



# LPC NEWS

*Latest news & updates from Limpsfield Parish Council*



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

### All in this together...

It's been a rather unusual and challenging first half of the year, but despite Covid-19, we are pleased to say we continue to make progress with our Neighbourhood Plan projects and look to the future of Limpsfield.

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## FINANCE & PLANNING

In this newsletter, we will outline a few of the key activities and successes over the last six months, as well as notes on our Finances and Planning. For a full report, please see our Annual Report, which is available on our website, [www.limpsfield.org](http://www.limpsfield.org).

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## BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT

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## PARISH RECORDS & PARISH ASSETS

At this time, I'd like to say how proud I am of the community spirit and volunteer efforts over this very difficult time for so many people. Across the Parish we have scores of local volunteers, helping their neighbours with shopping and prescriptions and it's been very heart-warming to see.

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## TRIM TRAIL & PLAYGROUND

Please don't hesitate if you need anything or would wish to help us deliver more to our community. Stay alert.

John Thompson, Chairman

# Neighbourhood Plan Projects Move Forward

The Neighbourhood Plan committee has been working hard to start to implement specific projects highlighted in the LNP and we are making good progress, despite some setbacks due to COVID-19.

## Registering Assets of Community Value

- Assets of Community Value (ACV) form a part of the Community Right to Bid and can be a building or other land for which the main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future.
- We have now submitted applications for The Glebe Field, Memorial Stores and the Carpenters Arms, allowing us the option to bid on such assets if they come on the market and try to ensure they remain safe from development. Decisions on these applications are expected in the next few weeks
- The Bull Inn has already been successfully registered (2018).

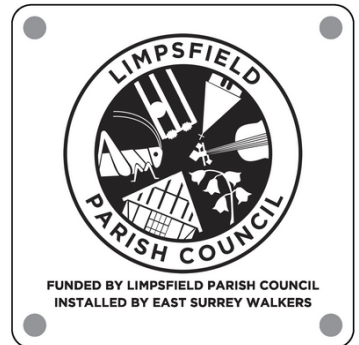


## Improvements to footpaths

In collaboration with the East Surrey Ramblers and Surrey County Council we have undertaken a lot of improvements to our network of footpaths in the area:

- Walked the entire network to ascertain which footpaths needed work, and which stiles and gates needed replacing or changing
- Replaced 16 missing finger posts, including the post close to St Peter's Church
- Replaced or added waymark discs where signage was unclear
- Laid aggregate on the footpath from Granville Road to the River Eden and beyond - (more is planned for The Glebe Field and Stanhopes path to Hookwood)
- Replaced two stiles with kissing gates at Caxton Lane
- Cleared overgrown vegetation from many paths

We have a continuing programme of footpath improvements planned later in 2020.



## Planning The Limpfield Way

Following the previous work put into developing a local cycle way, the project has been further researched by members of the LNP committee, together with Friends of Limpfield Common and committee co-optee, Robert O'Donovan.

At this point, the previous plan to create a cycle way from the Chart to the Village and beyond does not seem feasible due to the complexity of changing use of the existing network of paths that incorporate cycle, pedestrian and bridleways that can clearly not be used at the same time.

We have started mapping out an easy access Limpfield Way to cover the whole area that outlines a selection of walks to connect the parish.

This will link up the main shopping areas and watering holes and be available online and in paper form.

We will still be working relevant authorities including SCC, looking at how Surrey as a whole is moving forward with its cycling policy and we will continue to look for solutions for safe cycle paths.



### Conservation Area Assessment

The Neighbourhood Plan committee is working on a Conservation Area Assessment & Management Plan that will further help both residents and planners to understand the responsibilities and planning criteria for this specific area of Limpsfield Conservation Area Appraisal.

- Working with local planning expert and committee co-optee, Ted Beresford-Knox, we developed a tender document and invited three expert organisations to bid to carry out the Appraisal during 2020.
- Following a clear set of criteria, we have assessed the tender documents and will be announcing the successful bid shortly.
- We will present the project outline to Tandridge District Council in their June planning meeting with a view to undertaking the project by September 2020.

### Traffic speed, pedestrian safety, congestion and parking

We have been working closely with Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council and Highways England to identify and monitor areas of concern in the Limpsfield Parish.

