

# GOLDSWORTH NEWS

March 2022 – Issue 179

## Inside:

- Cycle track upgrade – p6
- Royer's View – p7
- Council Tax hike – p11

## Spring edition



HIGH LIFE – Woking's new skyline from the recreation area  
Picture: Joseph Moss

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# GOLDSWORTH NEWS

GOLDSWORTH NEWS is the magazine of the Goldsworth Park Community Association CIO and is distributed free to approximately 5,000 homes and organisations throughout Goldsworth Park and the surrounding area.

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

George Binyon (Editor)  
and Royer Slater.

editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

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Please submit articles for the next edition

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## GPCA CIO MEETINGS

Public meeting Wednesday April 20,  
7.30pm Goldwater Lodge or Dianthus  
Building, Wishbone Way. Membership of  
the GPCA is required to receive details of  
forthcoming meetings. See Page 10 for  
information on how to join.

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Ann-Marie Barker WBC,  
James Sanderson WBC, and Lance Spencer  
SCC (Lib Dem). Chitra Rana WBC,  
Saj Hussain SCC (Conservative).

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# Views from the Chair

**IT might only be early March, but there are signs of spring already.**

My snowdrops have been out for some time and the crocuses are now beginning to bloom while the daffodils are a bit late, only showing their buds. On the lake, the cob (male swan) is busy chasing off interlopers. Let's hope the resident pair breed this year and that we have a few cygnets in the summer.

Keep your fingers crossed that we don't have a late frost or even snow as we did a few years ago as this will be a setback to both the spring flowers and the breeding birds.

The thought of late snow reminded me of the year we had to postpone a litter pick after a snowfall meant we could not see the litter, and that reminded me that it is time to hold another one, so, we have arranged for the spring litter pick to be on Saturday, April 2, see details below. We hope to hold further litter picks in the summer and autumn.

Another date for your diary – the GPCA's next general meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 20. We should be able to meet face to face again in the community hall or Dianthus Building. I will contact all members with an update before then. We have had guest speakers at recent meetings and they seem to have been popular. Please would you let me know if there are any particular topics you would like to hear about at future meetings.

## Update on the skatepark

In view of the concerns about the impact of a skatepark and the new BMX track on the environment of the recreation area, it has been decided to defer any further action on the skatepark until the effects of the BMX track can be evaluated.

One of the reasons for building a skatepark in Goldsworth Park was that there was no modern skatepark in the borough but the council is going to build one, twice the size of the one proposed here, as part of the Sheerwater redevelopment.

Another consideration is that, although there seemed to be a lot of support for the idea initially, few people followed up with positive responses on the Your Fund Surrey website and without such responses, the chances of achieving the funding would be limited.

We will revisit this project later in the year.

If you have any issues of general concern or would like to be involved in the work of the GPCA CIO, please contact me through this magazine or at [chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

[www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

Irene Watson, GPCA Chair



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# Great British Spring Clean

**OUR spring community litter pick will be on Saturday April 2 between 2 & 4pm, which ties in with the Great British Spring Clean that runs from March 25 to April 10.**



As usual, meet at the back of the Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge, for a briefing and to collect hi-viz tabards, bin bags and litter pickers.

If you have your own litter picker, please bring it with you as we have only a limited number. Remember to wear strong shoes and gardening gloves.

## Edit the News

THE Goldsworth News is seeking an editor to replace George Binyon who is moving on after editing the magazine for five years.

Published quarterly, the News is delivered to all households and businesses on Goldsworth Park. It keeps residents informed on what is happening around the Park, the work of the GPCA as well as a providing the opportunity for local businesses to advertise at competitive rates.

Design and printing of the magazine is all taken care of by Knaphill Print and full editorial support will be available for the new editor during the transition.

If you are interested in the position or would like further information please email [editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)



# Our Facebook group hits 100



By BOB CHALLONER, NGP Project Manager

## NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK now has a new Facebook group page.

Since its "official" launch in early December it has attracted over 100 members who can share their photos and wildlife sightings on the Meadow and in the woodland as well as more widely across Goldsworth Park. We also have a team of experts who can answer members' wildlife questions.

