

Chairman's Report for the Municipal Year 2016/7

The work of Caterham on the Hill Parish Council was wide ranging and challenging this year. Obviously, the disastrous floods of June 7th made a huge impact on the community and directed much of the work of the Council. We fund the continuing work of the Flood Action Group and have co-opted one of its members as a councillor to advise us on the most effective ways in which we can support residents and fight for the improvements to local infrastructure so that such an event is less likely to recur. Our public meeting was well attended and we continue to engage with residents affected.

We have had presentations at Council from the Village Association regarding matters in the Village, from Cllr Martin Fisher on the Local Plan, and from Alastair Durkin TDC's Senior Tree Officer. Our meetings have always benefitted from the attendance of Cllr Duck who leads on the Neighbourhood Plan and keeps the Council fully informed.

We remain focused on key projects- the refurbishment of the Library and of the playground at the Arc, though in both cases we have been frustrated by the lack of forward movement in their delivery. We are pleased that TDC will nominate a senior officer to take on a vacant Trustee role on CBCT so that we can continue to work constructively with them and the Village Association.

We have successfully argued our case for the use of Community Infrastructure Levy on the work of the Flood Action Group and to increase capacity in primary care, especially for counselling; we need to build support and resilience for residents affected by disaster and we are looking to learn all the lessons from the events of June 7th.

We know that we may well need to extend our winter resilience programme this year if SCC makes cuts, as is likely, and we are ready to ensure that we have a solid and reliable resilience programme for the parish, in partnership with Chaldon and Whyteleafe Village Councils.

We lost our dedicated street cleaner at Christmas and a number of residents have complained that standards of cleaning are not as high as previously; we keep the matter under review.

Finally, we hope that this municipal year will see the Neighbourhood Plan come to the public in a referendum after all the outstanding work done by so many volunteers. We thank them, and all the volunteers who have worked so hard for our community this year.