

ASH PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Good evening and thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting.

It has, despite my enforced absence through illness, been a privilege to serve as Chairman of Ash Parish Council over the past year. At this point I'd like to thank Councillor Carla Morson for standing in for me whilst I was away.

I'm pleased to report on a productive period for the Council and the community.

Neighbourhood Plan – Significant Progress

The highlight of the year has been the exceptional progress on the Ash Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood planning is a rigorous statutory process, requiring evidence gathering, public consultation, policy drafting, and independent examination. Many councils take years to reach submission — we have advanced at remarkable speed.

Key milestones include:

- Completion of the evidence base on housing, infrastructure, and green spaces.
- Extensive resident and stakeholder engagement.
- Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation Monday 16 June until Thursday 31 July 2025.
- Finalisation and submission under Regulation 15 to Guildford Borough Council 8 December 2025.

The Plan ensures that future development in Ash is well designed, infrastructure-supported, environmentally sensitive, and aligned with the community's long-term vision. Its progress reflects the dedication of councillors, the Steering Group led by Councillor Michael Moriarty, our professional advisers, and the many residents who have contributed.

Once examined and approved by referendum, the Plan will carry full statutory weight, putting Ash in a stronger position to shape its own future.

Planning and Community Work

Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan, councillors have continued to review planning applications, representing residents' views on traffic, design, and environmental impact.

A major highlight this year was the opening of the new police hub in Ash, providing a visible base for Surrey Police and improving local engagement and public safety.

The Council has also maintained parish facilities, supported local events, and collaborated with other local authorities and partner agencies on highways, community safety, and environmental matters. Balancing these responsibilities with Neighbourhood Plan delivery has required focus and commitment.

Finance and Governance

We continue to manage council finances prudently, ensuring best value for residents while maintaining services and facilities. Governance and accountability remain strong, supported by the dedication of our RFO, Clerk and officers.

Challenges and Outlook

We face ongoing pressures from development, infrastructure needs, and rising service expectations. Despite these, the Council has maintained momentum, ensuring Ash remains a well-managed and vibrant parish.

The coming year will focus on:

- Completing the Neighbourhood Plan through examination and referendum.
- Local Government Reorganisation.
- Understanding the flood risk in Ash and mitigating against potential issues.
- Maintaining and enhancing parish facilities.
- Strengthening community engagement and communication.
- Protecting the character and environment of Ash.

Acknowledgements

I thank:

- Fellow councillors for their commitment.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- Our Clerk, RFO and staff for their professionalism.
- Borough, County colleagues and partner agencies for their support.
- Residents who have participated in consultations and helped shape our community.

The progress of this year demonstrates what can be achieved with focus, collaboration, and clear purpose.

Councillor Fiona White
Chair of Ash Parish Council

**Ash Parish Council
Income Expenditure**

A/c Code		Account Name	2024-2025		2025-2026 **	
101	Cemetery	Income	£	85,097	£	70,555
		Expenditure	-£	28,863	-£	21,443
201	Lighting	Income	£	5,121	£	23,534
		Expenditure	-£	35,212	-£	41,286
301	Central Services	Income	£	50,719	£	5,299
		Expenditure	-£	81,338	-£	24,145
302	Allotments	Income	£	3,823	£	3,698
		Expenditure	-£	4,138	-£	1,311
303	Shawfield Recreation Ground	Income	£	-	£	3,521
		Expenditure	£	-	£	-
304	Ash Common Recreation Ground	Income	£	-	£	250
		Expenditure	-£	60	£	-
305	Charity - Carrington	Income	£	11,530	£	250
		Expenditure	-£	11,530	-£	2,522
306	Charity - Harpers	Income	£	26,897	£	5,611
		Expenditure	-£	26,897	-£	12,132
307	Parks/Open Spaces	Income	£	43,946	£	9,130
		Expenditure	-£	178,149	-£	28,922
308	Public Toilets	Income	£	-	£	-
		Expenditure	-£	4,665	-£	2,382
309	Finance	Income	£	705,990	£	706,157
		Expenditure	-£	398	-£	420
310	Ash Centre	Income	£	58,156	£	61,847
		Expenditure	-£	80,725	-£	94,056
401	Administration	Income	£	12,695	£	7,389
		Expenditure	-£	386,851	-£	358,292
402	Local Democracy	Income	£	900	£	675
		Expenditure	-£	1,478	-£	4,397
501	Community Events	Income	£	3,111	£	2,869
		Expenditure	-£	10,168	-£	5,691
802	Capital Projects-CG	Income	£	23,240	£	-
		Expenditure	-£	39,440	£	-
803	S106 Harpers Changing Rooms	Income	£	-	£	-
		Expenditure	-£	1,200	£	-
804	Neighbourhood Planning	Income	£	13,543	£	-
		Expenditure	-£	13,658	-£	2,660
805	S106 Harpers Rec Improvements	Income	£	-	£	187,809
		Expenditure	£	-	-£	66,172
	Total Income		£	1,031,224	£	1,276,404
	Total Expenditure		-£	889,912	-£	729,344
	Ear Mark Reserves					
	Opening Balances		£	856,971	£	1,025,178
	Spent		-£	264,457	-£	74,115
	Transferred from General Reserves		£	432,665	£	10,000
	Closing Balance		£	1,025,178	£	961,064
	EMR's Spent on (Included in the Expenditure amounts above)					
	2024-2025			2025-2026		
	Tree Works within the Parish			New Windows Ash Center		
	Asset Renewals - Fires Doors at Ash Centre			Street Light Column Repairs		
	Harpers Scout Hut Repairs			CCTV		
	Play Ground Equipment Shawfields and Ash Rec			Elections		
	Electric Vehicle and Ride on Mower			Staff Training		

** 2024-2025 is for 10 Months Only