



**TWENTIETH ANNUAL PARISH  
ASSEMBLY OF DORMANSLAND  
REPORT 2020**



### **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF DORMANSLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus the Parish Council has not been able to have a Twentieth Parish Assembly meeting in April 2020 and therefore I wish to report on the following.

The Parish Council are grateful for all those members of the public who came to our meetings before the lockdown and meetings cease apart from zoom.

I would like to introduce the Councillors - Vice Chairman Harry Fitzgerald, Guy Kaiser-Davies, David Bright, Dawn Cook and Susan Calamassi. All of these councillors give their time freely and are very hard working and dedicated to this community. I applaud their support as the Chairman. I would like to thank Councillor Lesley Steeds our County and District Councillor for all the hard work she has done at Surrey County Council in respect of the drains and pot holes throughout the village and for her work on many Committees as District Councillor. May I also thank Councillor White for attending our meetings and reporting to us any problems arising in the village.

The Parish Council have dealt with various matters throughout the year, some of which are still ongoing and we are happy to answer any questions you may via our website.

### **COVID-19 RESPONSE IN THE VILLAGE**

I would like to thank all the volunteers in our villages, including the Vicar Nigel Hinton, for their outstanding contributions in supporting our residents and providing financial assistance, purchasing food, setting up food banks and food/prescription collections. The Parish Council have fully supported these groups and provided them with a grants to help assist them financially.

### **PLANNING**

During the last year the Parish Council Planning Committee have dealt with 90 planning applications at its meetings. Planning meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month and once again I would like to thank members who regularly give up their time to consider the planning applications put before them.

Last year the planning committee at Tandridge District Council granted planning permission for developers to build 9 affordable houses and a carpark behind Dormans Station. The present position is that TDC have signed all the section 106 agreements with the developers and the only outstanding instruction is that before building work starts the development must be handed over to a housing association. Discussions are currently taking place.

Dormansland Parish Council were delighted to see that TDC rejected the planning application to build 101 homes at Frith Manor, Felcourt on the grounds that the proposed scheme would constitute inappropriate development in the green belt. The applicant lodged an appeal against this decision. The Parish Council opposed this appeal and lodged their objections on behalf of the residents of Felcourt and Baldwins Hill. On the 20 January 2020 the appeal took place at TDC office in front of the inspector.

The Chairman of the Parish Council attended the 5 day hearing and put forward objections on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council were successful in stopping this huge development going ahead and the inspector dismissed the appeal on the grounds that it would be inappropriate development in the green belt.

A planning application is pending in respect of Land South of Furzfield Chase, Dormans Park. The Parish Council have lodged their objections that this is once again inappropriate development of the green belt causing significant harm to the openness and visual amenities. The current position is that the applicant, notwithstanding the fact that the application for planning has not been considered, have lodged an appeal stating TDC were out of time and therefore planning should be allowed. The Parish Council are supporting TDC on this appeal.

### **GATWICK AIRPORT**

This has been a very strange period for the airport with 2019 being just as busy with regards to the continued impacts felt by Dormansland parish around overflights, noise, pollution and night flights. 2020 has brought a totally different situation, brought about by the terrible COVID 19 pandemic. On the one hand this has significantly reduced the number of flights but adversely impacted the livelihoods of the many people who work at Gatwick airport.

The deadline for responding to the Government Aviation Green Paper consultation was last June. This was a 200 page document around the future of UK airspace up to 2050 and outlined proposals for a new aviation strategy which focused on amongst other things actions to reduce environmental and community impacts and improve the passenger experience. Dormansland Parish Council agreed to support the **Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission (CAGNE)** groups response, which covered the key areas eg ramifications on surrounding areas of airport growth, a proposal for a ban on night flights, noise, compensation for those affected etc. At the same time DPC joined as a member of CAGNE

In July Gatwick Airport published its Final Master Plan which confirmed plans to take forward the sustainable development of the airport.

Late last year we became aware of Gatwick's Master Airport Scoping reports and the intention to increase the number of aircraft movements off the main runway which would increase passenger numbers from 45.7 million to 61 million and alongside this use the planning process of a Development Consent Order (DCO) to use the current emergency runway as a second runway further increasing passenger numbers to 74 million.

We therefore in January of this year sent a letter in response to Gatwick's Master plan opposing the intention to use the emergency runway and in future a third runway. We highlighted that by using more than one runway there would be an increase in more flights, leading to an increase in emissions and especially noise over existing routes for both arrivals and departures, which head over residential and protected areas.