If you would like to join please go to [www.facebook.com/groups/naturalgoldsworthpark](https://www.facebook.com/groups/naturalgoldsworthpark)

My sincere thanks to Cathy and Katy who have been instrumental in setting up and managing the group page. The original Facebook page will remain open for the time being.

## 2022 activities

WE are planning more activities for volunteers this year which will include:

**Late winter** – cherry laurel clearance in the woodland. This will depend on whether and when Thames Water can arrange their contractor's attendance.

**March** – amphibian survey around the lake and in the woodland led by David Sewell.

**April/May** – a hedgehog survey led by Woking Environment Action (WEAct). This plans to establish the distribution and numbers of hedgehogs visiting gardens in Woking. Goldsworth Park has been proposed for a trial before rolling out more widely across Woking.

**May** – second phase of the mammal survey postponed from last October, to take place over two weekends. Possibly a third phase in September.

**August/September** – second phase of seeding wildflowers over the Meadow, possibly also in the woodland.

More information will be provided on our Facebook pages and in this magazine as the activities are developed.

## Owl box

**MANY thanks to Goldsworth Park Angling Club for funding an owl box to be located in the woodland. Tawny Owls have been present in the woodland before and we hope to attract a breeding pair.**

Although one of the commonest UK owls, the Tawny Owl was moved onto the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern in 2015 due to concerns that it may have been undergoing a long-term population decline.

Woking Council and SERCO have very kindly agreed to install the box.

## BMX track consultation

IN January NGP and GPCA met Woking Council, its contractor and a representative of the cycling interests to discuss reconstruction of the BMX track in the recreation area following completion of the wider public consultation and an ecological survey by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

There are 69 plant species on the track area supporting 22 of the 23 butterfly species, over 350 moth species and 165 insect species recorded on and around the Meadow. The Meadow as a whole is an important foraging resource for bats and supports amphibians, mammals and birds.

At this stage it is impossible to predict how habitats will be affected by the proposed work and hence the extent of any impact on their ecology and biodiversity. However, change is inevitable and a reduction in biodiversity can be anticipated if only from increased human presence in the area and a more intensive ground maintenance strategy being applied.

NGP and the council have concluded that a methodology for ecological reinstatement can only be agreed when work nears completion and the amount of damage is fully evident. This may involve reseeding bare ground with a bespoke grass and flower mix containing species now present rather than using a proprietary mix containing many alien species.

NGP will work with the council after the track comes into use to monitor how and to what extent the habitats are changed, for example, through a minority of plant types becoming dominant.

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FEATHERED ICON – one of the lake's resident kingfishers  
Picture: Gary Medhurst

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# Residents join Surrey TRIBE!

**THE GPCA public meeting on January 19 was held via Zoom, facilitated by Woking Cllr Ann-Marie Barker.**

Chair Irene Watson introduced guest speaker Sue Wales, Head of Strategic Transformation at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Sue went on to tell the meeting about a new project being developed by the NW Surrey Alliance – called TRIBE.

She explained that TRIBE is the name of a platform or an app which can be run on a smartphone, iPad, tablet or laptop. The aim of TRIBE is to help local communities to better connect with each other and that they can decide what to put on the app – it could be volunteers offering services or details of activities in the area such as sports centres, churches, etc.

It is available to everyone and is simple to use so people could ask for help, offer services or search for events. It would also signpost activities and connect to other platforms. In Woking, the app is being piloted in Goldsworth Park and Sheerwater.

At the moment, TRIBE is looking for volunteers to work with the technical team to refine what would be appropriate to have on the platform and how it would work.

Four residents expressed their interest in taking part.

## Community matters

Cllr Barker reported that the shopping centre car park would shortly be resurfaced, and in answer to a question, said she would do everything she can to make sure the spaces for disabled drivers remained in place.

Surrey County Councillor Lance Spencer (Goldsworth East and Horsell Village), who had apologised for his absence, asked Cllr Barker to update the meeting on the Lakers site.

Cllr Barker said that although the fire-damaged building had been demolished and the site cleared there were no definite plans at the moment. She asked that any ideas for the site should be relayed to Surrey County Council via Cllr Spencer or Cllr Saj Hussain (Knaphill and Goldsworth West).

