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Diary date: AGM, Thursday 17th July - Old Barn Hall 7.30 pm



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- Traffic safety measures in Church Road
- Local Government re-organisation
- Bookham's environment
- The origins of Great & Little Bookham
- Community groups
- Community safety
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Community & Environment Focus

Simon Edge
BRA Chairman

Welcome to the BRA's Community & Environment Focus Newsletter for June 2025. The BRA has had some "big ticket" items on the table last and this year which we have previously reported to Residents. However, there are lots of other day to day activities the BRA is involved in to keep and improve our village that all Residents can enjoy. In addition to our work we have

reports from associated groups who are also supporting our community.

Spring was full of blossom and flowers from the new trees planted around the Bookhams and the thousands of new bulbs on the Lower Shott. We now look forward to the rest of the year; celebrating our successes, and taking a deep breath as we continue to navigate the labyrinthine world of public

sector bureaucracy.

The BRA's Volunteers continue to give their time and expertise to benefit the Bookhams, working with local groups and organisations. As always, my sincere thanks to them all. We have successfully collaborated with Mole Valley District's Council's (MVDC) Estates Team to refurbish the Lower Shott Toilet Block, with more improvements to come.

We have kept up our 80% alignment rate between the BRA Planning Committee's representations and MVDC's Planning Officers subsequent decisions. We welcome MVDC's new Forum to improve mutual understanding and engagement between Planning Officers and residents associations / parish councils. We hope that better understanding of residents' priorities will lead to better planning decisions being made.

We also welcome Surrey County Council's (SCC) excellent scheme to plant hundreds of trees in verges across the Bookhams.

Some "hardy perennial" problems remain in MVDC's strategic planning and policy arena where our input to MVDC's activities is treated as unwelcome interference rather than an opportunity to listen and improve.

Two examples are the Preston Farm development, and the very poor piece of work entitled "The Bookham "Masterplan" a case-study of how not to do things. It is

troubling that over 250 letters of objection to the Preston Farm development did not sway MVDC from including it in the Local Plan, granting outline planning permission. Yet, receiving only 225 responses to the Masterplan's residents' survey was hailed as excellent community engagement upon which MVDC would act.

We continue to support the Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA) in trying to get SCC to honour its commitment to build a new Youth Centre in Bookham. We have heard plenty of excuses, but despite repeated promises over many years SCC continues to let our young people down by failing to deliver the new centre. We also face challenges to the Blue Heart Verges scheme. SCC is set to make it harder for residents to include their verges on the Blue Heart register, undermining biodiversity.

Finally, Central Government policy is driving Local Government Reorganisation across Surrey. There is limited scope for 'local

Simon Edge
BRA Chairman



input', and as noted above, MVDC and SCC are not currently demonstrating good strategic listening skills, but the BRA did respond to MVDC's request for comments. BRA priorities, under a Unitary Authority (UA) structure are that:

1. transition to the new structure ensures service continuity, especially for those in most need;
2. key service delivery and financial risks are properly managed;
3. promised cost reductions and improvements in service are delivered by the new structure; and debt inherited by the new UAs will not simply be left for residents to bear.

One certainty that residents can rely on is that the BRA will continue to work for the benefit of the Bookhams, and will continue to speak-up on important issues, without fear or favour.

Have a great summer!



Simon Edge BRA
Chairman

The Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter is published twice a year in the June and November and is distributed by a team of volunteers to all Bookham households. You may contact the BRA via our website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 9890

Our website is updated regularly with BRA news and local authority information. You may also sign up for our occasional e-mail service and pay your annual subscription online.

BRA Editorial Team: Simon Edge, Carolyn Elson. Les Huett.
Newsletter design and build: Les Huett
Newsletter print: Simon Jordan, Surrey Litho

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 17th July 2025 commencing at 7.30 pm at The Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham.

To all members: This is formal notice of the 2025 Annual General Meeting, The Agenda will be published on the BRA website and noticeboards.

If you would like to submit an item for the Agenda, please advise Les Huett, Company Secretary, no later than the 28th June in writing to the Registered Office or by email to:

company.secretary@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Guest Speakers

After the formal business of the meeting we have two guest speakers.

We are pleased to welcome Vivien White well known local historian who will be speaking about The Bookhams History and Nicola Reid from Mole Valley Citizens Advice who will be talking about the services offered by the Citizens Advice.

Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

MVDC Bookham Masterplan - a missed opportunity

Keith Whale, Chair of BRA Planning Committee reports

Have your say on Concept Ideas for Bookham Village Centre



ARUrbanism MoleValley District Council Funded by UK Government

The BRA has made its views on the Bookham Masterplan clear. The Masterplan, approved by MVDC's Cabinet on 16 April, has missed an opportunity to do something really worthwhile for the Bookhams, and in the process has misrepresented residents' views. Details are available on the BRA website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/blog/tag/29109/Master+Plan/

Despite various efforts to engage residents about the Masterplan (e.g. a public exhibition, talking to groups of people, putting up posters) the on-line survey did not enthuse residents. There were only 225 responses (circa 2% of Bookhams' population), and not all of them responded to all questions. The answers to some of the questions could have very significant implications for the Bookhams, but their level of support was

misrepresented. One example: MVDC claims there is a strong mandate in favour of pedestrianising the High St. In reality, there were only 103 respondents in favour (circa 0.9%).

