



The Village News

Old Windsor Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 17

Dec 2016

**Please join us at the
Old Windsor Parish Council Christmas Fayre
Dec 11th 4-6pm**

Old Windsor Christmas Fayre

4pm - 6pm

Sunday 11th December 2016

*Outside the shops in the
St Luke's Road Shopping Area*

- ★ St. Peter's School Choir ★
- ★ Santa's Grotto ★ Kiddies' ride ★
- ★ Brass Band ★ Stalls ★
- ★ Street Entertainer ★

Fun for all!

Supported by the Old Windsor Club



Challenging times ahead for the Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall was gifted to the village and opened in 1961 as a “*village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Old Windsor without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.*”

Some 55 years later the Hall is still open but with only 1 in 5 visits to the Hall coming from village residents it could be argued that the mission to improve the conditions of life in the village has diminished considerably. The potential longevity of the Hall has been equally diminished as insufficient consideration was given to financing the replacement of items that wear out. It is simply not possible to get grant funding for regular maintenance and so adequate money should have been put aside each year to cover these costs.

In April 2015 the committee embarked on an ambitious program to turn the Hall around. This program is divided into three main areas; the first is to ensure that the fundamental infrastructure of the Hall is fit-for-purpose and so new boilers and a fire alarm system have been installed, parts of the Hall have been re-wired along with a raft of other changes to ensure the Hall is compliant with applicable legislation. The second is to make the Hall more accessible and so an online booking system was installed along with a keypad door entry system and this summer the main Hall was redecorated. There have also been countless other improvements all designed to benefit the hirer, like the provision of free Wi-Fi. The third is to overhaul the financial management of the Hall and so supplier contracts have and are being re-negotiated to reduce costs and our hire fees have and are been changed to increase income.

Decisions on where and when to spend our meagre resources are an almost impossible challenge – there is a massive difference between the amount we have available and the amount we need to spend and so expenditure is confined to the critically essential items only.

However, as time passes, more and more items are finding themselves on the critical list leading to some very stark choices. The floor has been used beyond a reasonably acceptable lifespan by at least 5 years and so we now face a future that will include breakage repairs as opposed to just surface damage repairs. It is a condition of our insurance that the flat roofs are ‘adequately maintained’ and although we are currently maintaining them, the previous lack of maintenance has left a number of areas rotten and very weak so would any damage be covered by the insurance? Whist we take what precautions we can to prevent unwelcome guests from holding impromptu picnics on the roof, we certainly don’t want to contemplate the aftermath of one of them falling through!

Our financial analysis predicts that income will generate sufficient funds to replace either the floor or the flat roofs by August 2017, but which do we replace given that we won’t have sufficient funds to do the other for at least 7-10 years? And that doesn’t adequately take account of any other unexpected critical expenditure that may need to be made during that time.

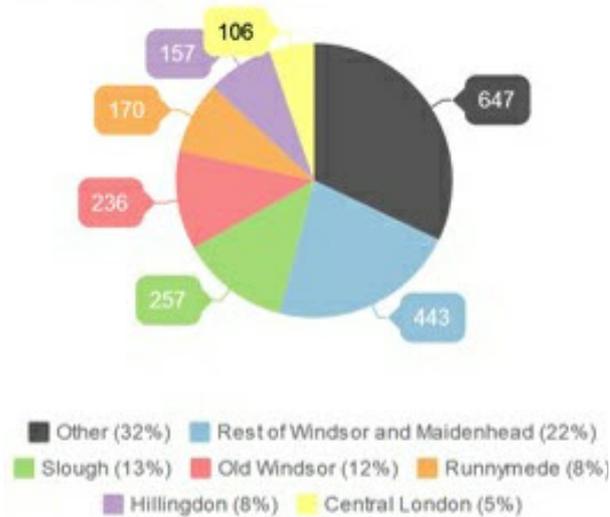
Grant funding is possible where we can demonstrate an increased benefit to the local community. For example to get a grant for a sprung dance floor, we would need to demonstrate that there is a demand for an increased number of dance classes and that we have sufficient free time available to cater for this demand. A quick glance at our calendar shows that this would require agreement from existing hirers to find an alternate venue for their activities.

Although the committee will continue working hard to keep the Memorial Hall viable if you feel you could help with funding ideas such as corporate sponsorship opportunities or fundraising events, please don not hesitate to get in touch.

