

**SCC Summary for WPC 16th May 2019**  
**From Keith Witham, County Councillor**

**1. Recent GBC Elections**

Cty Cllr Witham reported that he had stood for election to GBC and had not been elected. He had received messages of commiseration from residents. However, reports of his demise had been exaggerated, as he continues to be the Surrey County Councillor for Worplesdon. He has congratulated Bob and Anne McShee and Ruth Brothwell, and will, as always, work with other Councillors and residents on any matters of local concern.

**2. School places**

87% of parents had got their 1st choice of Primary school, up from 86% last year. And 97% of parents get one of 1st three choices. This doesn't happen by chance - as SCC has created 19,000 new school places created in 10 years to ensure that there are enough school places available.

**3. Surrey leading the way in recycling**

SCC has opened Reuse shops at some CRCs - nearest one to us is at Woking CRC 7 days a week. Called "revive" for furniture, bikes, crockery, tools, garden furniture, CDs, DVDS, records. 10% of profits to charity, voted for by customers. SCC are also encouraging residents to recycle clothes and textiles, either or be worn again or turned into felt or insulation. For more info see [www.recycleforsurrey.org.uk](http://www.recycleforsurrey.org.uk)

**4. Doorstep traders and fly-tipping**

A reminder that SCC Trading standards are asking residents to say "No" to doorstep traders offering gardening, rubbish cleared, roofing, driveways etc for cash. This is very pertinent re fly-tipping. Legitimate companies are registered as waste carriers (registered with GBC) and it's mainly rogue traders responsible for commercial fly-tipping. But any resulting fly-tipping is still the responsibility of the originating residents and two have recently been fined £300 and £800.

**5. Surrey Fire and Rescue update**

The background is that over 10 years, the number of fires in Surrey are down 50% but Road Traffic Accidents are up 50%, and that more people die by drowning in Surrey rivers than in fires. So Surrey Fire and Rescue are reconfiguring their services and staffing to respond to those demands, with proposals for much more emphasis on daytime preventative visits to residents and businesses (aim is to increase those from 2,500 a year to 10,000 a year), but that will need changes to crew rotas. The plans have been examined, and are supported, by HM Inspector of Fire services, the National Fire Chiefs Council and staff seconded from the London Fire Brigade. This is not about money (Fire and Rescue were exempted from any financial savings in 2019) but how money and resources are deployed most effectively

**6. SCC Further SCC Cost reductions**

Despite having saved some £600 million a year already, a further £80m+ is needed this year. So, looking at reducing the number of operational SCC buildings across Surrey from 300 to 100, including the relocation of County Hall from Kingston to either Guildford or Woking. The aim is to save £10s of millions on property costs.

## **7. SCC grants**

Small grants for voluntary groups are available again, up to £500 for groups not funded before, or £250 for groups who have had previous support - please ask Keith for information:

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