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Churt Parish Council Newsletter April 2026

Once again, the April meeting of the Parish Council took place in the Village Hall due to the Recreation Ground pavilion being closed for renovation. Thank you to the Village Hall Committee for allowing the Council to meet in the hall for the next few months. Just a week later, we held the Annual Assembly at the same venue.

Churt Parish Council Annual Assembly 2026

Following reports from Surrey County Councillor David Harmer and Waverley Borough Councillor David Munro, councillors whose unstinting support for Churt I was able to publicly thank them for, I gave my own report on what the CPC had been up to over the past year - it's been a busy and transformative year! and was able to thank our councillors and Clerk for their excellent hard work and dedication. Following the resignation of two of our longest standing councillors (about whom more will be said in my next Newsletter), we shall have two casual vacancies on the CPC. If you are interested in joining a friendly, dynamic group and putting something back into this wonderful community, please do put yourself forward. We would love to have you.

A summary of my report follows:

Churt 2035: From Vision to Reality

From major infrastructure upgrades to community celebrations, Churt is actively building a sustainable and safe future.

Building a Better Village

- **The Pavilion Transformation:** Our "monumental" renovation is underway! Thanks to the hard work of Jan MacAvoy, Oli Plaistowe, Des McCluskey, Dawn and Roddy Barrow, we've secured funding for female changing rooms and general upgrade and solar power. A coffee shop is also planned to create a new social hub.

You can still support the Pavilion by "**Buying a Brick.**" Check for flyers around the village to contribute and benefit from Gift Aid.

- **Playground & Scouts:** With the Council in a stable financial position, funds are being allocated to refresh the tired playground and support improvements to fencing adjacent to the Scouts' hut.

Safety & Environment

- **Road Safety Breakthrough:** Great news for parents and pupils at St John's! Surrey County Council has agreed to fund **speed cushions, a signalised crossing and safety narrowing** at the Hale House Lane exit.
- **Wicket Wood Wonders:** Working with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, we are protecting rare species and restoring lowland heath glades. A huge thanks to our local Scouts for their ongoing help with holly and bracken clearance.
- **Future Housing:** We are currently partnering with Waverley on a survey to identify the need for diverse housing types within the village.

Governance & Community Spirit

- **Local Government Shifts:** We are closely monitoring the creation of the **West Surrey Unitary Council** and Neighbourhood Area Committees to ensure Churt's voice remains strong as boundaries and responsibilities evolve.
- **Honouring Our Own:** Last year, Hugh Trotter and Maxine Knight received the Freedom of the Parish. This year's awards will be presented at the fete on 13 June by Deputy Lieutenant Rob Douglas.
- **Stronger Partnerships:** Collaboration is at an all-time high, particularly between the Council and the Church. Last year's Carol services were the best-attended yet, thanks to the spirit of partnership with Rev Helen.

Reports from other organisations

It was so interesting to have reports from so many of our vibrant local organisations; 12 reports were provided from the WI, to the Scouts, Eddystone Court Housing Association, CHAPS and CADS. There was a common theme throughout - a need for new blood and volunteers to maintain the success of our local clubs and associations.

After the formal part of the meeting had concluded, attendees enjoyed some light refreshments and wine and were able to take the opportunity to meet each other and the councillors.

The next meetings of Churt Parish Council and the Recreation Ground Trust will be held in the **village hall** at 7.30pm on **Weds 13 May** - this will be our **Annual Meeting** at which officers are appointed. Everyone is welcome to attend but it is helpful to know in advance if you wish to make a presentation.

Sally Shorthose

Chair, Churt Parish Council

April 2026