



Ash Matters

The Ash Parish Council Newsletter

Issue Two 2026

New Ash Green Village Sign



A new village welcome sign has been installed in Ash Green following a project led and delivered by Ash Parish Council (APC). The sign is located at the crossroads of Ash Green Lane East and White Lane, beside the Parish Council noticeboard, and provides a distinctive new landmark for residents

and visitors entering the village.

Ash Parish Council secured Section 106 developer contributions, funding provided by developers to support community improvements, and oversaw the planning process, administration and installation of the project.

Planning documents submitted by APC described the sign as more than a simple village marker, highlighting its role in reinforcing community identity and creating a stronger sense of place. The Parish Council managed the necessary approvals and delivery process to ensure the project could be successfully brought forward.

The sign was produced by specialist metalwork company Black Forge Art and features "Ash Green" lettering mounted on a substantial oak post. Built using durable materials and protective finishes, it has been designed to provide an attractive and long-lasting feature within the village.

Situated alongside an existing bench and community noticeboard, the sign complements a well-



used public space and enhances the local streetscape.

The project originated from a suggestion made by the Ash Green Residents' Association (AGRA). Ash Parish Council subsequently took responsibility for securing funding, obtaining the necessary consents and managing the scheme through to completion.

The result is a lasting addition to Ash Green that celebrates the village's identity and provides a welcoming focal point for years to come.

New Inclusive Playground Opened at Harpers Recreation Ground

A new inclusive playground for toddlers has opened at Harpers Recreation Ground as part of Ash Parish Council's ongoing programme of improvements to the site.

The £130,000 project was funded through Section 106 developer contributions, which are used to support local infrastructure

and community facilities. Designed with accessibility in mind, the playground includes modern equipment suitable for children of all abilities, providing opportunities for play, exercise and social interaction.

The playground complements a series of recent improvements at Harpers Recreation Ground, including resurfacing the car park, constructing a new path linking the car park to the play area, creating a safer route to the A323 Guildford Road, and carrying out drainage works to improve year-round usability. The new facility reflects the Council's commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive community spaces for local families to enjoy.



Poisonous Plant Warning for Ash

Waterways

As autumn turns to winter and vegetation begins to die back, residents walking along the Basingstoke Canal, local lakes, rivers and streams should remain aware of hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), one of the most poisonous native plants found in the UK.

While the plant's distinctive white flower heads disappear by late summer, it can still often be identified in November by its thick hollow stems, divided bright



green leaves and its preference for wet ground along waterways, ditches and pond edges. Dead or decaying stems may also remain visible through the winter months.

Hemlock water-dropwort is frequently confused with harmless members of the carrot and parsley family. However, all parts of the plant are highly toxic, especially the roots, which contain potent poisons capable of causing serious illness or death if eaten. Dogs can also be at risk if they dig up or chew exposed roots.



Residents are advised not to touch or pick any plant they suspect may be hemlock water-dropwort, and to keep children and pets away. If you think you have found the plant on public land, report it to the relevant landowner or authority, such as Surrey County Council, the Basingstoke Canal Authority, or the local council responsible for the site.

When enjoying Ash's waterways this autumn, admire wild plants from a distance and leave identification to the experts if there is any doubt.

Ash Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan, created by Ash Parish Council, will allow residents to shape the future of Ash, focusing on things like housing, green spaces, and design standards for new developments. For more information visit www.ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/anp.

Ash Villages Food Parcels Project and Community Fridge

This project continues to provide vital support to residents in need through its Food Parcels, Hygiene Bank, Baby Bank and Community Fridge. The Community Fridge is located at The Chapel, Wharf Road, GU12 5AY, and is open to everyone. Working with local supermarkets, the project rescues short shelf-life items such as bread, fruit and salad, making them freely available to residents while reducing food waste.

Residents wishing to donate tins and other long-life food items can do so via collection points at the Co-op on Wharf Road, Ash Manor School, The Chapel and St Mary's Church. These donations play an important role in supporting local families and individuals.

Financial donations are also welcome and help the team purchase essential food supplies when required. Residents can donate online and view the project's Amazon Wish List by visiting the "**How to Donate**" section of the website for further information.