More flights create more traffic adding to further transport congestion and overcrowding on public transport. The M23, M25 and the Brighton main line are not suitable to carry the number of passengers that increased growth in the number of flights especially at peak times were envisaged by the airport. There is also insufficient local infrastructure to support further expansion of flights and passengers at Gatwick eg doctors, schools, roads.

We made a donation towards CAGNE's legal fund to oppose a 2nd runway and at the same time wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport, urging him to examine the expansion plans for the main runway at Gatwick Airport, with particular reference that this would go ahead without any political, local authority, or residents' scrutiny, and add an unsustainable number of travellers (and workers) to our ailing road network and single railway line that cannot be expanded. This growth of the main runway should be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008, as it will add approximately 55,000 extra flights a year – 340,000 ATMs\* by 2033 – with as mentioned above a new total of 61 million passengers putting more pressure on the meagre local infrastructure. This proposed growth is in addition to Gatwick Airport management's endeavours to use the emergency runway as a second runway, which also raises safety concerns and is, in reality, a new runway. Using this second runway would also lead to emitting nearly 1 million tonnes of extra carbon each year.

Dormansland Parish Council will respond in full to the Consultation, which has for the moment been put on hold due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

We would like to again pass on our sincere thanks to Jane Vogt who continues to fight our corner as a representative on a number of forums such as the High Wield Council Aviation Action Group (HWCAAG)

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Parish Council have paused the Dormansland Neighbourhood Plan pending receipt of the Local Plan Inspector's report.

#### **DORMANSLAND MEMORIAL HALL**

A planning application (in principle) was put forward to TDC and refused. The Trustees are now in the process of redrafting plans with their architects. Once the amendments are finalised the Trustees will resubmit the plans for consideration. The Parish Council will have the opportunity to see the plans before they are submitted as agreed. The general public will also have the opportunity to put forward their views/objections when the application is considered once again.

#### **MEMORIAL BENCHES AND TREES**

These have all been replaced in the village. A memorial Cherry tree has been planted next to the Memorial bench of the late Parish Clerk Lynn Blake in the recreation ground. The Parish Council are proposing to plant another 5/6 cherry trees in the village in the Autumn.

#### **CHRISTMAS**

The Parish Council joined into the spirit of Christmas and purchased a large Christmas tree displayed at Newhache which the children of the village were encouraged to decorate.

The Parish Council had started preparations for VE Day celebrations which included a live swing band and singers, stalls, food, lighting of the beacon and remembrance gifts for children taking part in the event. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **OPEN SURGERY**

The Parish Council are proposing to introduce the open meetings again once the lockdown is over and Government guidelines permit this.

#### **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Adam Neill for all his hard work in helping to keep our village a clean and peaceful place to live in.

## **SPEEDWATCH**

The speedwatch team are a small team of six who currently keep an eye on speeding throughout the village. Last May 17 drivers were reported speeding from their sessions. Unfortunately, the speedwatching activate has been temporary suspended by Surrey Police in line with the Government advice on social distancing until further notice so figures have been limited.

## **PRECEPT**

The Parish Council has lowered its precept this financial year to £40,000.

The precept is used to protect Dormansland Parish Council in the event of likely future capping which currently affects County and District. DPC offer grants to local charities and local organisations and may we stress that the precept is for the whole parish which includes Felcourt, not just our village.

## **ACCOUNTS**

The 2019/20 parish accounts were adopted and approved by the external auditors. We were assisted in this by Peter James, our internal auditor, and I wish to express our thanks. As usual the Parish Council continued with its policy of making grants to local organisations and during the last year a total of £7,850 has been given, the beneficiaries being: -

St. John's Church <i>Maintaining the churchyard and graveyard</i>	£4,000 <i>(£2,000 April and £2,000 November)</i>
Dormansland Urban Saints <i>Watersports for residential weekends away</i>	£250
Dormansland Carnival Committee <i>Covering the cost of the PA equipment and MC</i>	£ 400
Lingfield Community Library <i>Towards funding a new noticeboard</i>	£250
YWI Dormansland <i>Funding for a PA system</i>	£250
Ashurst Wood Short Mat Bowling Club <i>Purchase of storage for equipment</i>	£100
RH7 History Group <i>Supporting the preparation and running of the 2020 Exhibition</i>	£100
Dormansland Primary School PTA <i>Contribution towards funding the school's Forest School experience</i>	£2000
St Catherine's Hospice <i>Provision of expert care and support for residents of Dormansland in their own homes.</i>	£500

The Parish Council is now offering grants throughout the year.

