

Chairman's report

July 17th 2013

I thank CPC for nominating me on behalf of the Parish for the Mayor's Award for Services to the Community. I received the award in April but as the May meeting involved an AGM, amongst many other things, it slipped my mind to thank those who nominated me.

Ken & I met with Highways Officer Bahram Assadi and Cllr. George Johnson earlier this month, details will be given in the traffic report.

I attended a **planning meeting at G Live**, which was an introduction to the long awaited Local Plan. There were a number of exhibition stands, each manned by a member of GBC. Each offered information / participatory game linked to potential objections in development, in order to demonstrate that greenbelt, heritage etc can work alongside new developments.

The exercise was highly controlled, with little opportunity for general / personal viewpoints which might differ from those presented. It was very clear that everyone is NIMBY and that traffic is a major concern to most people.

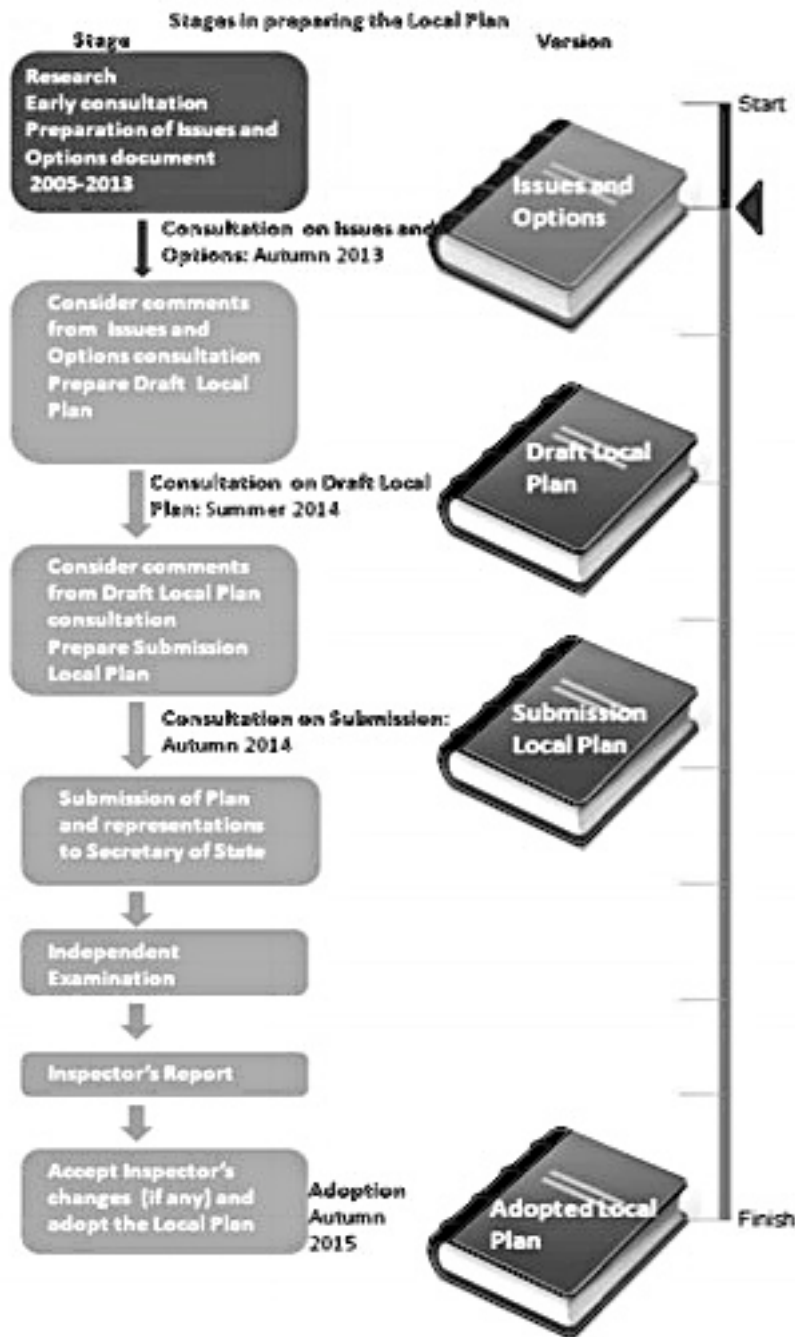
Informal discussions raised some concerns as there are two Guildford pressure groups that I am aware of, (Guildford Vision Group and Guildford Residents Association) whose primary concern is Guildford. The suggestion to develop 'outer Guildford' in order to protect and improve the town centre is not altogether a surprising one, but the impact on surrounding villages such as Compton should not be underestimated.

