

Whyteleafe Village Council Newsletter

Autumn / Winter 2016



Message from the Chairman

This Autumn's newsletter is heavily devoted to community resilience as we head into winter. In this edition, you will find tips, hints and contact numbers that may prove useful to you, your relatives and your neighbours particularly if we encounter a harsh winter this year. So, why are we making such a fuss?

Despite last year being the warmest since records began in 1910, the UK's run of mild winters could be about to end. Weather experts, such as the Met Office, are predicting that this year could see spells of severe cold including heavy snow. And it could all start in December (due to the onset of the Polar Vortex!).

The support and advice that's available comes from the NHS, Surrey County Council, Utility Companies, Tandridge District Council, our own 'Snow Angels' initiative and the Whyteleafe Flood Group. Read on to find out more...

Celia Rudland, Chairman on behalf of Whyteleafe Village Council.

Snow Angels

Once again we are appealing for additional local volunteers to help us clear pavements in central Whyteleafe in the event of heavy and prolonged snow. An hour or two of light work clearing snow will help make all the difference. Contact the Clerk (see back page) to register your interest and find out more. The more the merrier!



Call 105

This telephone number, for everyone in Britain, will contact you with the electricity network operator to report a power cut or safety concern, or receive reassurance during a blackout.

You can call 105 free from most land-lines and mobile phones, no matter who provides your electricity supply. Don't forget!

When things get a little tougher

Here are a few useful website domains and telephone numbers that will give you access to direct support when its needed.

These are by no means exhaustive but are worth keeping for reference. Why not take a look online now? Of course, for all life threatening emergencies always dial 999 or 112 immediately.

- Surrey County Council for gritting roads, roadside grit bins and flood coordination in Whyteleafe : 0300 200 1003 and www.surrey.gov.uk
- Environment Agency for flood info and support: 0345 988 1188 and to report incidents: 0800 80 70 60.
- Tandridge District Council for community support call 01883 722000 and for guidance on snow clearance that will avoid the threat of liability visit: www.tandridge.gov.uk. and search by entering 'clearing snow'.
- NHS urgent and non-emergency help call 111.

Are you ready
for winter?

**STAY WELL
THIS WINTER**

Stay Well Campaign

Visit the NHS online service at www.nhs.uk/staywell to find the latest advice on how to keep well this winter. And there's the NHS 'Live Well' site for the New Year!

Need extra help?

Particularly vulnerable residents should sign up to their utility companies Priority Service Register and Thames Water's Special Assistance Register.

Planning for the future - the Local Plan

Tandridge District Council are preparing a new Local Plan to provide a planning blueprint for the next 15 years or so.

Until 30th December, the public is being asked to comment on sites of potential development in Whyteleafe and elsewhere.

So now is your chance to comment on where new houses could be built and what new infrastructure is needed to cope. Back in the Spring, we raised a

number of concerns. These included a need to protect recreational space, retain green belt to prevent settlements merging, improve the standard of design and maintain a housing mix of different sizes and densities.

In Whyteleafe, TDC are now considering Edgeworth Close, Godstone Road Car Park (lower) and looking at land on Burntwood Hill. To make your

views known contact TDC by **email:**

localplan@tandridge.gov.uk

or register online:

consult.tandridge.gov.uk/portal

or phone (and write):
01883722000 / Oxted RH8 0BT

Neighbourhood Plan

The CR3 Forum is preparing the final Plan ahead of the expected referendum in 2017.

This will be widely publicised.

How to make an angel



Welcome to our new Councillors

Two new Councillors have joined the council since elections were held in May.

Fatima Kamara (pic. left) has been actively involved in a number of the issues specific to Whyteleafe.

John Cheetham has only just joined the Council. His history of community work will be an asset to the Council too.



Flood Group news

The Whyteleafe Flood Group is preparing for its next multi-agency meeting this winter to discuss specific flood mitigation plans for Whyteleafe over the medium-term. The Flood Group also monitors the risk of flood for residents.

The group can be contacted via email: info@floodgroup.co.uk.

How you can help too

The resilience of our local community relies on the professional help of many organisations and their staff.

In addition, we can all provide assistance too. Why not consider clearing snow for others and looking out for your neighbours. A little help can make a world of difference.

Blocked highway drains

We have been working hard to get the County Council to improve the clearance of blocked highway drains in Whyteleafe's flood prone areas.

You can use 'Report A Highway Problem' on the Surrey County website and use their mapping tool to pinpoint blocked drains.

Message in a bottle

This scheme particularly helps those living on their own. Medical information is kept in a branded bottle in the fridge giving emergency services easy

access to key information. For more details contact the Caterham, Oxted & Godstone Lions Club on 01883 335945 or 0845 8334993.

And last but not least...

We hope you have found this newsletter helpful. We wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas break and new year!

Your Council

Celia Rudland (Chair) 01883 622788 **David Lee (Vice-Chair)** 07702 850698

Niall Campbell 07939 403414 (via Clerk) **John Cheetham** 020 8686 2978

Fatima Kamara 07939 403414 (via Clerk) **Beth Rose** 07896 189368 **Sam Rose** 07815 531423

Simon Bold (Clerk) 07939 403414 or email: clerk@whyteleafecouncil.org.uk

Next council meetings: 12th December 2016, 9th January & 13th February 2017

www.whyteleafecouncil.org.uk