

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2024-2025

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 virtually, via MS Teams every 4 weeks to consider and make comments on all planning applications within the Parish. These 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.

With the change of priorities for the new government since the last full year, it is imperative that a local voice, one that considers and raises concerns over the planning process and applications, is effective.

The Guildford Borough Council Local Plan has been the foundation for many planning approvals in our local area. This continues to be at times in contention to the local view of what amount of development will be a positive to our local area, particularly Ash Green.

With the GBC Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework in place, Ash Parish Council is in the process of formulating its own plan. This plan will consult with local residents, businesses, neighbouring authorities and both GBC and Surrey County Council to form a plan across planning and other aspects that is localised on our Parish. This work has started and will continue into the next year. It is envisaged that this agreed plan will add more weight to the local voice in decisions made by GBC and other planning authorities.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Councillors who attend planning committee meetings and volunteer to review each application. My thanks also go to the council officers who support the committee inside and outside of our meetings, ensuring we adhere by the rules and guidelines as necessary.

Councillor Carl Cookson
Chairman of the Planning Committee