

InTouch

News from your Local Conservatives

in Farnham, Haslemere, Hindhead and Western Villages

Surrey County Council fund new Village Hall for Rowledge

It's great news for Rowledge and surrounding areas.

Your Fund Surrey has approved £800,000 for Rowledge Village Hall to replace an existing 100-year-old community building. This fund brings community-led projects to life that will leave a real legacy. It will ensure the future of Rowledge's vibrant community for the next 100 years and beyond.

Surrey County Council granted planning permission in October 2022. The project is expected to start in early 2025 and take 12 months for construction.

Our local MP, Greg Stafford, said "The vital funding delivered by my Conservative colleagues on the County Council will make a massive difference for the community. I know how much this funding would have meant to former trustee and Surrey and Waverley Councillor Wyatt Ramsdale and I am pleased to see his legacy entrenched in Rowledge with a new village hall."

The Trustees purchased the Cherryfields site on Fullers Road in March 2024. It's in the centre of the village, close to the recreation ground, primary school and will be 3 times the size of the existing hall.

The current hall is more than 100 years old. Its condition has deteriorated, with a lightweight timber structure, no foundations, little insulation, a leaking roof it no longer meets environmental standards. The rooms are too small for many events with limited outdoor space.

The new hall will be an accessible community space, surrounded by trees with beautiful gardens, adequate parking to enhance the community cohesion.

East Hampshire District Council has provided £60,000. A perfect example of 2 councils working together for the benefit of the community



Greg Stafford with Wyatt Ramsdale reviewing the plans for the new Rowledge Village Hall



"It is an honour to serve as your MP and I wanted to say thank you to everyone in our area for their continued support since the election. It was clear that our community wanted an active MP and someone who gets involved with local issues; readers of my weekly newsletter and followers of my social media will see how I am committed to addressing your concerns and delivering results. Greg"

PCC & MP Committed to tackling shoplifting

Following their joint visit to local retailers in Haslemere and Farnham, earlier this year, Lisa and Greg have been working together to encourage better reporting of incidents, to ensure Surrey Police have a more accurate understanding of shoplifting levels.

This in turn is helping police better tackle the problem and charging rates for shoplifting in Surrey have significantly improved in recent months. Arrest rates for shop lifting have more than doubled and 3,000 more charges have been made across all crime types in Surrey over the past year. These are all improvements that Lisa has been pushing for and is monitoring closely.

Lisa has also been working hard to dispel the widespread myth that police do not respond to shoplifting incidents where the value of items is below £200. Speaking recently, Lisa said "This is categorically untrue, and it's time to myth-bust this particular story. It is true that police may not visit a business immediately, depending on the threat or risk or harm reported



Lisa Townsend with Greg Stafford MP

The Chief Constable has been clear that ultimately, he wants to see all reports investigated, whether the loss is £5 or £5,000. I recently watched as a suspected shoplifter was arrested on suspicion of stealing items worth just £7.50."

Lisa is currently developing her Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2028. To have your say over what priorities should be included, or to find out more, you can visit: <https://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/>



Conservative Cllrs from the area have been working to extend the boundary of the Surrey Hills AONB to the Wey Valley, Dockenfield Hills & an area of East Hampshire. These changes are essential to reverse the decline in diversity due to development.

Natural England has drawn up a new map with revisions for public consultation.



Storm Eunice damaged the root structure of a Sweet Chestnut tree in Frensham. SCC funded turning the fallen tree into a bench. A tree sculptor created a bench with five local visitors - a squirrel, a deer, an owl, a badger and a fox.



A Hindhead resident Tom, raised concerns about the state of a local public right of way from Hindhead down through the Golden Valley to Grayshott. Cllr David Harmer ensured the Surrey CC rights of way team sorted out the dangerously eroded path as a matter of priority.

TEACHER AUTISM EMOTIONAL
INDIVIDUALISED SKILLS
ADHD ATTENTION
VISUAL APPROACH
SPECIAL EDUCATION
PUPILS
THERAPY PLAN STRENGTHS
LANGUAGE ACHIEVEMENT
BEHAVIOUR PARENTS

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty near Farnham are Wey Valley and Dockenfield Hills

Kemi Badenoch MP has been elected as the new leader of The Conservative Party. Our MP, Greg Stafford, has welcomed the new leader and joins his colleagues in working with the new leadership to hold the Labour Government to account.



Families across Waverley are often navigating the challenge of raising a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Greg Stafford knows how much local people need someone to champion their views, which is why he has held special meetings for parents with SEND children and met with organisations like Challengers in Farnham. Greg is fighting for the children at the heart of this issue, and will work his hardest with the local authority to deliver results as our MP.



Labour have imposed a new education tax on our independent schools. As your voice in Westminster, Greg Stafford made it clear to the Government how detrimental this policy would be for parents and children in our area. Greg invited headteachers, governors and parents of independent schools in his constituency to a meeting with the former Chancellor and former shadow Education Secretary.

Greg and Jeremy Hunt wrote to the current Chancellor to guarantee your concerns were heard. The answer to better education is not to endlessly tax private schools, but to make our state schools better.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM OF COUNCILLORS FOR

FARNHAM, HASLEMERE AND WESTERN VILLAGES

- Cllr Jean Arrick
- Cllr Zoe Barker-Lomax
- Cllr Tom Bridge
- Cllr Malcolm Carter
- Cllr Carole Cockburn
- Cllr David Harman
- Cllr James Staunton
- Cllr Phoebe Sullivan



Conservative Surrey County Council achievements for our residents

- Road funding increased to over £90m from £24m, resurfacing 1000km of Surrey's roads
- £42m of funding for grassroots - community projects
- Committed additional £25m investment in 52 libraries
- Over 90% of state-run secondary schools are rated Good or Outstanding across Surrey