The BRA is resolute that the Bookhams' future should not be decided by such low survey responses, which cannot be taken as a mandate to support fundamental changes in the Village. Full, effective, public consultation is required. As a member of the Masterplan Steering Group the BRA's concerns, raised during the process, were not heeded, and simply summarised at MVDC's Cabinet meeting as "unease in some quarters", which is very disappointing

Some Councillors at the Cabinet meeting said that the Masterplan does not represent an approved

Continued from page 3

plan, rather it is a starting point for further consultations with any progression also being subject to funding and planning approvals. However, other Councillors said the Masterplan gave MVDC a basis to press ahead and seek funding to undertake projects. Worryingly, the act of applying for project funding could be seen as implying sufficient support for a project, which has actually not been demonstrated to date. The inherent contradiction between these views in terms of support and future engagement is not helpful.

However, Bookham West Councillor, Monica Weller, has helpfully posted on social media that "...The Plan is a framework for ideas, not a set of decisions carved in stone, every project will be subject to future consultations, funding approvals, planning permission and full public scrutiny."

Such commitments support the BRA's request that MVDC commit to undertaking further comprehensive consultations with residents and businesses before seeking to progress any of the individual projects in the Masterplan. With proper consultation and analysis some of the projects in the Masterplan may gain sufficient support to be put into effect, others not.

Residents can rely on the BRA to continue to work cooperatively with willing organisations and individuals for the benefit of the Bookhams, and continue to speak-up on important issues like the projects in the Masterplan.

Bookham Youth Project

(Part of Leatherhead Youth Project)
Supporting young people
David Cox OBE - Chair of BYCA reports

The Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA) work closely with Bookham Youth Project (BYP) as they are a key stakeholder in the provision of a new Youth Centre which BYCA continues to pursue on behalf of the Community.

Lucy Hicks, Lead Youth Worker for Bookham, and her predecessor have provided vital input into the need for a new Youth & Community Centre which will enable BYP to help hundreds of young people. However, the amount of support to young people is limited by the lack of the new centre and it is a credit to Lucy, who joined last September, that despite the constant delays and disappointments, her BYP team have been doing the best they can. She tells me that "she has been really enjoying settling into her new role and getting to know all the young people!

Also that BYP continues to hold a drop-in youth cafe on Mondays and Fridays after school, providing a safe space for young people to socialise, relax and have fun. Young people are given the opportunity to take part in social action projects and come away on residential trips at little or no cost, giving them opportunities to develop new skills and grow in confidence".

BYouth Café takes place at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre (Mondays & Friday from 4:15 – 6:15pm) for young people aged 11 – 17. Lucy is supported by three of the Churches Together congregations.



leatherheadyouthproject.com

Well done Lucy and her BYP team

Lucy Hicks
Community
Youth Worker
for Bookham



The same "well done" cannot be said for Surrey County Council (SCC)...

...which after so many years of delay has announced that "the proposed plans for the Lower Road recreation ground cannot proceed as originally planned", while at the same time reconfirming "its commitment to providing a building to support and benefit the community in Bookham". The BYCA and BRA have made their disappointment clear to SCC, and that we need certainty as to SCC's commitment to build a new centre on the old site at 164 Lower Road. We will provide further update on progress.

Horsepower comes to Bookham!

At the beginning of April the National Trust started mowing Bookham common using traditional Shire horses instead of the usual tractors.

The National Trust says that by using Shire horses for mowing it preserves the soil and reduces compaction, reduces nutrient uptake and encourages wild flower seeds, enhancing the meadow's biodiversity.



And of course it's a lovely sight to see these majestic horses being used in modern land management. The Shire horses and mowing was

undertaken by Oakwood Clydsdales and we hope that they may be able to return in the future to continue the good work.