## **FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR THE VILLAGE**

Surrey County Council are hoping to start work on the traffic calming project in the High Street around August/September 2020 now that the finances have all be agreed.

The Parish Council have agreed to make a financial contribution and supporting Tandridge District Council in opening a Sure Start Centre at the Victoria Club Lingfield. This will commence once lockdown is over.

## **LINGFIELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

### **Annual Report 2019/20**

Lingfield Community Library was launched on 25 June 2016 and is now run by about 40 volunteers with support from the Surrey County Library Service.

Lingfield Library offers a traditional range of services, including:

- Loan of books and other materials eg DVDs
- A children's library
- Reference material including national and local newspapers
- Reservations for individual readers and book clubs
- Access to computers
- Rhymetime for toddlers and Story Time for 4-7 year olds
- Summer Reading Challenge

Since the launch, we have continued to offer these services and introduced new activities. We have been heartened by the interest in and support shown to the Community Library by local residents. The Library also houses the Hayward History Centre.

### **Management of the Library**

Following the successful establishment of the Library, we have examined the role of the Steering Committee and decided that it should be responsible for strategic oversight. We have established a Library Operations Group, which deals with the day to day running of the Library, including the book stock, volunteer affairs, publicity and events. These remits complement each other and are operating successfully.

### **Opening Hours**

We have altered our opening hours on Saturday in the light of problems recruiting volunteers to cover the afternoon shift and are now open between 10.00am and 2.00pm. This move, which was widely advertised, has not attracted any adverse comment.

### **Tesco Bags of Help**

Following the opening of a Tesco Express in the village, the Library applied successfully for funding from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. We have received £2,000 towards the funding of activities with children, which we have used as follows:

- Purchase of 200 books for the children's library with appropriate shelving
- Acquisition of outdoor bean bags, groundsheets and storage so that we can make more use of the garden in the summer
- Purchase of craft materials for events with children.

We hope to post photos of the acquisition on the Library's website.

### **New Signage**

We have installed a new sign by the entrance to the Library which will also allow us to advertise events in addition to opening hours and regular activities. We are grateful to the Trustees of the Guest House, Lingfield and Dormansland Parish Councils for their generous grants towards this.

### **Events**

We have organised the following events:

- Visits by Father Christmas, who distributed presents to young borrowers and children from local playgroups and nurseries
- Decorations in the Library for Christmas.

- ‘Author of the Month’ displays which have proved popular with borrowers.
- Exhibitions by local craftspeople and groups
- Sunflowers in the garden in collaboration with Dormansland Primary School
- A monthly feature for local organisations to publicise their activities, including the Running Club and Lingfield Nature Reserve.
- Craft events including sessions for children.

### **Children’s Library**

- Rhymetime: We have continued to offer Rhymetime for the under 5s every week during term time. Following feedback from parents and carers, Rhymetime now starts at an earlier time which fits in better with children’s timetables and numbers attending have increased.
- Summer Reading Challenge: this ran again in 2019 with more interest from local children than in some other areas of the county.
- Volunteers have worked with staff at local schools and hosted visits from Lingfield Primary School and Lingfield College to the Library.
- Story time after school for 4-7 year olds after school
- Short story and poetry competitions with the results displayed in the Library and published in Community News.

### **Volunteers**

The number of volunteers has remained constant. We have established a small group to have oversight of issues relating to volunteers, including production of the rota and training. The group has drawn up a new Training and Induction Programme which has been successfully trialled with recent volunteers.

We also offered training to volunteers on SPARK, the new library management system, introduced by Surrey. This has extended the range of activities which volunteers can undertake, and we hope to have the facilities to join new borrowers shortly. Following further budget cuts by Surrey CC, volunteers have taken on additional activities over the past year.

### **New Website**

The Library’s website has been hosted by Surrey Community Information. Funding for this network ceases on 31 March 2020. We have found a new host and our new address is [www.lingfieldlibrary.org.uk](http://www.lingfieldlibrary.org.uk).

### **Proposals for 2020/21**

We hope to continue to offer our existing facilities and to introduce some new activities, to include:

- Visits from local schools and nursery schools
- Celebration of World Poetry Day and World Book Day
- A range of Craft activities
- Monthly exhibitions and features on chosen authors
- Reorganise the Children’s Library

### **The Guest House Trustees**

Surrey County Council rented space for the Library from the Trustees for 7 years in 2018. One of the Trustees is a member of the Steering Committee to facilitate cooperation.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to the members of the Lingfield Library Steering Committee, the Library Operations Group and all our volunteers for their commitment and support over the past year. This has enabled us to run Lingfield Community Library successfully and extend the range of activities which we offer to the communities in Lingfield and Dormansland. Lingfield Community Library is also grateful to Lingfield and Dormansland Parish Councils for their financial and other support.

