Guildford Borough Councillors' Report to Shalford Community Council

19th Nov 2026
Cllr Catherine Houston and Cllr Dominique Williams.

Parrot Pub

Regarding The Parrot Pub, as far as Guildford Borough Council is concerned, all terms have now been agreed, subject only to any last-minute amendments requested by Pearmains.
Pearmains were due to make an upfront payment last Monday to cover the costs of the common land exchange application. Unfortunately, that payment did not take place.
Once the funds have been received and cleared, the statutory notices can be placed in the *Surrey Advertiser*. To have appeared in this week's edition, the payment needed to be received in time for the notices to be submitted on Tuesday. As this did not happen it now looks likely that publication will be delayed until next week, assuming the payment is made and cleared in the meantime.

Anchor House

Anchor House Discussions between GBC and the applicant regarding prescriptive easement rights are ongoing.

Shalford Pond

Cllrs Dominique Williams and Catherine Houston met with Shalford Community Council, alongside the Countryside and Parks Manager , to discuss the recent drought conditions affecting the pond and the resulting loss of water.
The meeting provided an opportunity to explore the pond’s long term future, including potential measures to protect it against the impacts of climate change, possible improvements and whether these could be incorporated into future budget planning.
We will update as plans progress.

Common Land by the cricket club

Shalford Garage are using common land near the cricket club as a car park to store vehicles. This is without permission from Guildford Borough Council. The council are looking into placing a gate to cut the land off from vehicle access apart from by keyholders.

Dog Fouling in Tillingbourne Road area and Consultation on Dog Control in Public Spaces

There appears to be a growing problem with deliberate dog fouling in the Tillingbourne Road area, particularly outside the school and on the green just in front of the school. Guildford Borough Council are aware and have visited a number of times. Letters have been posted to nearby houses but the only way to stop this nuisance is for residents to report incidences, timings, descriptions of offenders, vehicle registrations, photographs if possible and report to GBC (or to us as ward councillors). We have asked for another wider mail drop and that is in the process of being organised.

Co-incidentally there is a **Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation** running until midnight on 1/12/26

The consultation covers:

- Dog fouling and the requirement to carry poo bags.
- Dogs on leads in designated public spaces.
- Areas where dogs would be prohibited.
- A proposed limit of four dogs per person.
- Measures to address nuisance and irresponsible dog ownership.

The link to complete that is here Dog control PSPO consultation - Guildford Borough Council

Grey belt motion at November's Full Council

The motion submitted to Full Council on 3rd November was passed. The motion requested the Leader of the Council to call upon the Government to:

(a) Suspend the grey belt rules for land separating or within villages pending completion of Local Plans;

(b) Amend the NPPF to allow the separation of villages from merging and preservation of character and setting as protection from grey belt status; and

(c) Modify housing targets to take account of local constraints.

During the debate on the motion concern was expressed that the Grey Belt designation could encourage speculative development and leave communities vulnerable in the absence of an adopted Local Plan. The importance of maintaining the distinction between urban areas and villages and taking a strategic approach to development was emphasised.

Council of Sanctuary motion

Full Council carried the motion put forward for Guildford Borough Council to become a recognised ‘Council of Sanctuary’. In effect this means for GBC

1. To join the network of cities, towns, and local authorities which promote the inclusion and welfare of people fleeing violence and persecution and apply to become a recognised ‘Council of Sanctuary’.

2. To promote the inclusion and welfare of all who find themselves, homeless, destitute or isolated.

3. To continue to be a welcoming place of safety for all by encouraging integration, community cohesion and challenging discrimination and discriminatory language of all kinds, in all forms, by politicians of all parties.

4. To continue to promote diversity through recognition and celebration of our different cultures and communities across Guildford.

5. To encourage our key partners in the Voluntary, Community, and Faith Sector, Police, and NHS to become part of the City of Sanctuary movement.

6. To recommend that the Leader of the Council asks West Surrey Council to consider adoption of ‘Council of Sanctuary’ status”.

West Surrey Council

Set up of the new authority is moving at pace, but it was only a few weeks ago that, for example, the predecessor councils provided a combined and standardised set of their budgets and spending for Q1 of this financial year, so it's only now that the budget setting process for next year can start properly.

Council Leader Paul Follows provides regular updates on his Facebook account. The debt burden comes mainly from the old administrations of Spelthorne, Runnymede and Woking. However we understand that there are positive discussions ongoing with government on the inherited debt.

From a resident perspective, this means that council tax will definitely be going up by the maximum permitted 4.99% next April, but the council's main desire is to protect residents from the pain as much as possible, given that it's not the public's fault that it is inheriting these dire finances, and will be looking at every available option to cut costs through efficiencies arriving from the merger.

Recruitment of senior staff going very well with CEO recruited and senior manager posts now being interviewed.. Climate emergency motion on the agenda at West Surrey Full Council this evening and expected to pass. . Motion similar to the GBC motion on grey belt (see above) also on the agenda tonight at West Surrey.

Paul Follows, leader of West Surrey Council has offered to attend a Shalford Parish Council meeting for questions if helpful

Future Surrey

Surrey Heath Borough council (on behalf of West Surrey) are asking residents and other interested groups for their views on proposals to develop a new Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for West Surrey from April 2027.

Council Tax Reduction helps people on low incomes with the cost of their Council Tax. The current arrangements vary across Surrey, and as part of local government reorganisation, a new scheme will need to be introduced for the new West Surrey Council.

Link to consultation: **Consultation, surveys and engagement – Surrey LGR Hub**

Stay informed

Residents can keep up to date with local council news and information by signing up for the council's 'About Guildford' newsletter.

About Guildford

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Cllrs Dominique Williams and Catherine Houston
Guildford Borough Councillors for Shalford Ward

Dominique.williams@guildford.gov.uk
Catherine.houston@guildford.gov.uk