



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 70th edition of our parish newsletter designed to keep you up to date with that is happening in Broadacres, Fairlands, Jacobs Well, Perry Hill, and Wood Street Village.

Summer 2024

REPORTING ISSUES

If you notice **any** issues, such as **potholes, flooding or leaks, don't leave it to someone else ... please report it!**

Potholes, pavements, blocked and broken drains, flooding, fallen trees and overgrown vegetation, can be reported **directly** to **Surrey County Council** (www.surreycc.gov.uk). This can be done **online**, or if you consider a problem to be an immediate threat to life or limb, or do not have internet access, call their Contact Centre on **0300 200 1003**.

The same applies to **crimes or anti-social behaviour**. Please report incidents **directly** to **Surrey Police** on **101** or via their **website** (if non-urgent) and **999** (if urgent).

Thames Water can be contacted on 0800 316 9800 for sewage flooding.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

5 July 2024 - Flood Forum Walkabout - 10am - Meet at Halifax Close, GU3 3FN

20 July 2024 - Wood Street Village Summer Show - 12noon - Wood Street Village Green

16 August 2024 - Sime Gallery - Summer BBQ and steel band - Worplesdon Memorial Hall [[tickets available online](#) - booking essential]

Ecology and Biodiversity



The Biodiversity Duty

Biodiversity in the UK is declining rapidly. 41% of species have decreased in abundance, and average species population has fallen by 13% (as published in the [State of Nature Report](#), published in 2019). For Surrey the percentage decline is greater than the National Average.

The Environment Act 2021 Part 6: Nature and Biodiversity specifically refers to:

- Biodiversity gain in planning (S98-S101)
- Biodiversity objective and reporting (S102-S103)
- Local nature recovery strategies (S104-S108)
- Conservation—species, sites (national) (S109-S111)
- Habitat Regulations (S112-S113)
- Tree felling and planting (S114-S113)

Previous government reports, such as the Lawton Report - 'Making Space for Nature' highlighted the fragmentation of sites and the isolated pockets of diversity. The new over-arching strategy seeks to go bigger, better, and more joined up!

The Government's 25-year Environment Plan is a commitment to develop a national scale Nature Recovery Network (NRN), which will include 500,000 hectares of new or improve habitat outside of designated sites. The

government has committed to protect 30% of the land and sea in the UK for nature's recovery, by 2030 (referred to as '30by30'). In December 2022, a global 30by30 target was agreed under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (as part of the Global Biodiversity Framework - GBF).

Any development should leave biodiversity in a better state than it was before development commenced. It is an approach where developers work with local government, wildlife groups, landowners, and other stakeholders in order to support their priorities for nature conservation. It is possible for developers to deliver biodiversity net gain (BNG) off-site through financial contributions but there is no guarantee where in the country the monies would be spent.

'A new mandatory England-wide system of spatial strategies which will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature recovery and wider environmental benefits' will be referred to as Local Nature



Surrey Nature Recovery



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Ecology and Biodiversity (cont.)

Recovery Strategies. Surrey County Councils commenced their consultation in March 2024.

The Extended/Enhanced Biodiversity Duty came into force on 1 January 2023. Under Section 102 there is a general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This applies to all public bodies - local authorities (including town and parish councils), government departments, water companies, and other statutory undertakers (e.g. Environment Agency).

Local authorities (but not all public authorities, and excluding parish or town councils) must also deliver Biodiversity Reports, detailing a summary of action taken and to be taken to comply with the duty. The first report is due from Surrey County Council in January 2026.

To comply with the biodiversity duty (and [Government guidance published](#) in May 2023) the Parish Council must:

- Consider what steps it can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on land for which we are responsible

- Act to deliver Parish Council policies and achieve the Parish Council's objectives.

The Parish Council is seeking to align biodiversity management practices with national and county council policies, and will be highlighting biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications.

If you are a local resident who would like to help with 'Green' projects across the parish, such as cutting holes in garden fences to allow hedgehogs greater access to forage; you can make bat or bird boxes 'to order'; or you have another skill set which can help other residents increase biodiversity please contact the Parish Office.