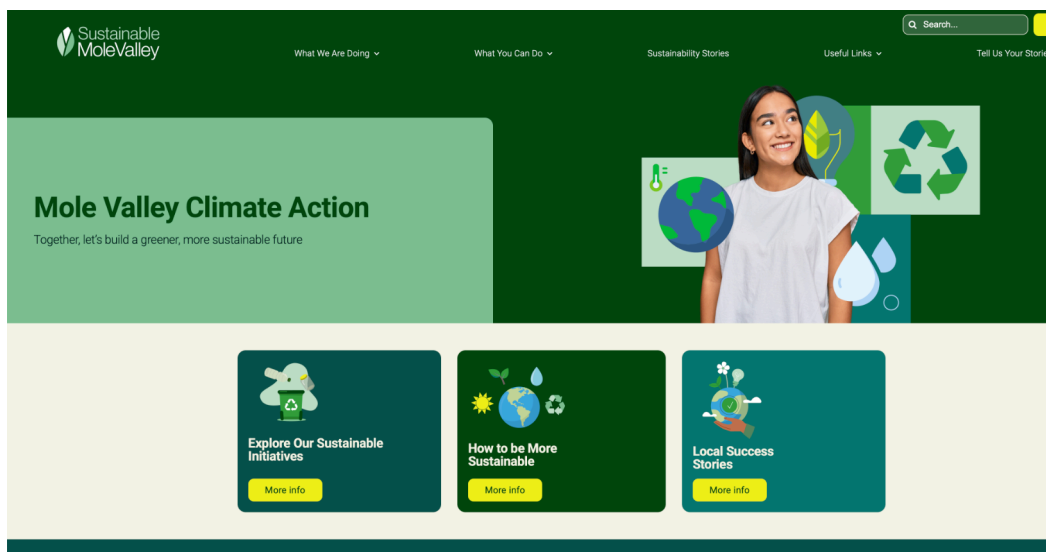
Climate Action in Mole Valley

Councillor Claire Malcolmson - MVDC Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Wellbeing reports

Despite further Government cutbacks Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) continues to strive forward in a determined effort to lower its carbon footprint and help our residents do so as well. We have our brand new website:

sustainablemolevalley.co.uk.

This is full of wonderful information about how, we as a district council and you, the public, can help our precious environment, by acting more sustainably. MVDC continues to plant a large number of native saplings on our land, purchased with the money from the Community Lottery Environment Fund. Tickets are only £1 and you can choose which local group you



want to support. The jackpot is £25,000. If you have a cause you'd like to be supported, or if you want to take part, please look at the website.

www.molevalleylottery.co.uk

Air Quality

Mole Valley have improved how information on localised air quality is communicated to residents with respiratory conditions; they can

now access 'live' updates on their mobile phones via a text message when they subscribe for the free to use AirTEXT service. For more information, and how to sign up, please visit the AirTEXT website.

MVDC subscribes to the service and residents can sign up for free on the CERC website.:

www.airtext.info

The Bookhams have a long and fascinating history which has created the heritage we are now the beneficiaries and custodians of. It makes the Bookhams the lovely places they are. At the same time, the pace of change and development has never been greater. By looking back in time we hope to better understand the impacts of what the future might hold. So, to help promote and cherish our Village's heritage the BRA has asked Vivien White, historian, author, and local resident to provide a series of historical articles. Where better to start than with the Origins of Great and Little Bookham".

The origins of Great and Little Bookham

Vivien White

Most residents probably know that Great and Little Bookham can be traced back to the Anglo Saxon period (420 to 1066 AD). The name Bookham means settlement among the beech trees in Old English.

Originally, they are thought to have formed part of a large 6th century estate along with Effingham (the name means the homestead or settlement of Effa's people). Bookham later became a separate estate and at an unknown date its owner seems to have given the largest part, later called Great Bookham, to Chertsey Abbey and retained the smaller part, later called Little Bookham. Chertsey Abbey was founded in around 666AD with land given to it by Frithuwald, the then subking of Surrey.

In a later charter of 727 AD Frithuwald supposedly donated further lands to the Abbey

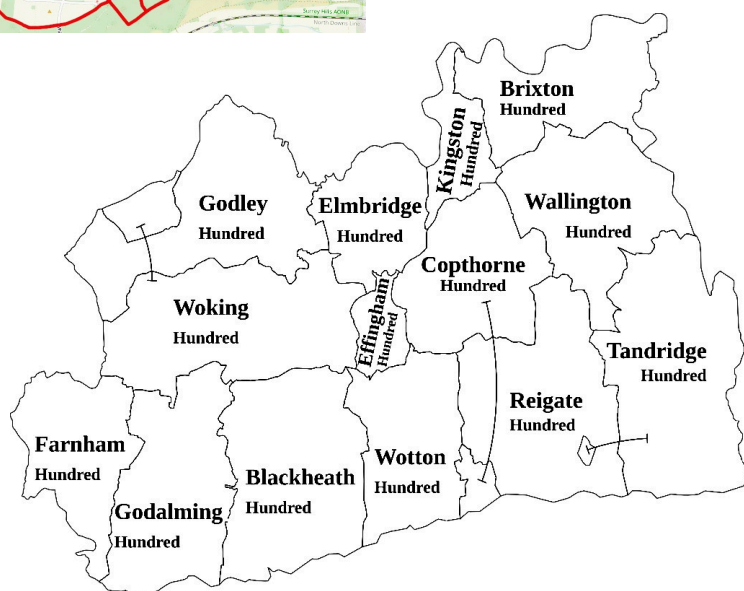
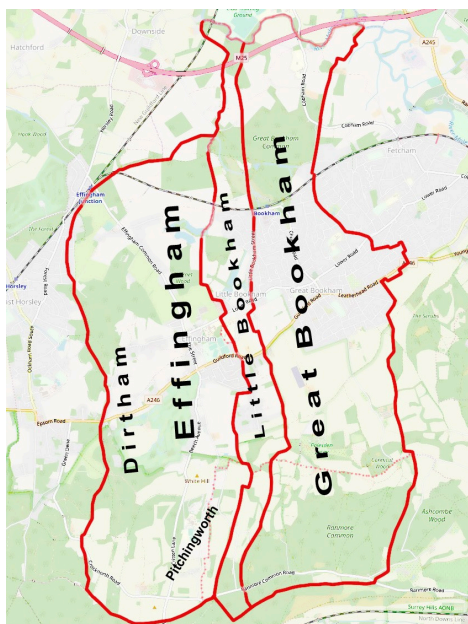
including Bookham, but the charter has been shown to be a forgery made after 1066.