Over the last year we have:-

- Funded and insured a replacement VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) at the A25 end of Detillens Lane.
- Supported Bluehouse Lane residents to set up a Speedwatch team and are currently working with the residents, SCC and Highways regarding the installation of a VAS on Bluehouse Lane.
- Consulted with TDC on the planning application for parking on the Dorothy's Cottage site by St Peter's Church Hall.
- Worked with SCC to enable the repositioning of the existing 'Unsuitable for HGVs' at the top of Titsey Hill and on the A25 traffic lights at the top of Limpsfield High Street.
- Been in ongoing consultation with regards to a potential to upgrade or change the crossing outside of Limpsfield Infants School.
- Been involved with and suggested areas of concern for the annual SCC Parking Review (which looks at areas such as a need for double yellow lines and other parking restrictions). This comes into force over the summer.
- Consulted with SCC on the new contract for parking control and where we most need parking enforcement in the Limpsfield parish area.
- We will be working with TDC, SCC and Highways and ask any residents to please keep in touch and email us with any concerns or suggestions.



## Broadband Improvement

# GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME

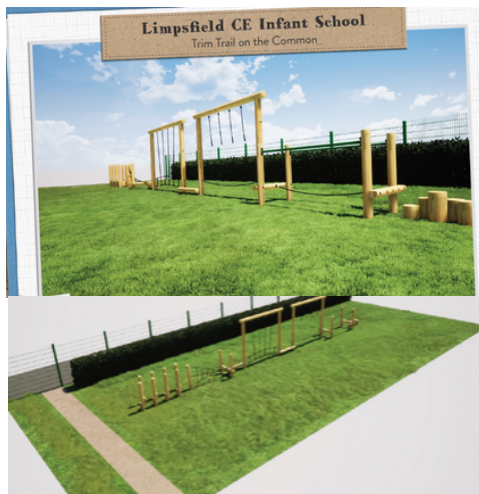
For the past 8 years, Surrey County Council (SCC) has been working in partnership with Openreach and have deployed Superfast broadband speeds (24 Mbps or more) to approximately 83,000 premises in Surrey that have been excluded from commercial rollout plans.

- Most of these homes and businesses have been given access to superfast speeds via FTTC technology. Only more recently has FTTP technology been deployed as the preferred solution as a result in improvements in technology and reductions in cost.
- Approximately 1,000 additional homes are anticipated to benefit from FTTP as part of Superfast Surrey by the end of 2020.
- However, there are still a great many homes that do not have access to superfast broadband and who have limited or no mobile (4G) coverage. One local community enterprise, AirFast, is a not-for-profit service set up by the local community (Crockham Hill Community Interest Company), for the local community. They already have almost 400 users in the area stretching from Crockham Hill to Penshurst and have extended the service through the Limpsfield area.
- **AirFast** is a wireless service completely independent of BT and your phone line. It requires a small receiver, generally mounted high on your house – e.g. a chimney. See our website for more information or go to Airfast's website: **[www.airfast.net](http://www.airfast.net)**
- On our website you will also find a number of solutions that can be considered for the majority of residents, together with the Government's ***gigabit broadband voucher scheme***.
- These vouchers are available for community groups in Defra designated rural areas that are not gigabit capable and currently have broadband speed of less than 100 Mbps.
- Vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each SME and up to £1,500 per residential premises are available towards the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. Single connections are not eligible for additional funding.
- For terms and conditions and more information, please see **<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/>**
- If you are interested in checking your current mobile or fixed line speeds at a home or business visit the Ofcom site here: **<https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/>**.
- **More information on our website - [www.limpsfield.org](http://www.limpsfield.org).**

## Keeping Limpfield's Kids Trim!

We've been working with Limpfield CE Infants School and the National Trust to help the school to develop a trim trail on a strip of land just outside of the school's playground on Limpfield Common.

- The School was the recipient of a Lottery Fund at the end of 2019 that will finance the project, and the Parish Council has worked with the National Trust to lease the necessary land.
- We have also funded and applied for the necessary planning permission to allow this lovely project to move forward.
- Depending on Covid-19 restrictions and planning permission, the Limpfield Trim Trail is due to be installed in the next few months.