#hedgehogstreet #hedgehoghighway



Dog Poo Bags

Please can dog owners and professional dog walkers ensure that dog poo bags are placed in suitable bins rather than left in long grass? Our groundstaff do not appreciate being covered in dog mess whilst strimming, and the bags aren't necessarily biodegradable.

National Precept Increases

On 30 March 2024, The Guardian and Observer published an article: **"England's parishes and towns raise council tax surcharge to fund scrapped local services,"** informed by NALC's briefing. The article highlighted the 8.5% increase in precepts taking overall spend to nearly £800m. Also, it noted that Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners were increasing their charges by more than the average 5% increase in council tax by principal authorities.

The NALC Chairman, Cllr Keith Stevens, is quoted extensively calling out the Parish Council sector as "the unsung heroes of local government, stepping up to play a more active role in improving their communities, and increasingly taking on more responsibilities from financially challenged larger authorities." The average precept charged by a parish or charter trustee for 2024-25 will be £85.88, which is an increase of £6.74 or 8.5%.

The Therapy Garden

The Therapy Garden (Normandy) works to have a significant positive impact on the lives of people facing challenges. Whether by giving a sense of purpose to children with special needs; by reducing the isolation of a young person living with autism; by building confidence in adults recovering from a stroke; or by helping to equip young people who have additional learning needs for a possible future in the workplace. They change lives for the better by creating a safe place to enjoy the power of gardening and connecting with nature.

Open 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, from 9.15am until 2.30pm, with adult clients attending all year round whilst teenagers attend during school term times.

There are several open days during the year advertised on their [Facebook page](#) and [website](#). As part of the National Garden Scheme the garden will be open to the public on 22 September. The charity are celebrating their 25th anniversary year during 2024!

Client Support Volunteers are needed to assist in the Garden alongside horticulturists in the supervision of adult clients and teenagers.

Volunteers work in the garden with clients, helping them with various tasks such as planting, harvesting, pruning and mowing, under the guidance of our team of horticulturists. Volunteers who can offer a regular weekly commitment should contact [The Therapy Garden](#).



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Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Your Chance to Shape Surrey's Natural Future

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is an innovative approach designed to identify key areas for enhancing nature and providing environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood regulation, and improved access to green spaces.

How You Can Get Involved To learn more about the Local Nature Recovery Strategies and discover how you can contribute to developing Surrey's plan, scan the QR code below, or visit the [Surrey County Council \(SCC\) website](https://www.surrey.gov.uk):



Objectives of the LNRS:

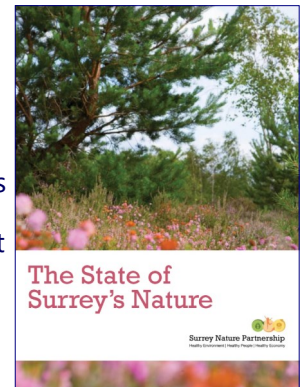
- **Set Priorities for Nature's Recovery:** Establish key goals to restore and protect nature.
- **Map Valuable Existing Areas:** Identify and protect areas already rich in biodiversity.
- **Propose Habitat Creation and Improvement:** Plan specific projects to enhance habitats and achieve broader environmental goals.

Mandated by the Environment Act 2021, each county in England will develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These strategies will collaborate to restore, create, and connect habitats nationwide.

Community Consultation Decisions on where and how to recover nature will be made through extensive consultations involving a diverse range of stakeholders, including ecologists, community groups, health professionals, and local businesses. In Surrey, everyone's input is valued and encouraged.

Supporting Efforts Worplesdon Parish Council is proud to support Surrey County Council in the development of Surrey's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. For more information, please visit the [SCC website](https://www.surrey.gov.uk).

The [State of Surrey's Nature report](https://www.surrey.gov.uk) (available on Surrey Wildlife Trust's website) provides a current stock-take of the county's biodiversity. The report aims to quantify the most threatened wildlife but also celebrates why Surrey's biodiversity is so special.



Help Wildlife at Home

There are lots of simple ways you can help wildlife at home. From building a bug or bee hotel using sticks and garden debris, or creating a mini pond there are lots of helpful advice sheets available freely on the internet. [The Wildlife Trusts website](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions) offers many different and inexpensive projects that you can access: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions>

There are lots of projects ranging from the very small and quick, like making a biodegradable bird feeder, to more long-term significant changes such as how to grow a wildlife garden or a wildlife-friendly vegetable garden from scratch.



