

Report of the Outwood Parish Council Meeting ~ January 2006

Surrey County Councillor Ken Rimington began the meeting by telling us that there is to be a Parish Review in the near future. There will be fewer fire stations but better equipment for the fire and rescue services. The siting of present fire stations is not always appropriate as there has been movement of the population. The average attendance time at present is 8 minutes for the first appliance and by 2010 it is hoped that it will be cut to 6 minutes. I reported in November that county police forces were possibly going to amalgamate in the future. The Surrey Constabulary is recommending that it does not merge with another county and to "go it alone". However, there has been no final decision as yet. The "house pack" that is available for home buyers does not go into the history of the land on which the property is built - so people using the pack should be aware of this. To keep the Council Tax to a 5% or less increase around 780 jobs are to be lost from Surrey County Council which has been deemed a four star authority which is the highest award an authority can have. Finally Councillor Rimington said that Surrey's aim is to get recycling up to 50% by 2010 and there will have to be new incinerators to have less landfilling - but they will not be in this area.

TDC Councillor Alan Jones reported that the teething problems with the refuse collection was beginning to work out for the better now. It has been recommended that the increase in the District Council Tax is to be no more than 5%. On the aviation front the movements and noise quotas for Gatwick for last summer were very near the ceiling and the existing night flying restrictions will stay in place until October 2006. Complaints were now being split into night and day complaints. The Gatwick Express trains were under threat of being suspended as they allegedly interfere with the daily running of other trains. However they may be saved by going on to Three Bridges which would free up the lines more. There is to be a Chinese Delegation visiting TDC during the week commencing 21st January. Councillor Diana Brown had nothing to add.

Unfortunately the report from the police had not been received. Chris Stembridge on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch told us that all households had been informed that there were fuel thieves on the loose. They cut the fuel line to remove the contents of the fuel tank. There was also a theft from a garden shed and damage to a parked car. He emphasised the need for incidents to be reported to the police directly as well as informing either him or the local Neighbourhood Watch representative.

The letter about monitoring car speeds will be received by everyone shortly and you are all encouraged to reply to this **as soon as possible**.

All householders are requested to display the name of their house clearly OUTSIDE the gateway so that the services can find the house easily especially in the dark. It may save a life.

The council is looking into a possible youth shelter but needs to find a suitable site first.

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Thursday April 20th at 8pm in the Lloyd Hall. All villagers are warmly welcome. There will be refreshments. The speakers have yet to be confirmed.

Paula Marsh - January 2006