The problem of litter around the Park was raised and council neighbourhood officer Seanne Hunter Hill said to contact her if there was a specific problem and she would ask SERCO to target those areas.

Lighting on the lake footpath was raised and *Goldsworth News* editor George Binyon told the meeting that Cllr Barker's council motion to upgrade the lighting to LED was due to go before the Executive Committee. Two lights had already been upgraded to LED and council officers were looking for feedback as to their suitability. Comments should be forwarded to Seanne.

GPCA secretary Celia Young raised the case of a person with limited mobility who has to cross Kirkland Avenue in order to get a bus into Woking. They have to walk a long way to the light-controlled crossing to cross safely and then back almost to where they started on the other side to the bus-stop. Would it be possible to have another crossing or a refuge in the middle of the road close to the bus stops near Oakfield? There must be other people with the same problem.

Cllr Hussain said he would investigate.

## Chair's report

Membership stands at 110 individual members of whom six are trustees, and 27 corporate members. Three people have left as they have moved away from the area. Membership of the Facebook group is growing and now stands at over 1200.

## Treasurer's report

Both the Christmas Market and the calendar aimed to raise money for good causes, and the calendar has raised £373 to-date, and the Christmas Market made a profit of over £130. The GPCA rounded up the total and has made donations of £250 each to Woking Hospice, Your Sanctuary and Andy's Community Café.

## Natural Goldsworth Park

The Angling Club has donated £100 to NGP to fund an owl box, which, hopefully, will encourage another pair of tawny owls to nest in the area.

## Any other business

The Chair reported that the GPCA's application to Surrey County Council for funding for a skateboard park had been put on hold until the impact on the area of the refurbished cycle track could be assessed.

The next meeting of the GPCA would be on Wednesday April 20. Venue TBC.

The full minutes of the January meeting are available at <https://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk/about/meeting-minutes/>

## Our calendar still on sale

**THE GPCA calendar for 2022 has sold well but there is a small number remaining that can be purchased from Beacon House Dry Cleaners in the shopping centre at a cost of £5.**

Looking forward to our 2023 calendar, I need more good quality photographs of scenes around Goldsworth Park. Although the lake is very photogenic, I would also welcome interesting photographs from activities elsewhere in Goldsworth Park. Please send photographs to [community@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:community@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

BOB COWELL, GPCA Community Officer



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# Thumbs-up for lake lights

**WOKING COUNCIL has agreed its Executive Committee recommendation to upgrade the lighting on the footpath around the lake to LED, writes GEORGE BINYON.**

The decision came after a motion requesting an upgrade was submitted by Goldsworth Park representative Cllr Ann-Marie Barker.

But it is unlikely that all the lights will be converted in a single programme unless the council is successful in obtaining external funding for the project.

The cost of converting all 22 lamps, using the existing columns and power supply will probably be around £10,000. The council had not released a funding target at the time of going to press.

Cllr Colin Kemp (Horsell), speaking on behalf of environment portfolio holder Cllr Kevin Davis (Heathlands) at the full council meeting on Thursday February 10 said: "We are happy to put this forward and support this. Work has already started as we've said. The lights are difficult to repair and we've already put two new LED's in there. We have done some feedback to make sure these are OK from an environmental point of view as well as a safety point of view.

"We are obviously looking for funding for this but we will continue as they fail to replace. We will look for funding to do a total replace and make sure that the brightness fits in with environmental standards as we go forward."

Cllr Barker said: "I'm grateful this is getting support and hope we can go ahead and replace all the lights, the footpath is used before dawn and after dusk all through the year. There has been some positive feedback on the two lights that have been replaced.

"What I have asked for in the motion is for council officers to look for funding."

Cllr Barker added that there were charities and organisations such as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner that may be funding sources.

Cllrs Chitra Rana (Goldsworth Park), Ken Howard (St John's) Saj Hussain (Knaphill) and Ian Johnson (Mount Hermon) all spoke in support of the motion.

As Cllr Kemp pointed out the existing lights are proving difficult to maintain due to their age and non-availability of spare parts and the two lights that have already been converted to LED are number 18 on the east side of the lake and number 21 close to Goldwater Lodge. These new lights give a wide arc of downward light with virtually no vertical light pollution.