Photo of biodegradable bird feeder from Surrey Outdoor Learning

How to make a nest box

What you need:

- rough cut timber
- some old rubber or a hinge
- 20mm nails
- tools:

- ▶ saw
- ▶ hammer
- ▶ hand brace or drill
- ▶ pencil, ruler and scissors

1 Mark out and saw panels
Use diagram above, and write the name of each panel onto the marked out wood.

2 Choose your box type

hole fronted box:
blue tits (25mm)
great tits (28mm)
sparrows (38mm)
starlings (45mm)

open fronted box for robins

3 Assemble the box
Nail the panels together:

Fix on the roof panel with a hinge or strip of old rubber.

Where to put it:
2-5 metres above the ground, Somewhere sheltered.

Illustration: Corinne Webb © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk



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Electoral Commission - County-level Boundary Review

In August 2023, the Electoral Commission carried out a boundary review at County Council level to ensure that each of the 81 County Councillors represent a similar number of electors.

A 2022 review of the electoral boundaries for Guildford Borough Council saw no changes to the borough boundaries for Worplesdon, but did see the wards of Pirbright and Normandy combined to be represented by two borough councillors. The draft County recommendations were published in August 2023.

Those recommendations proposed that the Parish of Worplesdon (at County level only) be split into three:

- Jacobs Well to be included in the Guildford North division.
- Part of Wanborough and South Ash to be brought into the Worplesdon Ward (which at County level includes Pirbright, Normandy, and Worplesdon)
- Broadacres (including Ferndale, Cater Gardens, and Oakfields), Broad Street, Dorrit Crescent, Bracken Way, Broomfield Close, Bramble Close, and Barnwood being moved into Guildford West.

Following a number of objections, the Electoral Commission concluded that Jacobs Well would **remain** within the County Ward of Worplesdon.

There was also a proposal to change the Parish Wards. The number of Parish Councillors to remain at 16, as at present, representing three wards:

1. Jacobs Well - represented by 2 parish councillors
2. 'Rydes Hill' (named due to an Ordnance Survey mapping error) - actually the areas of Broadacres, part of Park Barn, and Broad Street - 3 parish councillors
3. Villages - 11 parish councillors.

The recommendations only become law once they have received parliamentary approval. The formal document (a draft Order) to start that process will be laid in Parliament shortly. The draft Order will provide for the new electoral arrangements for Surrey County Council and Worplesdon Parish Council will to come into effect for local elections in 2025.

You can view the final recommendations setting out new electoral arrangements for Surrey via the following [link](https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/surrey): <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/surrey>.



@worplesdonpc

Worplesdon Parish Council - 01483 30094

Unit 2 Saxton, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 9JX

St Mary's Church, Worplesdon are Fundraising for New Facilities

Double Flush

We desperately need to update the kitchen and toilet facilities at St Mary's Church and to do this we need £130,000. You can donate directly by scanning the QR code.

Total as at March 2024 £70,000

More details on the Double Flush project can be found on our website.

www.worplesdonparish.com

The Fairlands Practice Patient Participation Group (FPPPG)

The FPPPG is the independent Statutory body of Fairlands' Medical Practice patients who act as a link between the Practice and its patients. All patients and carers are automatically members. The Group liaises with the Practice providing feedback about the services delivered and engages with patients to gain their perspective.

The group supports the Practice by arranging events to publicise available support, treatment and services as agreed with the Practice. The last event was to bring patients up-to-date with changes being made by the Practice. On 25th September, the Group is planning a Women's Health event. Being a member of the FPPPG committee helps one better understand the issues facing both our own surgeries and those of other groups within the NHS Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board. Patients have the opportunity to shape the way the Practice develops and suggest improvements or changes we feel may be desirable to services delivered by the Practice. New members to the committee are very welcome, especially working parents and young people.

If you would like to learn more about the **FPPPG** please contact the Chairman Richard Broughton via email: fpppg@icloud.com.