*Selina Springbett, Chair  
Lingfield Community Library Steering Committee  
March 2020*

## **LINGFIELD UNITED TRUST**

### **Background**

The objects of the charity remain;

- The provision and maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation.
- The provision of Grants for assistance to those meeting the charity's criteria and resident within the parishes of Dormansland, Lingfield and Baldwins Hill. I set out below the works that Lingfield United Trust has carried out in these respects over the past year.

We continue to maintain our 2 Almshouses known as 'HoChee Cottages' in Plough Road, Dormansland. We have made representations to Surrey County Council with regards to their Notice of Intent to carry out traffic calming works adjacent to the cottages at the junction. Whilst we support traffic calming measures throughout Dormansland and especially at this junction where there have been several road traffic accidents in the last few years, we reiterate that we want a safe pathway provided for our residents from their front gate along Dormans Road to the pavement along Plough Road. The current proposals do not provide this and we are asking to meet with SCC officers.

At Christmas 2019, the Trustees of Lingfield United Trust were able to distribute 135 cheques to those residents who applied and were eligible in the parishes of Baldwins Hill, Dormansland and Lingfield. The amounts distributed are £65 per single person and £80 per couple.

We continue to pay grants for assistance to vulnerable and needy residents and families in Lingfield and Dormansland and gave several of these over the past year to assist with appliances and furniture.

We have acted on behalf of the local Cavendish House Trust and have been successful in obtaining for them a supplementary grant from the Henry Smith Trust, to contribute towards the running costs of the residential accommodation they provide, for the next three years.

At this current time of crisis due to the Coronavirus, we have sought ways in which to give grants to community initiatives working towards the alleviation of local hardship in these difficult times. To date we have given a grant to the Foodbank in East Grinstead, St Catherine's Hospice, and the Community Foundation for Surrey Coronavirus Response Fund. We have been in touch with Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau to make our presence known and we will continue to assist where it is appropriate to do so and respond to suitable approaches.

Our website was launched in 2015 and increases our transparency and accessibility in line with the Charity Commission's guidelines. It provides a list of useful links for those visiting the site and there is a map available which shows the boundary of the areas of the ancient parishes of Lingfield, Dormansland and Baldwins Hill which is the area throughout which the Charity operates.

<http://www.lingfieldunitedtrust.org/>

We continue to receive applications for the Christmas Distribution and for Grants for Assistance via the website, in addition to previous traditional means of contact.

We continue to have extensive policies in place to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission and in compliance with Government guidelines. These cover Data Protection, Complaints Procedure, Equality and Diversity, and Safeguarding. All are available on the website or from the Clerk or Chairman.

**Trustees**

David Allonby stood down in July 2019 as a Trustee after many years of considerable support and generous involvement in the Charity. I speak for all the Trustees, when I say his kind and sensible advice and extraordinary local knowledge was held in great esteem.

We also miss the valuable contribution that Rev Kathryn Percival gave to the Trust during her time as a Trustee with us. We await her successor and hope that they will join us once appointed. We wish her every good wish in her future role.

I attach a current updated list for your information.

As always the Annual Report and Financial Statement will be audited and sent to the Charity Commissioners in due course.

*Marion Wardell, Chairman  
Lingfield United Trust*

Registered Charity no 1150971 Chairman – Mrs. Marion Wardell, 5 Wallace Square, Lavington Park, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0FJ 01798 867661

Clerk to the Trustees – Mrs. Marlene Hughes, ‘Spindrifft’ Plaistow Street, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6AL. 01342 835250

**Trustees**

Enid Marten 14 Beacon Hill Dormansland RH7 6RH

Keith Smith Hareshaw The Platt Dormansland RH7 6QX

Sally Martin Flat 2, Garth Court 20 Mount Pleasant Road Lingfield RH7 6BH.

Gill Williams 5 College Close Lingfield Surrey RH7 6HG

Richard Young Providence Cottage Lingfield Common Road Lingfield RH7 6BZ

**CONCLUSION**

I wish to thank all the Parish Council for their support and dedicated commitment to the Parish and also give thanks to our Clerk Lisa Liggins.

**July 2020**