As well as exploring funding opportunities, council officers would like to hear feedback on the effectiveness and suitability of the two new LED lights.

If you have a comment to make please email the council's Goldsworth Park Neighbourhood Officer, Seanne Hunter Hill at [seanne.hunterhill@woking.gov.uk](mailto:seanne.hunterhill@woking.gov.uk)



# Work underway on cycle track

**WORK has begun on the £120,000 upgrade to the cycle track on Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground and should be completed by April.**

The new track will see the implementation of a hybrid facility providing:

- a fully asphalted pump track which is a circuit of small mounds to help cyclists generate momentum
- an all-weather mountain bike circuit
- a grass track circuit with features to support the existing coaching which local clubs already deliver.

The track, currently formed of various dirt tracks over mounds, is used by a combination of recreational riders and formal coaches.

The work will allow the council to improve the quality of the facility, whilst retaining open access and free use.

The upgrade follows Woking Council's successful bid to British Cycling to secure £60,000 in funding to invest in reforming the existing track. The council is match funding an additional £60,000.

A council spokesperson said: "Woking Council wishes to thank all local residents, park users and cycle enthusiasts who took part in the consultation and provided invaluable feedback which has been passed on to the contractors to consider in the final design.

"Not all requests, particularly regarding the size of the track, were able to be fulfilled as the ecology of the park remains a priority."



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# Car park gets a makeover

**THE patch repair resurfacing work to the shopping centre car park, put back from the new year, will start when the weather warms up.**

Curchods, who manage the centre for Woking Council, say that the contractors had advised that given the cold temperatures it would be more practical to push the start date back to March at the earliest and that the surveyor and contractor are currently putting together the final works schedule.

The managing agents confirmed there is no plan to reduce the number of disabled bays on site and these will remain in the same location.

Signs will be displayed in the car park giving advance notice of the works.

Woking Council purchased the shopping centre for £16.25million in 2020.

# A personal view

Royer Slater



## GREEN shoots to blooms. Buds to blossom. Luscious leaves to leaf litter. Autumnal foraging. Same old cycle!

If there was a golden thread to the social constraints of the past two years, it was that many of us were more aware than before of the way the natural world changes, day by day, month by month and season by season.

I hope you were able to be out and about during the pandemic because it's been proven to be important for us – mentally and physically – to be outside and connecting with nature.

I for one was grateful to live here in leafy Goldsworth Park during the Covid restrictions, rather than in some anonymous high rise building, or surrounded by the unrelenting grey tarmac of an inner city.

It's a Park in name and a park with nature: a green and pleasant landscape of trees and hedgerows, with a beautiful lake, green roadside verges and lots of off-road pathways, which we share with an abundance of wildlife. That's no accident because Goldsworth Park was planned at its outset to be a leafy garden village – a pleasant place for people to live and relax.

I've enjoyed a short walk most days during those two years. Although my walking difficulties mean I rarely stray from a small local area, my circuits using various paths and cut-throughs were never boring because there were always new things to notice and observe.

During the first lockdown in spring 2020 road traffic was light, the skies were clear, the birdsong was noticeably louder and the gardens and hedgerows were markedly greener with each day. For me it was a season of birds, bees and butterflies: many have commented that they had never taken so much time to observe the natural world in their gardens and neighbourhoods – and these connections with nature were lifting the spirits of many under lockdown.

In summer, Goldsworth is green and the gardens are blooming – you can always find summer beauty here. As the season changes, each daily walk reveals subtle changes as the Park's wide variety of trees,

hedgerows and other plants take their turn to progress through a variety of autumnal colours before shedding their leaves.

Winter brings us new perspectives on our local landscape. The trees' bare branches reach out in beautiful patterns, the late afternoon sunsets are spectacular and birds are forever foraging for food.

It's not long before people comment on the first snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and camellias. Each day the daylight is brighter and longer, and more shoots emerge from the wet soil with their promise of spring and summer plants. The birds sing ever louder as their mating season begins. There are buds everywhere, the trees are in blossom and – hurrah! – it's spring again!