For foodbank referrals or further information, please contact the Ash Villages Food Parcels Project directly on ☎ 07762 136542. More information can also be found online: ash-vale.org.uk/foodparcels-2.

Remembrance Service & Parade

On Sunday **8th November 2026**, we invite our whole community to attend the Remembrance service, the parade will leave from the Ash Parish Centre and proceed to the War Memorial on Ash Hill Road. Each year, members of the public congregate in the area at the entrance to the Ash Hill Road War Memorial for the Service of Remembrance. After the parade returns to the Ash Centre car park, refreshments will be available inside the Ash Centre.

Ash Hill Road will be closed from 9.30am until 12.30pm to allow residents to safely gather on the road and pavements.



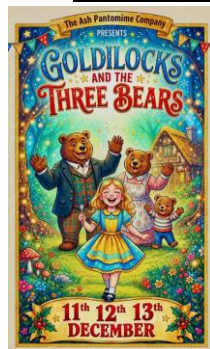
Ash Christmas Fantasia

On **Saturday 28th November 2026**, Ash will start its countdown to Christmas. In the Ash Centre, local charities, organisations, and businesses will fill the hall with stalls, games, treats and gifts to buy. The Christmas Market opens at 1pm and is free entry. The fee to stall holders will be donated to the Council's chosen charity of the year, the Ashes Good Neighbours. **At 4.30pm**, after the close of the Christmas market, residents are invited to gather around the Christmas Tree and sing carols accompanied by the Ash Vale Ensemble. **Father Christmas** has been invited to switch on the Christmas tree lights for the village. Please note that Ash Wharf Road will be closed between 4pm and 6pm for this event. Road closure notices will be displayed in advance. The tree has been donated to Ash



Parish by County Councillor Carla Morson, for Ash Division, who has sponsored this project by purchasing the Christmas Tree using her Members' Community Allocation Funding' member's allowance.

Christmas Panto (Goldilocks and the Three Bears) 11th-13th December



The Ash Pantomime Company returns to the Victoria Hall this December with Goldilocks and the Three Bears, a fun-filled festive pantomime for all the family. Performances will take place on 11, 12 and 13 December 2026 at the Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road. Expect plenty of laughter, music and audience participation. For tickets, more information about the company and how to get involved visit tapc.org.uk ☎ 07554 010595.

Ash Village Fete 2026 - A Wonderful Day to Remember

Ash Village Fete 2026 brought residents together on **Saturday 20th June** for a lively and well-supported community celebration. From start to finish, the event was a tremendous success, with a steady stream of visitors helping to create a warm, cheerful atmosphere throughout the day.



(Photo Left: Surrey Dance Works. Photo Right: Ash Manor)

Visitors arrived steadily throughout the day, adding to the vibrant atmosphere across the fete. The weather was kind, staying dry with comfortable temperatures, which made it ideal for families, stallholders, entertainers and volunteers to enjoy everything on offer.

The Council was also pleased to welcome Cllr Jane Tyson, Mayor of Guildford, and thanks her sincerely for attending and supporting the event. The day was made possible by generous support from across the community. Oasis Electrical helped to dress the venue by hanging bunting around the car park, giving the fete a colourful and welcoming look. Frederick R Miller provided a 12-tonne curtain-sided lorry, which served as an excellent stage for the day's performers. The Council is also grateful to Sue Randall, Maurice Randall, Peter Kimber, Paula Hunt, Cllr David Shaw and

Helen Shaw for their invaluable time and effort, and to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK for its support and contribution.

Entertainment during the day was provided by Surrey Dance Works, Ash Manor School, Mackenzie Mayne with fun rides and inflatables, and Haaris Sings.



(Photo Left: Cllr Michael Moriarty - Chair APC, Cllr Jane Tyson - Mayor of Guildford, Cllr John Tonks, Vice Chair APC.)