The three villages must have retained close links as by the tenth century when new administrative units called hundreds were formed, both Bookhams and Effingham formed the Hundred of Effingham, even though it was the smallest hundred in Surrey and so would later be called a half hundred.

The first verified record of Bookham is in the Domesday Book of 1086, where they were listed as separate manors, both called simply "Bocham". The Domesday Book records that in 6 the larger "Bocham" belonged to Chertsey Abbey and the smaller "Bocham" had belonged to Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo Saxon King and was sub-tenanted by him to a supporter. It is unlikely that it was his family that gave Great Bookham to Chertsey Abbey as the Godwin family had only recently acquired extensive lands. The two villages were first recorded as Great Bookham (or Bocham Magna) and Little Bookham (or Bocham Parva) in the thirteenth century.

The two villages took different but interacting paths until the twentieth century when their histories again began to converge.

Vivien will be giving a talk about the history of the two villages at the BRA AGM on 17th July and is currently writing a short book on the history of Little Bookham.



Interested in Bookham's heritage?



Have you noticed the two-legged winged dragon (a Wyvern) at the Squareabout or wondered why there is a line of yellow bricks on the High Street pavement? Which pub's rent once included a red rose and a quart of lampreys, and in which church can be found features that were built a thousand years ago and from recent times the birth of a rock legend?

Well the answers to all of this, and much more, can be found in the self-guided map leaflets for the two Bookham Heritage Walking Trails that are now available on the BRA website. These have been produced by Mole Valley Together. There is a 2/3m 1km "Great Bookham Village Trail" and a 5m/8km longer "Eastwick and Little Bookham Trail".

Scan for Bookham's Heritage Trails and History.



Work of BRA's Planning Committee

Keith Whale
Chair BRA Planning Committee

The BRA's Planning Committee members work throughout the year reviewing all Bookham planning applications posted on MVDC's Planning Portal, including those relating to trees. Their work is based on their knowledge and commitment to the Bookhams, and is guided by the policies set out in the Bookham Neighbourhood Plan, MVDC's Local Plan for Mole Valley, and the National Planning Policy Framework. Where residents or the Planning Committee have concerns about applications, they raise them with MVDC Planning Officers and Councillors in 'Letters of Representation'. Similar letters are also sent in support of applications that BRA thinks will benefit the community. The Planning Committee members devote 100s of hours of their time over the course of a year for the benefit of the Bookhams.

In the last 12 months the BRA's Planning Committee has reviewed over 167 applications, and sent 31 Letters of Representations, 80% of which were mirrored by the decisions confirmed by MVDC's Planners either where the BRA objected, supported or raised concerns. Decisions of a small number of tree applications were approved where the BRA objected.

Aside from the regular flow of planning applications, a lot of time

was spent commenting on more strategic planning matters such as the Local Plan during its drafting and review by the Inspector; and the Preston Farm development in making additional submissions, investigation and discussion, including commenting on the outstanding issue of the S106* agreement. Then there was the BRA's involvement with the Bookham Masterplan.

On a positive note, the BRA has joined with other residents associations and parish councils in attending a new Planning Forum with MVDC's Planning Officers. The intention is to discuss and share their views about future handling of applications and the development of Council Strategies. This will include local planning updates from Officers, and discussions on general topics of concern/interest to RAs and PCs on the planning systems e.g. allegations of planning breaches, enforcement, and reporting additional information could be provided to aid service delivery.

*S106: a legal agreement between MVDC and a developer or landowner, which should reduce the impacts of development on the local area. It can include financial contributions, development restrictions, and other obligations.



New SCC Blue Heart process is not good for Bookham or biodiversity!

Diane and Steve Poole

Following the success of the Bookham Blue Heart Wildflower Verges project, Surrey Highways developed a process to allow residents to gain formal acceptance of their wildflower verges.

Surrey Highways always said they would mow a narrow strip ('framing') along the verge edges to prevent any encroachment onto pavements and roads and to protect sight-lines; sadly their contractors have never really done much of this and this led to complaints by other residents. We appreciate that not all residents are keen on this project but those who are in favour should be able to do so.

