

CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – JANUARY 2025

Upgrade to office IT systems

Over the Christmas break the data previously held on a town hall PC was migrated to Google Drive. The dual benefits of this being security and business resilience / ease of access as all council documents can now be access via a browser from any location (assuming the person trying to access them has permission!). As part of this exercise, we have replaced an obsolete computer with a new laptop so that all town hall devices can be upgraded to Windows 11.

Update and Participate session – 27th January at 6.30pm.

All councillors are urged to attend this, please ensure that it is in your diaries.

The presentations will include update on progress with the ward issues reported by councillors to November council and Surrey Unitary plans.

VE Day 80 event – Lion Green

Officers and the Mayor have been meeting with Haslemere Events / RBL to organise a joint event on Lion Green on Saturday 10th May. Whilst details are to be confirmed, this family friendly programme will see talks and displays and music from the era on the green from 3 - 9pm. There will be a programme of entertainment suitable to the era. Local schools are being encouraged to get involved.

We are currently looking for vehicles from the era to display on the green, if you know anyone who has something suitable, could you please let Jo Cork know?

Please put this date in your diary as we will be asking councillors to steward the event.

The anniversary of VE day actually falls on 8th May. There will be a short commemoration at the war memorial on the day to which all councillors are invited, time tbc. As mentioned at the last full council meeting, there will also be a similar commemoration for VJ day on Friday August 15th. Details to follow.

Green Grants – call for applications

The Green Grants fund is currently underspent by £4k. Can you please spread the word and encourage any organisations in your network who may wish to apply to do so ASAP. Applications needed by 29th Jan.

Town Meadow Play equipment.

The 6 week Town Meadow play equipment consultation closed on 6 January 2025. The working party is to meet to consider results and report back to the CIL & Amenities committee in February.

Haslemere Volunteer Awards – 5th March

Nominations are now open, the form can be downloaded from www.haslemere.com/awards.

December Fencing at Lion Green.

Martin erected this temporary fencing at Lion Green to prevent cars parking on the grass (which has happened in the past). We saved money on this as we have previously paid a local company to do this for us.



Damage to the Disabled Toilet at Lion Green on New Years Day.

On New Year's Day a significant amount of vandalism occurred at the Lion Green toilets. The emergency pull cord was snapped off at the ceiling switch, the baby change unit securing strap was ripped off and the door self closer was been broken out of the slider on the door frame.

In addition to this, the toilet bowl in the middle toilet was scorched after a fire had been started in it. This has been reported to the police and our insurance company. The toilets are now being closed at dusk until further notice.



This is the strap missing from the baby change drop down bed.



Damaged Picnic Bench at Lion Green.

During Martin's regular weekly play area & open space inspection on 14th January, he also found that someone has set a fire on one of the picnic benches at Lion Green.



Great feedback about Christmas Carols.

As you will be aware, the 2024 Christmas Carol service took place in the beautiful grounds of Haslemere Educational Museum. The event showcased the community’s festive spirit, with nearly 500 people gathering to enjoy wonderful performances, music, and carol singing. Father Christmas even made an appearance...

We have had really positive feedback, with many families saying how much safer they felt bringing small children to the event in an enclosed space. Even some locals with strong objections to the change of venue were won over after attending the event!

It is planned to hold the event back in the Museum in 2025, with a few tweaks, we hope that all councillors will be able to attend – the date for your diary is 11th December 2025.