We know that during the closure of Charterhouse Rd an extra 2,000 vehicles a day came through the B3000 in each direction! The difference this made to the already busy road meant that whilst it was difficult to cross before, it was impossible to cross for long periods. People had difficulty getting their cars out of their drives / junctions and tailbacks were a regular occurrence.

There is a surprising lack of understanding of the traffic problems we face here already (as was revealed when B3000 was initially omitted from the recent congestion programme). Hopefully this will be amended. Indeed despite Ex Cllr. Gimson's regular attendance at PC meetings and expressions of support, highways state they have no knowledge of congestion in this area. Before considering a survey they have asked for us to monitor the situation for several months, as there have been a number of road works schemes (some prolonged), which may they feel might have caused / exacerbated the situation. As July / August is generally quieter, I suggested we monitor until November.

FAQ's about the new Guildford Plan are attached and will be posted on Compton's website.

Figure one: Stages in preparing a Local Plan.



The message is clear that Central Government is 'pro-growth' and wishes to boost development of houses, tourism and shopping to stimulate the economy.

Decisions will be made on a macro level initially (ie looking at the bigger picture, which is Surrey and then the Borough of Guildford to see where housing could go. The options are to build heavily in a few areas and build any necessary infrastructure such as roads and services or to spread the numbers, with each area taking a small number, preferably in an area where the infrastructure exists already. Having a village plan or neighbour plan is helpful, in that this provides the evidence base that can support or object decisions made.

Compton village is unlikely to be affected to any great extent. The northern tip of the Parish boundary, on the other side of the A3 however may well be nominated for further

development in line with developments in and around the business parks. We should be mindful of the impact ANY changes / growth will have on our roads and the impact this has on everyday life.

It is VERY important that residents voice their opinions at the consultation stage. This will be in October 2013 and we should ask Jane to ensure a link to this is given in the October and November NEWS.

There are many good examples of new housing that are in keeping with local design ideals and our very brief consultation at the last Annual meeting showed that houses once suited to larger families are sometimes inhabited by a single elderly resident who could be given the opportunity to move to more suitable accommodation, releasing a family home.

Informal comments also mentioned the need to explore brown field before green belt, to establish a better record in dealing with empty properties and to build student accommodation at the University in order to release the 6000 units currently taken by students in and around the town centre.

Village Plan

At the last meeting, only Ken, James and myself were able to attend and given the lukewarm response in way of assistance, it was decided to postpone the Plan and revisit it next year. In the meantime Fiona has requested details of land ownership from GBC (received) and SCC with a view to 'mapping out' the village. It appears there is no quick or cheap way of doing this as land registry details will be needed for each plot to ascertain ownership and land registry has confirmed that there are no discounts available for multiple purchases. It will cost £6 per plot (for boundary details marked on title plan and owner details, marked on register, each of which are £3). It costs a further £9 for flood risk details. I propose therefore that we forget the flood risk option initially at any rate and we add the £500 given by ex Cllr. Gimson to the £1000 grant aid we have applied for, for JC to produce the map. [175 plots x £6 per plot, which is £1,050 plus £450 worth of JC's time] I further propose we make a start on the project in the hope that grant aid will be forthcoming with a view to PC funding 2/3 of costs, if it is not.

Cemetery

There were some maintenance issues in June, which will be covered in the cemetery report. This has dented confidence but we hope that these issues can be addressed in order to move forward.

Limnerslease Consultation

Fiona Curtis was unable to go, David Haskins attended and will brief.

Monks Hatch

James Parsons and Fiona attended a meeting with Jenny Seagrove and James also met neighbours to discuss possible solutions.

James to brief Councillors.