

South Godstone Residents' Association

Summary of Recent Activities for Godstone Parish Council

The onset of Covid curtailed the Association holding its AGM for three years but this situation was finally rectified in November 2022. At that meeting, several changes to the Committee structure were agreed such that the new Committee is now structured as follows:

Chairman: Mike Crane
Vice Chairman: Andy Janaway
Secretary: Susan Clark
Treasurer: Sarah Reynolds

Committee members Colin Anderson, Pat Brown, Jeff Burrell and Colin White

Julie Jones, Chris Boughton and John Tomlin also joined the Committee.

The meeting also agreed to some constitutional changes primarily associated with new members contributions to the Association.

The Treasurer also presented a signed off set of Accounts for the preceding three years.

The Association made a significant financial contribution to the installation of a third defibrillator device in the village on the external wall of St Steven's Church to add to those at the Sports Club and railway station.

Throughout the last 12 months, the Association has helped facilitate the successful roll out of a high speed fibre optic data network at homes within South Godstone by working closely with Fibre and Wireless Networks (F&W) Ltd a company who specialise in supplying such broadband networks to rural and semi-rural areas. To date, this has been a successful liaison with the ability to receive these super-fast data transfer rates currently expected to be available to the vast majority of homes in South Godstone by the end of 2023.

The Association has been particularly pro-active over the last six months in bringing road condition, signage and pavement issues to the attention of Surrey County Council. Some of these matters have already been addressed whilst others have been added to their "list" for attention.

Although not strictly part of the Association, several of its members are the driving force behind the South Godstone Speedwatch programme and this matter always forms part of its regular meeting agenda. New volunteers have stepped forward from within the Association's membership and this is allowing Speedwatch exercises to take place more regularly than in the past. However, speeding through the village remains a high profile matter for the Association.

Another regular agenda item is the condition and upkeep of Woodlands Drive which is an “unadopted” road. The road is owned by Croudace Ltd a local developer, and the Association has enjoyed some success in getting them to address the worse sections of this road and maintain contact with them. The Association’s attempt to persuade SCC to adopt the road have unfortunately been unsuccessful.

The Association recently worked closely with the South Godstone Sports Club to organise and deliver a “Big lunch” to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. This was a highly successful event for both the Club and the Association.

In summer 2022, the Association took the decision to launch its own website (southgodstoneresidentsassociation.co.uk) which provides a range of information useful for businesses, residents and those looking to find out more about our activities in the community. Initially purchased for just one year, we are shortly to consider whether there is merit in renewing the website with associated costs.

South Godstone Residents’ Association is pleased to be working with Godstone Village Association (GVA) and there is a reciprocal arrangement for the chair of each organisation to attend the other’s regular meetings. Each group has many similarities and concerns but also differences which make meetings different and refreshing.

The Association continues to examine possibilities for future fund raising events and to attract more members from the South Godstone community.

Mike Crane
Chairman