

Worplesdon Parish Council Newsletter



AUTUMN 2026

Welcoming Our New Clerk

As we prepare to say a fond farewell to our long-serving Clerk, Gaynor White, who will retire on 31 August 2026 after an incredible 27 years of dedicated service to Worplesdon Parish Council, we are delighted to introduce her successor, Marie Wingate – and her four-legged colleague, Luna!

Marie will be taking over as Parish Clerk and we are very pleased to welcome her to the Parish Council team. We look forward to working with Marie as she takes on this important role and getting to know Luna, who we suspect may become a familiar face around the Parish Office too!



Gaynor leaves some very big shoes to fill, and we are hugely grateful for the knowledge, commitment and continuity she has provided to the Parish Council and the wider community over nearly three decades. We wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement and look forward to the next chapter with Marie and Luna.

Wood Street Village Jazz Festival

This year's Wood Street Village Jazz Festival was a tremendous success, raising a record-breaking £24,000 for Challengers, the local charity dedicated to transforming the lives of disabled children and young people through the power of play.

Worplesdon Parish Council was delighted to support the event and would like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, or helped promote the festival. Every ticket purchased, donation made and act of support has contributed towards making a real difference to local families.

Congratulations to Challengers and everyone involved in organising another outstanding community event. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these incredible funds will have across our local area.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.WORPLESDON-PC.GOV.UK

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 the Contact Centre on **0300 200 1003**.

To report **crimes** or **anti-social behaviour** do this 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.

Flooding on highways and footpaths should be reported to Surrey County Council on **0300 200 1003** or using  <https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk/>.

Fly-tipping on public highways or council land will be dealt with by **Guildford Borough Council**: www.guildford.gov.uk/reportflytipping.



The Future of Guildford's Green Belt

Guildford Borough Council has published its 2026 Green Belt Assessment as part of the evidence gathering for the new Guildford Local Plan. The assessment reviewed Green Belt land across the borough and identified areas that may meet the Government's definition of 'Grey Belt', introduced through changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024. Residents are encouraged to read the assessment and accompanying FAQs on the Guildford Borough Council website to understand how this evidence will help inform future planning policies.

Further information, including comprehensive details relating to the assessment and specific local land parcels is available on the Guildford Borough Council website:

<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/localplan/greenbeltassessment>



Small Grants Available



Worplesdon Parish Council offers small grants to support local community groups, organisations and projects that benefit residents across the parish. If your group could benefit from financial support, please visit the Parish Council website for details of the grant scheme, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Our Ponds Need a Helping Hand



The poster features the Worplesdon Parish Council logo at the top. The main title is 'JOIN THE FRIENDS OF PINKS HILL POND' in large green letters, with the tagline 'Help restore. Help protect. Help nature thrive.' below it. A central image shows a pond with ducks and reeds. Text on the poster includes: 'Working together to restore and care for Pinks Hill Pond for people and wildlife', 'EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS! Nature. Community. Heritage. Future.', 'WE NEED YOU! If you care about nature and our local heritage, please join the Friends of Pinks Hill Pond Group.', and a list of benefits: 'An enhanced facility for local fishermen and anglers', 'A beautiful place to enjoy with family, friends and visitors', 'More wildlife and nature for everyone to enjoy', 'A stronger community working together', and 'A lasting legacy for future generations'. At the bottom, it says 'Get involved in conservation and habitat care', 'Help with wildlife monitoring and citizen science', 'Join events and community activities', and 'Share ideas and help shape our special place'. Contact information for Marie Wingate is provided: 'Interested? Contact Marie Wingate - Clerk to the Council Email: clerk@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk Call: 01483 300094'. A red heart icon and the text 'Let's make Pinks Hill Pond beautiful for all.' are at the bottom right.

It has been an unusually dry summer, with a lack of rainfall leaving our local ponds at worryingly low water levels. Across the parish, ponds are showing the effects of the prolonged dry weather, with wildlife and pond habitats under increasing pressure. Worplesdon Parish Council is looking at ways to protect and improve some of our much-loved ponds. At Wood Street Village Pond, the Council intends to undertake works to remove accumulated silt, helping to improve the pond's condition and support its future as an important local habitat.