I don't want a repeat of the past two years under the shadow of Covid. However, if reports are correct, that shadow meant people were connecting more with nature. If you were among them, I hope you are looking forward to another year of nature in Goldsworth Park.

Don't miss nature's show: get outside, go for regular walks. Pause to observe the plants, the trees and the creatures. Listen properly to birdsong and insects' buzzing. Spot the changes as the seasons change. There's a lot to discover and to experience – and it's proven that it will do you good!



BLOOMING LOVELY— Camellia brightening a footpath in the Park  
Picture: Royer Slater

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## Kirkland Avenue crossing

A SUGGESTION was raised at the GPCA public meeting in January that it might be helpful to residents in the Oakfield area to have a crossing refuge installed so that residents of Oakfield, Jasmine Close and other nearby roads could easily cross Kirkland Avenue to get to the Woking-bound bus stop on the opposite side of the road.

It was pointed out that residents with reduced mobility had to walk along Kirkland Avenue to the pedestrian crossing at Beaufort School before they could safely cross the road, and then walk almost back to Oakfield in order to get the bus. The GPCA would like to discuss the issue with Surrey County Cllr Saj Hussain, and it would be helpful to have some idea of how many people would find having a safe place to cross Kirkland Avenue of benefit before meeting with Saj.

If this is an issue that affects you, or anyone you know, please send your response to: [secretary@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) as soon as possible.

**ROGER WESTCOTT'S** From the Lakeside column will be back in our summer edition

# Charities say thanks, GPCA

**THE GPCA trustees decided to gift all proceeds from its Christmas Market and 2022 calendar sales to three local charities, Andy's Community Café, Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Your Sanctuary.**

With the money raised and a contribution from the GPCA cash reserves, each charity received £250. Here are the thank you letters received.



Dear Irene,

THIS is a note to say thank you so much for the very generous donation from the GPCA of £250 which has safely arrived in our bank account.

You mentioned the GPCA was drawn to making a donation to us in particular because of the work we do with children. As you are aware, we have a lovely new facility in the area which has enabled us to look after many more children who have fled with their mother from an abusive relationship.

You may be less aware we also have an outreach team working in the community with both adults and children. Throughout the lockdowns we worked hard to maintain our relationships with some very vulnerable children, and are pleased now to be on more of an even keel which enables us to return to some of the programmes we normally run with these children.

So your gift is very much needed to help us continue this essential work, helping to try and repair some of the damage done by domestic abuse, and is, of course, very much appreciated.

And may I congratulate you on your success with the inaugural 2021 Christmas Market and 2022 calendar, and send best wishes for next year's!

Many thanks,  
Anita Bents,  
Finance Manager.

Dear Irene,

ON behalf of St Andrew's Church, I am writing to thank you very much for the donation from the Goldsworth Park Community Association which will be used to continue to support Andy's Café. As a church, we are fortunate to be able to have the support of such a valued organization and we look forward to continuing to work with and support you in the future. Many thanks once again.

Yours faithfully,  
Patrick Coad, Community Worker.



Dear Irene,

MY name is Samantha Jones, and I have just started in my new position as Community Fundraiser for Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care. My role is to support our local community and encourage working together to help raise vital funds for the Hospice.

Thank you so very much for Goldsworth Park Community Association's generous donation of £250 that you raised from your Christmas Market, and of course for showing your continued support for the Hospice. It is absolutely wonderful what you and the others do to help support us.

Each person fundraising for us makes a huge difference to patients with advanced life-limiting conditions and their families. Like many charities we rely heavily on voluntary income such as this, helping us raise the £8million per year needed to provide our services to the community.

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£89 for one visit to a patient in the community.

Other facts: £2.50 can provide a meal for one of our in-patients; £10 allows two patients to join a seated exercise class in our Wellbeing Centre; £15 allows a teenager to attend a group therapy session; £42 pays for a counselling session for a child.

Your donation will be used to help our patients and their families through desperately difficult times and we cannot thank you enough. Please pass our thanks to everyone involved in making this donation happen.

This year, we are so excited to be celebrating 25 years of care from when our doors first opened in 1996. We are proud of our journey that started small and grew into the Hospice today and we are extremely grateful to our supporters like yourselves that helped us. The 25th anniversary year is a good opportunity to have more fundraising activities within our community, so I would welcome any ideas that you have and I am here to help and support you with anything you have planned this year.

