

## **ASH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2020 - 2021**

The Parish Council is not the planning authority however, under the Local Government Act 1972 it is able to make observations to the local planning authority, Guildford Borough Council (GBC), on applications within the Parish.

The Planning Committee meets every fortnight, except in August to consider and make comments on all planning applications, which can include householder applications such as extensions to domestic dwellings, new developments and tree surgery applications. The Committee also considers and makes comments, when consulted, on neighbouring authority applications, usually Rushmoor Borough Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. This year, most of the committee meetings have been held remotely via MS Teams due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

As the National Government has put house building as one of its top priorities, to promote economic growth throughout the Country, urban land in Ash is still vulnerable to new build. This coupled with the fact, that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has removed the protective status that the Countryside Beyond the Green belt afforded the open countryside and fields around Ash, in particular the hamlet of Ash Green. This has meant there are many prospective developers looking to build in the Parish. The Council rigorously and frequently objects to the prospect of Ash being concreted over and will continue to do so.

Guildford Borough Council's (GBC) new Local Plan has provided some level of protection from inappropriate development in the Parish, however we are still waiting for GBC to update the Special Planning Documents (SPD) which will add the detail to the policy in the Local Plan. SPDs can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites or on issues, such as sustainable design and construction, climate change, affordable housing and vehicle parking standards.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Councillors who attend planning committee meetings for their valuable input and work behind the scenes. They often have to read large documents and then make comments on a wide range of subjects including various consultations from Surrey County Council, Hampshire County Council, Guildford Borough Council and Rushmoor Borough Council. I would also like to thank the Officers who clerk the committee and who have to make sense of our deliberations.

Councillor Mrs Marsha J Moseley C.C.  
Chairman of the Planning Committee