very many years.

The Parish Council has welcomed Gill Wilson as a new Councillor during the past year and she already plays an active part in the maintenance of the facilities on the Recreation Ground. These facilities have been improved thanks to the installation of Dog Litter Bag Dispensers and, most recently, the addition of a new sturdy picnic bench to mark the occasion of the King's Coronation.

As always, the Playground facilities are in good order thanks to the efforts of its two trustees, Sarah Parfitt and Carolyn Moore. They and their enthusiastic group of helpers keep the equipment and the surrounding area safe and well maintained. We are very fortunate to have such a first-class area for children.

Traffic on the Old London Road remains a constant problem, exacerbated by those using the road as a means of overriding the speed cameras on the A24. However, we are most grateful to Angela Ireland and her Community Speed Watch team who continue to monitor the traffic and report to the Police on those who exceed the speed limit. The 20-mph speed limit outside Box Hill School has yet to be approved although it is agreed in principle by SCC Highways.

Whilst talking of the A24, the two village signs were splendidly restored by Tim Garbutt and his team in time for the Coronation and have since been much admired. Our sincere thanks to them for their voluntary help.

Norbury Park has been a subject of much discussion, with all the changes brought about as its management was transferred back to Surrey County Council from Surrey Wildlife Trust. Most recently Ash Die Back has figured large in the conversation, as the timing of felling was delayed from Autumn 2023.

There have also been issues for some tenants living in Surrey County Council properties in Norbury Park, as the County Council has passed responsibility for them to Halsey Garton, a quasi-independent property company, charged with the sale of Council properties. Tenancy agreements have been changed, providing no security for those who hold such agreements. Efforts have been made by the Parish Council to support these tenants, with some limited success, thanks in particular to the work of Councillor Will Dennis.

Amongst other issues that have appeared on Council agendas are the on-going issue of the Local Plan and the frustration that this has caused locally. Recently support has been given to a Rights of Way enforcement bill.

As always, we are grateful for the support of Councilor Hazel Watson and our new Mole Valley District Councillors Leah Mursaleen-Plank, Abhiram Magesh and Chris Budleigh.

In conclusion I would like to thank all our Councillors for their support and commitment, not least David Ottridge who has served the Council remarkably efficiently as its Responsible Finance Officer for a number of years. Unfortunately, he will be resigning due to ill health. He will be greatly missed.

**David Ireland**  
Chair - Mickleham Parish Council