

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

LAND TRANSFER

It is probably not well known that many of the green spaces within Chiddingfold were administered by Hambledon Rural District Council until 1974 when it was abolished in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 and Waverley Borough Council was then created. The administered land within the Parish was transferred to Waverley at that time.

The Parish Council, over time, purchased, or had land, donated. As a result, it now owns land adjacent to the golf course on the Petworth Road, the cricket ground and the Combe Common recreation ground along with the associated allotments. A local land owner donated the cricket ground to the Parish Council which leased it to the Chiddingfold Cricket Club. Following negotiations with the development company Shanley, a field adjacent to their development will be made into a natural green space and given to the Parish Council.

The central green areas of the Village are leased by Waverley to the Parish Council. This includes the Village Green, the pond area and the Coxcombe Lane recreation ground and tennis courts but not the children's playground. A licence exists between the Parish Council and the Chiddingfold Football Club for use of the Pavilion on the recreation ground.



For some time, the Parish Council has sought to transfer the freehold of the land it leases from Waverley to itself. This will make it easier for organisers of village activities, such as the Bonfire and Village Fete, who will only have to deal with one council. In addition, the Parish Council is proposing to take over the Coxcombe Lane recreation ground playground which will allow it to improve the play equipment when finances become available. Of course, all this will place a considerable burden on the Parish Council who will have to deal with all the legal, administration and cost matters. We believe, though, that this

transfer is even more important following the Government's decision to abolish Surrey County Council, along with the borough and district councils, to form two unitary authorities East and West Surrey. The consequence of this is likely to cause considerable disruption to the work of the authority along with it being more remote from the Village than we had with Waverley and so possibly less interest in local matters. The numerous verges and other green spaces, along with their associated trees and hedges, in the area will remain the responsibility of West Surrey.



At its meeting on the 10th February, Waverley Borough Council's Executive agreed to transfer the freehold of all the areas marked in red in the attached diagrams to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will now undertake the legal process to transfer the freeholds to itself. If this is successful then all the common green areas within the Village will be managed by the Parish Council which allow it to develop and enhance them for the enjoyment of all villagers. This will be a major change to the work of the Parish Council and will likely be seeking the support of villagers in

managing and enhancing the areas.

Tony Wiener, Chairman, Chiddingfold Parish Council