Traffic and Parking in Old Windsor

Travel to Work

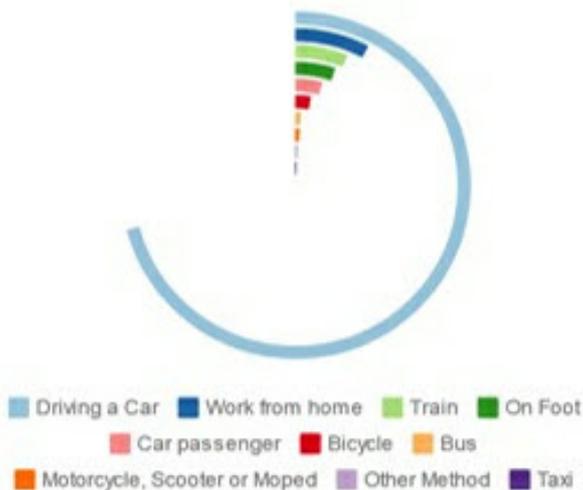
Workplace Destination



It was Friday night when my wife called. It was nothing urgent, she was just calling from her office to let me know she was about to drive home. Two hours later, she was frazzled! Her commute to work is only 40 minutes long, so what happened? Was there an accident? Were cows crossing from one pasture to another? No, the road along Runnymede had been backed up due to what else? Volume! The amount of cars in the area is staggering! Let's face it: traffic and parking in Old Windsor has become a big problem.

In order to understand the problem as it pertains to our village, I had a chat with our Community Warden at the Jubilee Hub to talk about what his observations were. "Parking is becoming a greater problem," he said "There is an increase in demand." More and more households commonly have multiple cars due to many of the local residents relying on them to commute to work. He has also observed that some residents have learned to adapt, some seem to voluntarily park on only one side of the street. This helps make efficient use of valuable space and helps the flow of traffic as well as a clear view of on-coming traffic in case one needs to pull-in.

Method of Travel to Work



Although common courtesy is the easiest and quickest short term solution to parking, the same solution can be applied to traffic. Problems at the junction at Straight Road and Church Road and at the semi-pedestrian shopping area could be safer if motorists were more aware of other users. The bend at St. Luke's Road and St Peters Road, as well as the speed of some cars travelling along Burfield Road, could be less challenging if people were to slow down. Residents have asked for a 20 mph speed restriction to be introduced along St Lukes Road and, after consultation with the community RBWM, is in the process of rolling that out. Issues at major junctions have, on numerous occasions been raised with RBWM and solutions that do not impede the flow of traffic are being sought. In addition all of the major road networks in the borough will be examined as part the infrastructure examination required for the borough Local Plan.

Average Cars per Household



The solution to Old Windsor's problems with traffic and parking will not be easily solved, however moving forward, we must as a village become more courteous to one another in these situations, especially by slowing down as we pass through problem areas in the village, even before speed signs are put up.

Cllr. Chris Beale

Around and about the village

Planting and pruning

All the winter bedding has been planted in and around the village and the baskets removed for the winter.

A survey of the trees on Newton Green has been carried out with all the trees receiving a clean bill of health. A couple of limbs require trimming and that will be done in due course.

A survey will soon be carried out on the trees in the Parish Church cemetery.

Local History Project

We have engaged a 3rd year history student from the University of London, Royal Holloway to catalogue and archive the writings, photographs and documents of the late village historian Margaret Gillson. Margaret was well known for her book on the history of many of the buildings in Old Windsor, her involvement with the Parish Church and many other village organisations. She was a member of the Windsor History Group and contributed regularly to their magazine, Windlesora.

Our aim is to share as much as possible of the images and information collected by Margaret by producing a website accessible to the whole community.

We have been very fortunate in that Dr. Clare Rider, head archivist at St. Georges Chapel has agreed to supervise the project.

Staying safe

As the result of a spate of uninvited maintenance cold callers the parish council have produced some 'NO COLD CALLERS' front door stickers. If you would like one just call into the Hub and pick it up.

Winter is here and the Parish Flood Team are prepared and equipped, ready to respond to any local wet weather events.

Gym and Play Equipment

We're always on the lookout for new pieces of play equipment for the recreation ground so please let us know if you've seen anything that might be suitable.

Repairs and improvements

Robin Willis Way at the junction with St Lukes Road was resurfaced and the potholes patched.

A potentially dangerous stretch of the footpath opposite the Harvester was repaired. This was carried out in conjunction with RBWM who have agreed to fund the work.

New signage has been installed around the rec and at the entrance to Crimp Hill Cemetery.

Old Windsor Allotments

If you've ever thought about growing your own fruit and veg now's the time to get your name on the list for an allotment plot. There are just a few available so if you're interested get in touch with John at the Hub and he will pass your details to the Allotment Association.

Ham Bridge

Works have commenced on the strengthening of the bridge and will continue over the winter months. Ham Island residents and the OWPC are being regularly updated by Thames Water.

Get to know your Parish Council

We're always on the look out for people interested in joining the Parish Council. If you think you might be interested, and want to know what it entails, please get in touch and we'll be happy to answer your questions..

HOW TO CONTACT US

John Lee - Clerk

01753 868842 or email

Clerk@owpc.co.uk

You can also contact us via the Parish Council website www.owpc.co.uk

Or at the Hub 8:30 - 2pm