The majority of verges are still mown as normal and still have value as part of the overall mosaic for biodiversity. Surrey Highways launched a revised process in late April 2025.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/trees-grass-and-hedges/grass/the-blue-campaign-increasing-biodiversity-in-grass-verges
#blu

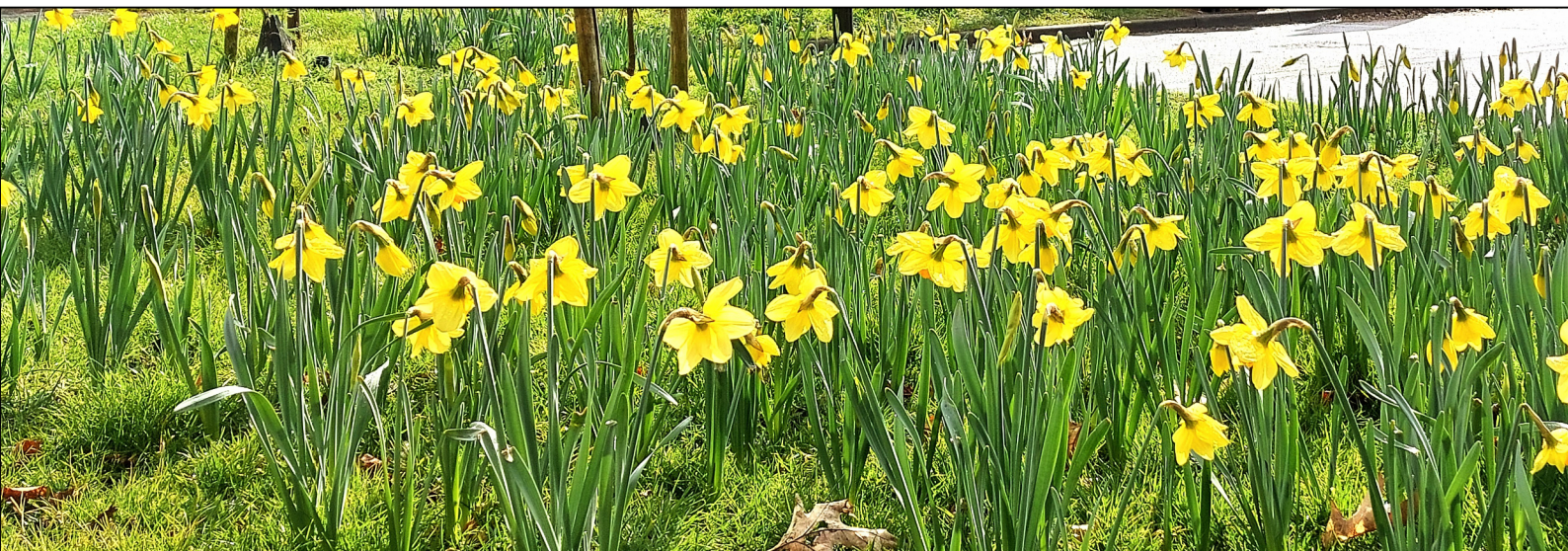
but did not reply to our concerns on the draft they sent us. Communication with the relevant Council Officers has always been a struggle so we continue to try and influence matters through senior elected Councillors.

Surrey Highways say "We've reviewed and updated our process to make it easier for communities to enhance local biodiversity through the Blue Heart scheme". However we believe they are restricting biodiversity further by only accepting new verges which are bigger than 3m x 10m and only accepting applications from community groups (not individual

residents). Not many residential verges in Bookham are that big! SCC will honour smaller legacy approved verges but at the time of writing, SCC have not answered whether they will respect verges with people's own Blue Hearts, initiated prior to their original process.

Over the years we have been delighted to see cowslips, orchids and many other wildflowers allowed to come up on some Blue Heart verges, but we fear not many more will get the chance due to these restrictions.





The Bookham Blue Hearts team, along with volunteers, planted over 3,000 daffodil bulbs and 2,000 crocus bulbs at Lower Shott giving some lovely spring colour.

Hedges & Tree Works

Chris Cunningham - BRA Tree Warden

A reminder to all Residents that have hedges, that border on footpaths and other public rights of way, to keep them well trimmed in order not to cause any obstructions.

This is particularly important for those who use mobility scooters or other walking aids and parents with young children in prams or pushchairs. Special attention should be paid to hedges that contain spiky trees such as Hawthorn or Blackthorn and shrubs such as Pyracantha (Firethorn) and

of course the ubiquitous brambles.

Deciduous hedges (lose leaves in winter) should be trimmed during their growing season (April to September). Usually two trims will be required - early and late Summer..

If a hedge is overgrown and causing problems we recommend, in the first instance, having a polite word with the owners. If this fails then, in the case of adopted roads, you can report the matter to SCC. (See page 12 for reporting to local authorities.)

For unadopted roads "Private Roads" we suggest you speak with the Road Steward / Residents Association for that road.

Tree Works

Before commencing any tree works on your property, first ask yourself two questions
Is my property in a Conservation Area? Are any of my trees subject to an Individual Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or an Area TPO?
If you do not know then you can check on the MVDC website under "Where I live" myproperty.molevalley.gov.uk/molevalley/

If the answer is no to both of these questions you may proceed with your required Tree Works. If the answer to either of these two questions is "yes" then you need to submit a Tree Works Application which can be downloaded from the MVDC website:

www.molevalley.gov.uk/planning-building/planning-application-forms-and-fees/

There is no fee for a Tree Works Application. Completed form to be sent to MVDC Planning Dept either by mail or email
planning@molevalley.gov.uk



Continued from page 9.