## Playground Proposal

Further to our note in the last newsletter, we have been looking at the possibility of a community playground that serves the north side of the Parish (Limpfield Common/Village and Oxted border areas) and would be suitable for children ages 3-11 years old.

- We have considered several potential sites which have since been discounted due to issues relating to ownership, inadequate parking or lack of refreshment availability.
- One viable area currently under consideration is at the Royal British Legion Club at Grub Street who would like to encourage more families to use their facilities and help guarantee the future of the club.
- We have been running a survey from our website and via various organisations in Limpfield, including The Legion, Limpfield Infants School, Panda Nursery, St Peter's Church and Memorial Stores to ascertain residents' thoughts.
- To date we have received 154 responses, with 89% being in favour of a new playground for Limpfield Village, and 84% believing the Legion to be a good site and 75% saying they would definitely use the new play area.
- Currently funds such as the National Lottery Community Fund are focusing on Covid-19 related projects, however we will be looking into grants and funding opportunities after the current crisis is over.

Please let us know if you have any other ideas on this or other potential sites.



## Finance & Planning

**The Finance Committee** meets 3-4 times per year. This year we have employed the services of a professional auditing company, Mulberry & Co, to undertake our internal audit for 2019/2020.

Key points:

- Our income in 2019/20 was £33,877 (comprising some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money - £1207 and the annual Precept £32470).
- We received no additional grants or funding
- Our expenditure for 2019/20 was £25,194, in total from both our General Expenditure account and our CIL account (for infrastructure-based expenses, e.g. footpaths and traffic calming measures)
- Our minimum reserve has been agreed at a minimum of 50% annual precept (2019/20 - £16,235, 2020/21 - £16,658)
- We have increased the precept very slightly to £33,315 (2.6%) to account for increased running costs and with view to the implementation of some of our Neighbourhood Plan key projects - see full statement on our website
- We have some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money coming in for 2020/21 due to a couple of qualifying building developments and have allocated some of the existing CIL fund for footpaths improvement, stiles and kissing gates, as well as VAS replacement on Detillens Lane
- CIL funding will also be used for VAS contribution for Bluehouse Lane if required
- We identified, prioritised and budgeted LNP projects for 2019/20 and have agreed a budget for key projects and ongoing expenses for 2021 with key line items mentioned (see website)
- Our accounts will be published shortly, but in lieu of an AGM due to COVID-19 restrictions, please find a more in depth account of our finances in our Annual Report - for download on the website
- We have now also moved to online banking, are in the process of updating our Financial Regulations and have updated our Terms of Reference

*Cllr Thomas Briggs, Chair, Finance Committee*

**The Planning Committee** aims to meet on a monthly basis prior to the main council meeting to discuss all current applications and determinations in the Limpsfield Parish area.

Key points:

- In the financial year 2019-2020 we reviewed over 100 planning applications for the Limpsfield Parish
- Now that we have our adopted Neighbourhood Plan, we have written and acknowledged criteria in terms of what is and is not acceptable in planning for the Parish
- While planning applications are submitted to Tandridge District Council (TDC), TDC invites LPC for comment on planning applications submitted which relate to the Parish. This is now particularly pertinent as in relation to the Limpsfield Neighbourhood Plan and all planning applications will receive consideration with view to how they meet and comply with the expectations and criteria of the Neighbourhood Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework
- We have a commitment to discuss and comment on, object to or endorse all planning applications in Limpsfield Parish
- TDC's planning department must refer to the LNP planning criteria when considering all applications in Limpsfield Parish
- All applications submitted by residents and local businesses must refer to and consider the Limpsfield Neighbourhood Plan criteria
- Our discussions and decisions on what course of action to take are measured against these criteria - being Housing Type and Mix (LNP2) and Design, Heritage and Landscape (LNP3). There is also particular consideration taken for all planning applications for properties located within the Conservation Area (LNP4)
- It should be noted that while we comment and advise on all Limpsfield applications, the final decision is by Tandridge District Council
- We have updated our Terms of Reference

*Cllr Mark Wilson, Chair, Planning Committee*



## Parish Assets

**Parish Office** - Now that we have cleared out the Parish Office, we intend to put it to good use and will be looking at potential options. Your suggestions will be most welcome.

**Parish Assets** - We have recently undertaken an audit and review of all the Parish Assets, the register for which can be found on our website's documents folder.

