

## **Clerk's report to Council July 2024.**

### **New bins.**

Three new litter bins have been installed around the town – Chestnut Ave carpark, outside Waitrose and at the junction of Church Rd and Tanners Lane. The pupil parliament at St Barts school had requested this, via the Mayor, and town hall officers have liaised with WBC to ensure this was done. The pupils were apparently delighted!



### **SANG update**

Our grounds contractor has undertaken the first maintenance cut of the pathways under the terms of the management plan.

We've also had a request to install more benches, but under Natural England's SANG quality guidance document artificial infrastructure should be kept to a minimum and be discreet. It has been suggested that a review of benches should take place once the rectification period has expired (19 April 2025).

### **War memorial repair**

The wall surrounding the war memorial has now been repaired.



### **Lion Green Public Toilets – People Counters, maintenance and opening hours.**

We have installed battery powered people counters in all three toilets at Lion Green. The average weekly count over the 5 weeks they have been installed is 1,130 uses across all three toilets. (this also includes 2 visits per day by the cleaners). This clearly shows that the toilets were needed and are, contrary to some comments on social media, being well used.

The toilets will be closed at the beginning of next week (8<sup>th</sup> July) to allow for some essential maintenance work to the pipework, signage will be put up to alert users.

There has been a suggestion that the toilets could stay open past the current 6pm closing time, to allow for people using the green during the Summer and this is currently under consideration.

### **Lion Green to Weysprings - New Handrails for Steps.**

The posts that support the handrail had all rotted through and some had broken off altogether, so in the interest of safety all the posts were renewed

We were able to retrieve and re-use the metal handrail which saved some money, but the work was funded from section 106 money from Waverley Borough Council



### **Newsletter**

We are planning a Haslemere town council newsletter to go to all residents in August / September. Please email the clerk asap if you have any items for inclusion.

### **Churt Road wildflower verge project:**

The Town council is supporting Haslemere Climate and Biodiversity Collective in the creation of a 750m-long wildflower verge on Churt Road, an initiative designed to reverse insect decline. Other partners include the National Trust, Buglife UK and the Haslemere Biodiversity Group. The central portion of the verge will be left uncut until mid-summer with the verge edges being cut regularly by our contractors to allow local residents to walk along the pathways on either side. The grass will be cut and removed to reduce nutrient levels in mid-summer, followed by harrowing and seeding of a native meadow flower mix in September. A recent biodiversity audit of the site, conducted by aLyne Ecology Ltd, will provide a baseline for monitoring changes in number and diversity of species present.



## Events:

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

On the 6<sup>th</sup> June an event took place on St Christopher's Green, Haslemere to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

A full programme of events for the evening included; a D-Day display at St Christopher's Church, live music from the Haslemere Town band and Sarah Prescott, whilst Langham's brewery supplied their specially brewed IPA 'Overlord'. At the end of the evening a beacon was lit in celebration of the Light of peace.

This was a well-attended community event that was jointly run by Haslemere Town Council & St Christopher's Church.



### Inspector Donaldson Day

Every year we mark the anniversary of Police Inspector Donaldson's death by holding a small memorial outside the Town Hall. This year's event will take place at midday on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July. All are welcome to attend.

### Car Boot Sale

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July we will be running a Car Boot Sale on Lion Green from 9am – 11:30am as a fundraiser for the Mayor's Charities.

### Update and Participate

The next U&P session will be held at **6.30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> August**. The main topic will be council projects, with a particular focus on youth provision and the proposed youth centre at Weydown Rd car park. All councillors are encouraged to attend in person, it may be possible to join via Zoom.