MVDC will endeavour to make a decision within 8 weeks of application being recorded on their Planning Portal but in reality it could be longer.

An approved Tree works Application has a validity of 2 years in which the approved works need to be completed. Your elected Tree Surgeon can advise the best time of year to do the agreed works.

Finally, leaves / seeds falling or birds discarding excess weight before take off are not justifiable reasons.

Saving our ancient, heritage and most beautiful trees

Frances Fancourt
BRA Tree Warden

We have all heard about the ancient oak which was needlessly felled in Enfield recently. This has highlighted the need for all of us to take more responsibility for our mature trees.

A mature tree provides much, much more benefit to our climate and environment than a number of replacement trees. Following a single felling, it will take many

decades before the previous state of equilibrium will be met. And this goes for every large or mature tree felled. We are taking action to try to prevent the loss of our important trees.

Ten years ago the Bookham Tree Wardens listed the biggest and best trees we have here. There were about 130 of them. We provided a shortlist of Bookham's important trees to Mole Valley District Council – where decisions are made in conjunction with planning - whether or not to allow trees to be felled.

We are currently updating our lists. We know that some of our trees have been felled, including the huge Cedar of Lebanon which was in the rear garden of Bookham Grove House. In remembrance of this magnificent tree, two new cedars have been planted adjacent in Whiteway Green.

Once updated we will once again inform Mole Valley District Council of the trees which we value most; this in the hope that we can save them from a similar needless felling.

However, I am sure we missed some. If you have an old, or ancient, or important, or magnificent tree in your garden, in the road near you - or somewhere else in Bookham - do let us know about it! Send your tree location and details to this email address:

bookhamtrees@bookhamresidents.org.uk

A plea for people with new trees to keep watering whenever it is hot or dry, as we really want all these lovely new trees to survive.



Norbury Park Volunteers

Norbury Park Conservation Group

Norbury Park volunteers have been busy over the winter / spring supporting Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Surrey County Council (SCC) Woodland Operations in their management of Norbury. The volunteer group was established nine years ago by SWT for local people to become involved in tasks to benefit Norbury. The group's activities are now split between SWT and SCC.

Activities carried out over previous months for SWT included scrub management on the chalk grasslands in Walnut Tree Clump and Keepers Grasses. Chalk grassland is a rare habitat; hence it is important to control the scrub to encourage growth of grasses and wild flowers. A flower survey was carried out on Keepers Grasses and Fetcham Downs. Around twenty different species of plant and several grasses were identified in square metre quadrats. We also supported ragwort removal and bracken control of the margins in Phoenix Fields so that the meadow could be cut to provide winter feed for the SWT herd of Belted Galloway cattle.

For SCC the volunteers helped in clearing sweet chestnut material from The Scrubs. The logs were dragged from the wood by heavy horses - a magnificent sight to see them working. The volunteers have since had enjoyable sessions



splitting the logs for posts and railings, which have been used for the fencing near Wild! About Coffee and the renovated old Saw Pit in Updown Wood.

In the autumn the SWT Belted Galloway cattle returned to graze on the chalk grassland in Walnut Tree Clump and Keepers Grasses. 'No fence' technology was unavailable, so instead electric fencing returned around the various grassy compartments. The volunteers supported SWT when they carried out scrub clearance on these compartments using the remote-controlled robot mower that cleared sections of the encroaching bramble.

The Group supported SCC woodland management activities with hazel coppicing in The Scrubs and Updown Woods. Coppicing is an established traditional skill, the key objective, in addition to opening up the woodland for greater diversity and encouraging dormouse-friendly habitats, was to obtain useful product from the wood i.e. plant canes for horticultural use, stakes and

binders for hedge laying, stakes for tree planting. A result of this activity can be seen in the number of bluebells appearing in the coppiced areas. On-going volunteer tasks have included clearing overgrown footpaths, for example from the corner of Updown Wood down towards the River Mole.

Anyone interested in joining this local, friendly volunteer group and finding out more about our work, please register on the SWT website under Volunteering and express an interest in Norbury Park. The group meet on the third Friday of the month - we provide tools, have qualified first aiders and trained volunteer leaders.

www.surreywildlifetrust.org/get-involved/volunteer,

Further information and current news on Norbury Park can be found on the dedicated SCC website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/countryside/sites/visitor-information/norbury-park-section-1



BRA services for the community

The BRA has a number of activities and free services and to make day-to-day community life in Bookham just that little bit easier and to enjoy living in Bookham. To find out more visit the BRA website and use the Quick Links for the BRA, Community and Council & Utilities.

Village Noticeboards

We have five noticeboards around the village. We accept A4 and A5 posters. For more details on how to submit and what we accept are available on the BRA website

Litter Pick

We meet on the first Sunday of the month at Lower Shot at 11.00 am. If it's a Bank Holiday weekend we meet the following weekend. Kit provided. Please note participants must be aged 16 or over or if under 16 assisting as part of a recognised organisation or with an adult.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Not sure if you have something that is recyclable but isn't accepted by MVDC? With our simple tool you can enter the item and it will show if the item can be recycled locally by other recycling groups.