(Photo Right: Section of Stalls located on Ash Recreation Ground)

Events Chair, Cllr John Tonks: *Now that the Village Fete has taken place, I wanted to take a moment to say a sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.*

Events like this do not happen by accident. They are the result of a huge amount of effort, planning and goodwill from so many people across our community. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our staff, volunteers and organisers who worked so hard behind the scenes and on the day itself. Your dedication, energy and enthusiasm were clear to see, and it is very much appreciated. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended, supported, and contributed to making the Ash Village Fete such a memorable occasion. We look forward to welcoming you all again next year!

The Ashes Good Neighbours Scheme Nominated Charity



The Ash Parish Council is proud to support the Ashes Good Neighbours Scheme as our charity of the year! Funds raised from our events will help this scheme provide vital support to elderly and vulnerable residents in Ash, Ash Vale, and Ash Green - including transport, shopping assistance, and friendly visits.

All volunteers who have face-to-face contact with clients have undertaken a DBS check, ensuring the highest standards of safety and care. **If the scheme would be of benefit to you or someone you know, please call ☎ 07935 515221.** Anyone interested in volunteering is warmly welcomed and can make contact via office.ashesgn@gmail.com.



Could You Help Shape The Future of Ash Parish?

Local elections for Ash Parish Council are due to be held in May 2027, and with new ward arrangements now in place, this is an excellent opportunity for residents to consider playing a more active role in their community. The parish will be represented by four wards: Ash Vale, Ash Wharf Ash South West and Ash South.

Parish Councillors help make decisions on a wide range of local issues, from parks and community facilities to environmental improvements, events, and representing residents' views. You do not need any previous experience to become a councillor. What matters most is an interest in your community and a willingness to make a positive difference.

If you have ever wondered what the Parish Council does, or whether becoming a councillor might be something for you, why not come along and see for yourself?

Ash Parish Council holds public meetings in person once a month, giving residents the opportunity to observe how local decisions are made, hear about current projects, and meet the councillors who represent their community. It's an informal way to learn more about the role and ask questions without any commitment. Whether you are considering standing for election yourself or simply want to better understand

how the council works, you will be warmly welcomed.

For details of upcoming meetings please visit the Ash Parish Council website  ashpcsurrey.gov.uk or visit our notice boards through the parish.

Ash Ranges Natural Flood Management

Surrey County Council has made significant progress with its Natural Flood Management (NFM) project on Ash Ranges. NFM works with nature to reduce flood risk by slowing, storing and filtering water across the landscape, helping to reduce pressure on rivers and drainage systems during periods of heavy rainfall.



During this summer contractors completed earthworks to create shallow storage areas and roughened ground designed to capture and slow surface water flows at key locations. Despite challenging conditions caused by drought and dust, the works were successfully delivered.

Further improvements are planned for 2026 include installing cross-drains to connect some of the new features and creating a number of "leaky dams" in the southern part of the ranges. Monitoring of water flows and soil moisture continues, and the project team looks forward to seeing how these measures help reduce flood risk and improve resilience across the local area.

Ash Centre Hall & Kitchen Hire

The Council offers competitively priced, fully air-conditioned facilities for commercial events, community activities, social functions and sporting events. With a choice of halls and meeting rooms suitable for small groups of up to 40 people through to large events of up to 250 people, the Centre provides a flexible and welcoming venue for a wide range of occasions. Convenient parking and easy access for disabled visitors ensure a comfortable experience for all guests. As part of every booking, our Centre staff will prepare the room layout to your requirements, including the positioning of tables and chairs, helping to make event planning as straightforward as possible. A member of the Centre team remains on-site throughout your booking to provide assistance and resolve any issues. For more information visit  ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/ash-centre, or contact us via bookings@ashpcsurrey.gov.uk.



Ash Parish Council Meeting Dates

The Council meets face to face on the **2nd Monday** of each month, except in August, for its full Council meetings. The Planning Committee and the Amenities, Finance & Administration (AFA) Committee usually meet on the 4th Monday of every month. Please visit the Ash Parish Council website  ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/meetings.

Other Diary Dates For 2026

Remembrance Sunday (8th Nov)
Ash Fantasia (28th Nov)

Information of useful numbers and contacts are available on the  ashpcsurrey.gov.uk/directory

For Emergencies **999**

Police Non-emergencies **101**

NHS Non-emergencies **111**

Power Cut **105**

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