

ASH PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2025-2026

The Parish Council is not the planning authority, however, under the Local Government Act 1972 it can 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.

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.

Over the past year, our own local plan has been presented and is now in consultation phase. This proposal will become an important part of our guidance going forward, adding more weight to the local voice in decisions made by GBC and other planning authorities.

With significant developments in and bordering our parish in planning currently, we as a committee continue to work hard to understand the best outcome for our parish to reduce the impact of the inevitable change to our distinct villages and neighbourhoods.

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 our meetings, ensuring we adhere by the rules and guidelines as necessary.

Councillor Carl Cookson
Chair of the Planning Committee