Service Requests & Reporting Portal

Not sure who to report a street cleaning request or overhanging branches or a pothole to, or seen something suspicious on your video doorbell? Our Service Report portal has all the links to the relevant authorities.

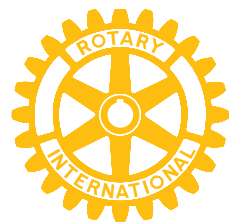


www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Community Event Calendar

Advertise your one off or regularly occurring events on the Community Events Calendar.

Rotary
Bookham & Horsley



Andrew Smith

Rotary Bookham & Horsley is a friendly local Club with about 20 members, which is part of the worldwide Rotary organisation of 1.4 million members.

It's the world's largest humanitarian service organisation. Our members and large pool of friends get involved for two reasons: to give something back to their local community via projects and events, and to enjoy the friendship of others when involved in projects or at social meetings.

We welcome new ideas and input! To get an idea of our projects and activities, or to contact us, go to:

www.bookhamandhorsley.rotaryweb.org

Bookhams Residents' Association

Working for Bookham since 1926

Search BRA website

| BRA links | Community Links | Council & Utility Links |
|---|--|---|
| Join the BRA and pay 2025 Annual Subscription | Reduce, Reuse, Recycle | MVDC Bookham Master Plan |
| Contact the BRA | Bookham Community Event Calendar | MVDC Planning applications |
| BRA Noticeboards | Latest on new Youth & Community Centre | Quick links for Service Requests and Reporting to: Mole Valley DC; Surrey CC; Surrey Police Suspicious Activity portal; Norbury Park; Bookham Commons |
| Newsletters | News and information by category | Surrey Connect On Demand Bus Service |
| Monthly litter pick | Your Residents' Association | MVDC Local Plan |
| BRA e-mail service | | SCC Roadworks - updated weekly |
| BRA Blog | | |
| Preston Farm Planning Application | | |
| Bookham Heritage Walks and History | | |



Citizens Advice - Mole Valley

Nicola Reid

We are Mole Valley's leading advice service – a local independent charity serving our community. We are here for everyone across Mole Valley. We can all face problems that seem complicated or daunting.

We believe no one should have to face problems alone. We're here to listen and advise, not to judge, and to help you find a way forward. We provide free and confidential advice on all issues, including benefits, energy, housing, money, debt, relationships, immigration and discrimination, and support people in crisis situations. You can rely on us because we are confidential, independent and totally impartial.

We work to expert advice standards. Find out more, including how to get in touch, on our website:

citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk

Nicola will be a Guest Speaker at the AGM on 17th July.



Community Fridge

Community Fridge aims to redistribute good food that would otherwise go to landfill and is run by The Meeting Place charity at Bookham Baptist Church. Open Tuesday and Friday 11-12pm and Saturday 10.30-11.30am it supports over 200 families in Bookham. Anyone can come and choose from the bakery products and other good-quality food donated by local supermarkets –

Co op, Tesco and Sainsbury's (and many others). There's no charge but a voluntary donation of £2.50 is appreciated. "Anything not used is taken by a farmer for animal feed," explains Co ordinator Edna Woodhouse. "We really do make sure nothing is wasted."

[themeetingplace.org.uk/
community-fridge/](http://themeetingplace.org.uk/community-fridge/)

Bookham & District Talking Newspaper



Each week members of the Talking Newspaper team read and record articles from Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser, Surrey Advertiser. We also include articles from other local publications such as the BRA Newsletter, Bookham Bulletin, parish magazines, and local reference information. In addition we also have a monthly audio magazine, Mole Valley Talking.

Talking Newspapers are optimised for

HEAR the News from Mole Valley!

A free weekly service for Visually Impaired Persons

Do you have a problem with your sight or find it hard to hold a newspaper to read it?

WE CAN HELP

Contact 'Mole Valley Talking News' at:

www.bookhamtalkingnewspaper.org.uk
www.dorkingtalkingnewspaper.org.uk

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Traffic safety measures in Church Road

Cllr Clare Curran reports



Work scheduled to start in August 2025

Last year, Surrey County Council carried out a public consultation on safety improvement proposals for Church Road, intended to address problems of speeding on the northern stretch of Church Road and to make improvements for pedestrians using the church and shops. There are plans for traffic calming measures in Church Road between the squareabout and Commonside and to introduce a 20mph speed limit across the heart of the village.

The 20 mph zone will extend over the village centre, incorporating the 20 mph zone in East Street. It will take effect in Church Road from the squareabout to Mill Close and include High Street, Lower Road between Pine Walk and The Garstons, Vicarage Close and Post House Lane, Fife Way, Solecote and Mill Close.

Traffic calming measures include speed cushions, narrow rectangular humps that allow wide tracked vehicles, such as buses and large emergency vehicles, to straddle them to minimise discomfort for passengers, and road tables, areas of raised road across the road width that calm traffic and provide safer crossing points for pedestrians. Tables have tapered edges that allow water to flow freely away.

Surrey Highways engineering teams are working on detailed designs. The statutory required traffic regulation orders will be advertised shortly.

