

NOVEMBER UPDATE FROM HASCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Bench binge - In addition to the bulb planting, and the two new benches installed by parish councillors a few weekends ago, we've received private requests for two more memorial benches for the village. One will go by the pond (another replacement) and one will hopefully go near the fountain, an area which has also been tidied up, which will look wonderful in Spring. All activity thanks to Norman, David and Sarah, with help from some villagers.

Ensuring a No Waste policy, we hope to repair the special Millennium bench by the war memorial with good parts of the old benches.

The continuing 100th anniversary celebrations of the Dunsfold and Hascombe Horticultural Society, we are extremely grateful for their gift of two gorgeous saplings which will be planted near the pond and the recreation ground.

Work to fell dangerous Ash Trees around the pond will take place in January. We are hoping that this will, alongside further work, will help to reduce the algae on the pond that we've experienced in previous summers.

Hascombe Estate - The estate manager from Savills came to our November meeting, answering questions as well as updating us on issues raised, including concerns about the loss of view from the fort on Hascombe Hill. Perhaps the biggest threat to the local environment has been trespassers causing the sad destruction of approximately 4 acres of woodland adjacent to the Traveller site south of the B2130. Investigations are ongoing.

Speedwatch - Sometimes we can't drive through our village because of collapsing water mains... But when cars can get through we must deter them from speeding. It's really important to keep Speedwatch going. The current volunteers won't be able to do this unless more offer to help. It only takes an hour or two a month with a mate, after some brief training. Do contact any of us or Julian on julianking2323@gmail.com.

Local Government Reorganisation - Government has decided that there will be two unitary authorities for Surrey, East and West, which will replace the borough councils and Surrey County Council. We will come under the new West Surrey Unitary Authority. This should ultimately save money and reduce confusion about which council does what. There will be elections next May for councillors to form the Shadow Authority, to work alongside the existing councils as part of the transition process. The new Unitary Authorities will then go live from 1st April 2027.

In the meantime, Waverley Borough Council is proceeding with its Local Plan review. They are currently consulting on the "Issues and Options" to guide where houses will be built in the plan period through to 2043. You can respond to the consultation via this link until 8th December: www.waverley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building/planning-strategies-and-policies/local-plan/new-local-plan

Do contact any of us directly if you want to know more, or email Beverley at clerk@hascombeparish.gov.uk

Next HPC meeting - Monday 12th January, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.