Thank you again, your support is vital to us.

With warmest regards,  
Sam Jones,  
Community Fundraiser.



# Caring for our world

Rev Malcolm Herbert

## MARCH already! My grandchildren keep asking 'Alexa' how many sleeps till Christmas?

More to wind up Grandpa I suspect! Christmas' rich bright colours were soon replaced by January's often unrelenting grey - 'a bit like living in a Tupperware container' as a friend remarked.

A SELL-OUT audience at Andy's Community Café at St Andrew's Church enjoyed the music of Serious Skiffle (pictured) and Red House Rhythm and Blues on Saturday February 5.



Andy's is planning another event on April 2. Tickets are free but booking is necessary. Details will be posted on the café's Facebook page.

February, although a bit 'two faced', did give us those occasional moments of light and warmth. Plants started to emerge, slowly but surely, from their cosy underworld. Gingerly popping their heads up, playing peekaboo and risking their futures in a month that can be a warm friend one minute and cold stranger the next.

February, known in the past as the 'month of mud' and 'cabbage', is actually named after a Roman festival of cleansing.

So now we move into spring, the season for cleaning. And as grey gives way to brighter colours daffodils and other plants encourage us to 'clean up our act.' The GPCA has regular litter picking opportunities. Why not commit some time to help out. Our environment matters.

At St Andrew's we believe that our commitment to God means a commitment to caring for the world God has made. This will be seen in practical ways which we hope will be a blessing of love to all in our community. A favourite song of Sing Gold, Goldsworth Park's community choir, is 'What a wonderful world'. Let's try and keep it that way. 'Oh yeah'.

Malcolm



Andrew's Church

## Help us plan events

### WOULD you like to see more community events organised by the GPCA?

Last December, the GPCA held its first Christmas Market, the first event for a few years. The success of the Market has spurred on Hannah, the events co-ordinator, to think about Easter egg hunts, Jubilee parties and more, but she can't do all this alone.

Would you like to join the events team? Do you enjoy organising and can you spare a couple of hours a week? Maybe you want to get some work experience within events. All are welcome – the more people who help out, the less work for each person and the more successful the event.

If you would like to find out more about what might be expected, contact Hannah at [events@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:events@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

## Surrey's health move

### OLDER people with complex needs will be given greater choice over their care and support under a new plan for adult social care in Surrey.

The county council will work with the NHS and private care providers to create more places in specialist facilities catering for people who need intensive support – whether they're eligible for social care services or not. The plan is in line with the council's ambition to tackle inequalities in health.

As Surrey's population grows and ages, more people will need care that is geared towards meeting high and complex needs such as advanced dementia.

The plan, drawn up following input from hundreds of people including residents, unpaid carers, staff and providers, outlines how the council will work with partners to commission more specialist places to meet these increasingly complex needs.

Sinead Mooney, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, said: "We're committed to ensuring no one in Surrey is left behind – helping those who need us most, and improving quality of life for everyone."



"The manager and his staff are endlessly helpful, going the extra mile to provide the best care responsible."

"Thank you so much to you and the team for all you are doing to support mum and dad during the lockdown."



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# Join the GPCA – it's free!

**THE GPCA switched its status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in October 2019 and one of the Charity Commission requirements is that we keep a membership register.**

All Park residents can sign up as members of the GPCA CIO and be recorded on the register. Those who do will get invitations to meetings, minutes, the annual report and accounts for the AGM plus relevant information and, more importantly, be able to vote for the trustees, and on issues such as approving any changes to the constitution.

If you have any questions, try the FAQs below or email: [chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

To apply for membership, all you need to do is send a request giving your name, email and postal addresses and telephone number(s) to [chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) or to Chair, GPCA CIO, 37 Willowmead Close, Woking GU21 3DN.

## FAQs

### 1 What am I committing to by becoming a member?

By applying for membership, both individual and corporate members confirm that they will "exercise their powers in the way they decide in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO."

### 2 What will it cost?

Although the Constitution says that members may be asked to pay reasonable membership fees, the trustees decided not to ask for membership fees at present.