Work is provisionally timetabled for August 2025 but will be carried out by the end of the financial year.



Community Safety and Police Liaison

The BRA has a good working relationship with our local Police Officers and the Borough Commander. That relationship will continue to thrive with the BRA welcoming Neil Clarke as a member of both the BRA's General, and Planning Committees, leading on Community Safety and Police Liaison.

We asked Neil what motivated him to volunteer with the BRA?

Although I am a recent recruit to the BRA, my wife and I have lived in the village for nearly twenty years and we really appreciate the work the BRA does for the Bookhams. Until I retired last October, I was the Crime Reduction Advisor with Surrey Police for Mole Valley and Epsom & Ewell. That's why I felt I could still give something back to the community, in terms of maintaining my links with past colleagues and sharing some achievable, realistic and cost-effective crime reduction advice that may just help people to reduce their risk of being victims of crime.

How does Mole Valley's crime rate compare?

During the years I was with Surrey

Police I learned that, although statistics mean little if you become a victim of crime, Mole Valley has a very low crime rate overall.

That is reassuring, what can we all do to keep it that way?

The main thing that I would like to stress is the importance of reporting any crimes, issues or concerns to the police otherwise they won't know what might actually be happening or how much impact this is having on the local community.

If issues such as anti-social behaviour, drugs offences, criminal damage or, in fact a general feeling of not being safe in the community is not actually reported by all the people who are experiencing it, the police won't have any idea about the actual extent of the issue. This is vital as resources are normally targeted based on the actual number of reports being received. Social media has an important role to play in raising awareness amongst residents, but posting something on Facebook is not the same as reporting it to the police.

If a crime is actually taking place, or if a situation is making you feel afraid then you should always call 999. Any other issues or concerns can be reported by calling 101, or very quickly online on the Surrey Police website – www.surrey.police.uk (Also see page 12 for more on reporting to the Police) It is only by making the police aware of the number of people affected by an issue that effective resources can be allocated to address the situation.

Thanks Neil for volunteering with the BRA, and we look forward to

sharing your crime reduction advice with residents via the BRA website and your Newsletter articles.



Local Government Reorganisation: Full plan published

The full devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) plan was published by SCC on the 9th May.

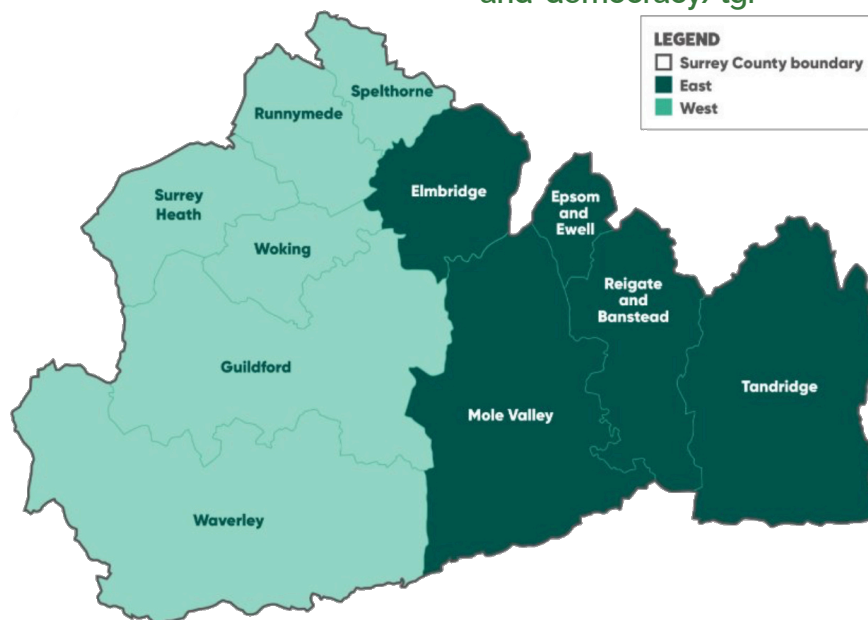
SCC have proposed, and MVDC have supported, two unitary councils, with an East and West geography as shown in the map below. These two councils would replace the existing 12 district

councils and unlock further devolution in Surrey. The west authority would be Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking, and the east authority would be made up of Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge.

Detailed analysis within the proposal shows that two councils would be the most beneficial model for Surrey's future, with similar land area, population, house building targets, business activity, homelessness and total miles of public highways. It also considers the differing levels of debt that the two authorities would potentially inherit.

The proposal also strengthens local community engagement with community level boards proposed across Surrey, enabling residents to have a say in services and decisions that affect them. SCC will be sharing details in the future. All information regarding Surrey's LGR is available on the SCC website.:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/lgr



The Bookhams Residents' Association

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Thank you to those Residents who have already paid their subscription this year.

We that hope you have enjoyed reading the articles throughout the Newsletter. We can however only continue this important work with the help of those who support us whether that is through volunteering or by payment of subscriptions.

We are now collecting subscriptions for our financial year from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. We have been able to hold the annual subscription at £5.00 per household. We would be grateful if you are able to also make an additional donation, however small, to help us continue to support our community

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