Exciting plans are underway to breathe new life into Pinks Hill Pond, with a Friends of Pinks Hill Pond group being established. The group will bring together local residents who want to help rejuvenate the pond for both wildlife and the community.

Our ponds are an important part of our landscape and natural heritage. With the support of residents and volunteers, we hope these initiatives will help give them a healthier future.

Email clerk@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk for more information or to join the Friends of Pinks Hill Pond.

Local Government Reorganisation – West Surrey

Local government in Surrey is undergoing its biggest change in decades. From 1 April 2027, Surrey County Council and the existing district and borough councils will be replaced by two new unitary authorities. Worplesdon falls within the new West Surrey Council area [final name to be approved by Central Government]. The new authority will take responsibility for many of the services currently provided by both Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council, including planning, waste, highways, housing, leisure and social care. The existing councils will continue to provide services during the transition.

Parish Council Elections 2027



Further information about becoming a parish councillor is available on the Parish Council's website at www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/your-council/meet-your-councillors/becoming-a-councillor/.

Anyone interested either in becoming a councillor now or standing for election next year is warmly encouraged to come along to any Council meeting to see how the Council works and what is involved in the role. Dates of meetings are published on our website.

Community Governance Review

As part of the changes, a Community Governance Review will also take place to look at parish electoral arrangements. This follows an error in the naming of one of Worplesdon's electoral areas during a recent boundary change, when it was incorrectly named **Rydeshill**.

Worplesdon Parish Council has suggested that the area should instead be called **Broad Street**, which more accurately reflects the community it represents.

The review will be undertaken by Guildford Borough Council, and the Parish Council will keep residents informed as the process progresses.

The Parish Council will continue to represent our local communities throughout the transition and will provide further information as details of the new arrangements and the 2027 elections become available.

Have Your Say on North Moors Allotments

Guildford Borough Council is currently considering the future of North Moors Allotments, which are located within Worplesdon Parish, including the possibility of transferring responsibility for the site to Worplesdon Parish Council.

The Parish Council is carefully considering what this could mean for the allotment site and the wider community. Residents' views are an important part of this process, and we would encourage everyone to complete the Parish Council's residents' survey.

The survey includes a specific question about the future of North Moors Allotments, giving residents the opportunity to share their views.

If you would like to provide additional comments or information about the allotments, you can also contact the Parish Council directly at clerk@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk.

Please take the opportunity to have your say and complete the survey [further details on Page 4] to help the Parish Council understand the views of the community.

Have Your Say – Worplesdon Parish Residents' Survey

Worplesdon Parish Council is inviting all residents to take part in our parish-wide residents' survey. This is an important opportunity to tell us what you value about living in Worplesdon, what matters most to you, and where you would like to see improvements in the future.

Your views will help the Parish Council understand local priorities and inform our work on behalf of the community.

The survey is open to all residents and should only take a few minutes to complete.

Please make sure you have your say before the closing date:

Wednesday 30 September 2026



Every response counts, so please take this opportunity to help shape the future of our parish.

Armistice Day – Wednesday 11 November 2026

Residents are warmly invited to join Worplesdon Parish Council for our annual Armistice Day commemoration in Harry's Meadow (behind Jacobs Well Village Hall), Jacobs Well, on Wednesday 11 November 2026.

Please gather from 10.45am ahead of the service, which will include the traditional two-minute silence at 11am as we pause to remember and honour those who have lost their lives in conflict.

All are welcome to attend this short but important act of remembrance and reflection.



Bin Collection Calendar

To check your collection day, find out more about what goes in which bin, or what can and cannot be recycled, please go to www.guildford.gov.uk/recycling.

Leave textiles or electronic waste neatly next to your bins. Put them in a carrier bag and keep any textiles dry. Batteries need to be in a clear plastic bag. The Parish Council has received more stock of Borough Council-provided kerbside food waste caddies. Please call ahead on 01483 300094 to make an appointment to collect one if you require a replacement.

If you would like a brown bin for garden waste, these should be ordered directly from Guildford Borough Council: www.guildford.gov.uk/gardenwastepay.

October					November					December				
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19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	30					28	29	30	31	
RUBBISH COLLECTION WEEK					RECYCLING COLLECTION WEEK									

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