### 3 Can I leave the GPCA CIO?

Membership will come to an end if the member resigns, moves away, dies or owes money to the CIO, or if the trustees decide that ending membership is in the CIO's best interests.

### 4 What if I represent an organisation in Goldsworth Park?

Organisations which operate within Goldsworth Park with whom the GPCA CIO cooperates or supports or which support the GPCA CIO can be Corporate Members. Email [chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) for information on how to apply.

### 5 What happens to the information I give you?

The GPCA CIO has a Privacy and Data Protection Policy Statement which describes how we protect your information; it can be viewed on our website [www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)



OUT AND ABOUT – Goldsworth Park's new PCSO James Crisp on patrol round the lake. He is new to Woking and his other areas are the town centre and Horsell.

## Woking's financial review

**WOKING COUNCIL has published online a short film that gives an overview of the recent independent assessment of its financial position.**

Professional services firm, EY, was appointed to produce a comprehensive statement on its financial affairs, including assets, borrowing, investments and contractual obligations.

A council spokesperson said: "The short film summarises the EY comprehensive statement, whilst providing valuable context to our borrowing. It identifies key facts from the statement in an open and transparent manner, whilst importantly identifying the actions we are taking to strengthen our financial approach in response to the report."

The assessment was reported to the meeting of the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on January 24 and Executive on Thursday February 3, as part of its Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

To watch the film go to: <https://www.woking.gov.uk/financialreview>



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# Council Tax up again



## WOKING'S share of the annual Council Tax charge will rise by £5 (2%) for 2022-2023.

The increase means that those living in a Band D property will pay £255.46 a year for borough services such as refuse collections, environmental maintenance, planning services and leisure facilities. The increase is equivalent to £5 a year.

The borough's Council Tax charge will be added to Surrey's Band D charge of £1,626.39 (4.99% increase) that includes the Adult Social Care precept, and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's Band D charge of £295.57 (3.5% increase).

The total Council Tax charge for a Band D property will be £2,177.42.

Woking Council leader Cllr Ayesha Azad said: "We have agreed an increase in the borough's Council Tax precept that will maintain services for local people, and in many cases, increase access to services.

"I realise that no increase is ever welcome, especially at a time when families are under such pressure, which is why we have done everything we can to keep this modest rise to a minimum.

"Yet I firmly believe that represents value for money for local residents as we put residents' priorities first and continue to deliver much-needed affordable housing, invest in our economy and create future jobs, whilst protecting our environment for future generations."

Surrey Council leader Cllr Tim Oliver said: "Every single penny of Council Tax – every single penny we spend – is spent to make Surrey a better place.

"We're a strong, ambitious, responsible organisation with great people here always ready to tackle the next big challenge.

"While we will lobby government for what we feel is fair and necessary for Surrey, we will look to the future, prepare properly, and crack on delivering for our residents.

"We recognise that household budgets are feeling the squeeze just like ours – that any further increase for many people is unpalatable – but we're deciding to tackle the root causes of hardship and inequality, instead of just applying a sticking plaster.

"For those that need financial help now, who are facing crisis point, we will actively support them."

## Bowl along for a try!

### TWO local bowling clubs, Horsell and Woking Park are holding open mornings next month.

Woking Park BC is opening its doors on Saturday and Sunday April 9 and 10 between 11am and 1pm. Membership Secretary Carole Hamill said: "We are a friendly club in the heart of Woking Park, GU22 9BA and welcome new members of all abilities. Why not come along and have a go. We provide all equipment, just wear flat shoes or trainers."

Call Carole on 07720 471318 or email [wokingparkbowls@gmail.com](mailto:wokingparkbowls@gmail.com) for more details.

**Horsell** are holding their open morning on Saturday April 16 between 9.45am and noon.

Club spokesperson Alison Ferries said: "Our open morning is the ideal time for novice and experienced bowlers to try out their bowling skills. Come along to meet our qualified coaches, play bowls, have a chat and see how you get on. All equipment will be provided, just wear flat shoes."

Further details are available from Alison on 01483 720201 or email [a.ferries@sky.com](mailto:a.ferries@sky.com)

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