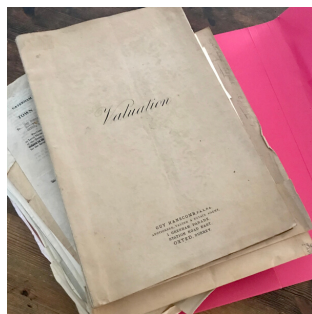
**St Peter's Noticeboard** - We are working with St Peter's Church to replace the very dilapidated noticeboard at the entrance to the Church Hall carpark.

Planning permission for a new standalone wooden and glass secure noticeboard to be erected on the pavement near the bus stop and the notice board will be jointly funded and maintained by The Parish Council and St Peter's Church.

## Delving into Limpsfield's Past - Parish Archives

Our resident history buff, Cllr Ashley Fosdike has been clearing out the Parish Office (the original office located next to The Pound on Wolfs Row) and sorting / reviving all the historical documents, so we can get them properly archived and safe for future generations.

- Documents include all sorts of interesting finds; from deeds to the Village Green (in the middle of Stanhopes) and The Pound, minutes and agenda dating back to the 1700s, beautiful maps to poor relief payments and Workhouse records.
- We were intending on having these on display in the village at the Limpsfield Village Fete, but due to the coronavirus lockdown, this looks unlikely to take place, so we will look at other opportunities to display our historic finds and update you via the website and social media.
- Most of the important, historical documents will then go to their new, dry and safe home at the Surrey History Centre.
- We will also be revealing some of our historical finds on our website, [www.limpsfield.org](http://www.limpsfield.org).



# A Big Clap for Limpfield's Covid-19 Support Volunteers

We are extremely proud of the amazing efforts of the Limpfield community in the response to the Coronavirus.

As soon as news of a potential lockdown hit, volunteer groups were forming across the parish, in order to make sure that those vulnerable members of the community would be kept in food, medicine and good spirits.

It has almost been a wartime effort in some respects and we'd like to give particular thanks to the amazing groups of almost 70 volunteers in Limpfield South - Limpfield Chart and the surrounding areas - organised by super-volunteer Emma Tinker and her team - and in Limpfield North, the village and surrounds, to the St Peter's team team, led by Caroline Campbell and Helen Ireland.

There are of course a great many residents who have formed WhatsApp and email groups for their own roads and are doing an amazing job.

Our Parish Clerk has been working with Tandridge Council and all volunteer groups to make sure all those who are vulnerable and may need help have been contacted and has someone to call. If you are in need of help or know someone who might be, please do get in touch on the numbers above or email clerk@limpsfield.org.

Once again - many thanks for your help and kindness at this time. It's hugely appreciated and lovely to see our community working together.

We'd also like to congratulate those local businesses who have kept going in one way or another and ask that you please support them.

## CORONAVIRUS: HELP FOR VULNERABLE LIMPSFIELD RESIDENTS

In these unprecedented times, elderly or vulnerable people in the area may need extra help and support

### Do you need help?

### Do you know someone who might?

Coordinated Volunteer Groups in the area are here to help

For Limpfield Village area, contact:  
**01883 712512 (office hours) or 07514 011355 (Parish Clerk)**

For Limpfield Chart area, contact:  
**07876 685567 (daytime / non-emergency)**

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL:  
**01883 722000**

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY HELPLINE (09.00 - 17.00)  
**0300 200 1008**

To offer yourself as a volunteer, call  
TANDRIDGE VOLUNTARY ACTION:  
**01883 722593 or go to [www.TVA.org.uk](http://www.TVA.org.uk)**

**NON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - 111**  
**EMERGENCIES - 999**

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Don't forget you can stay in touch with us for news updates and other useful information, via our website, [www.limpsfield.org](http://www.limpsfield.org) and via our social media:

@limpsfieldparishcouncil

@limpsfieldparishcouncil

@limpsfieldpc

email: clerk@limpsfield.org



### How to contact us

Parish Clerk: Sophie Martin. Tel: 07514 011355. Email: clerk@limpsfield.org. Website: [www.limpsfield.org](http://www.limpsfield.org)  
Please note our new postal address: PO Box 309, Oxted, RH8 8EU.