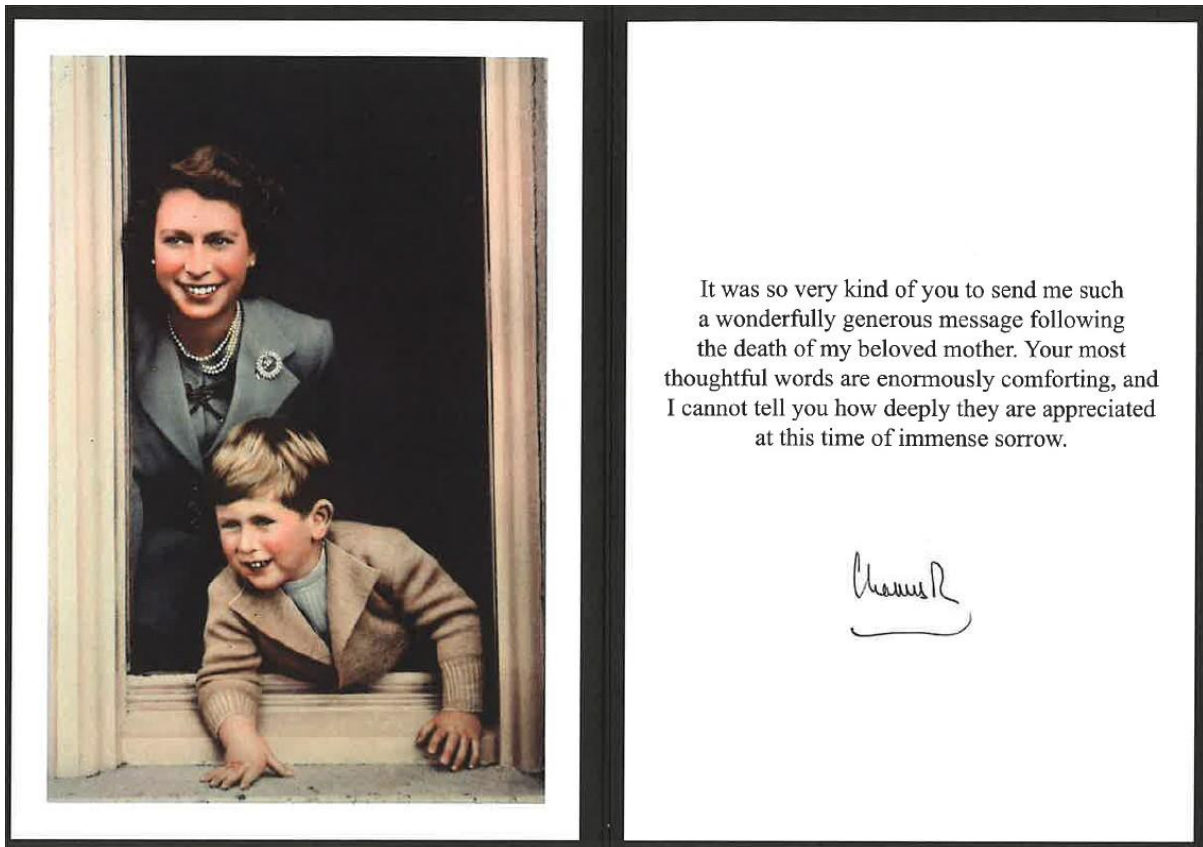


# Chairman's Report 2022-2023



## **During the Year:**

**Death of Her Majesty the Queen:** On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 we learnt of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Following this we observed the period of national mourning where the proclamation was read out by the Vice Chairman (Cllr G Watkins) outside Beeson House, where we were observed such a positive turnout from the community of Southwater to show their respects. A book of condolences was provided for residents of Southwater to express their respect, where councillors assisted to extend the opening hours of Beeson House for signing the book and we further prepared a letter and statement of condolence which was read on behalf of the Council and published as a video leading into the national silence. In January 2023 we received a response from His Majesty, King Charles III expressing his gratitude for our condolences.



**Southwater Neighbourhood Plan (SNP):** Plans to review the adopted SNP started, including community consultation, and will run into 2023-24 recognising the importance of progressing the review while the Local Planning Authority, Horsham District Council, completes its Local Plan. The Parish Council has commenced advancing improvements highlighted in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The SNP was used to resist speculative developments including a planning application submitted by Berkeley Homes for a 1,500-dwelling proposal to the Northwest of Worthing Road.

**New Southwater Parish Council Website:** Work on our new website, <https://www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/> was completed, which provided the people of Southwater an improved platform to find information and keep updated with the Council with ease.

**Tree Surveys, Open Space and Woodland:** Ash dieback has affected many of our trees within Southwater. Work continues to remove trees affected as indicated and advised by independent tree surveys. When we reach an appropriate time, arrangements for replanting will be progressed.

**Anti-Social Behaviour:** We set up a group to work with local businesses, the police, HDC, youth services and our Neighbourhood Wardens. It yielded results, with levels of reported incidents significantly reduced.

**Neighbourhood Wardens:** We said goodbye to one of our wardens (Jaquie Cave) and hello to our new warden Bettina Long (as pictured). They continue to provide an excellent benefit to our community and their reports are available on the SPC website which explain their achievements and great work within Southwater.



**Saturday Surgeries:** Councillors have made a concerted effort to ensure the provision of Saturday Surgeries where residents can come and discuss matters of concern. These take place every first Saturday of the month 10.00 - 11.00am in Beeson House (except August or otherwise stated).

**Freedom of the Parish:** The previous Chairman of the Council, Cllr Graham Watkins, was presented with the Freedom of the Parish Award (as photographed below) to recognise the service he had given over many years with the Council.



**Parish Council Staff:** We said goodbye to one of our Executive Officers earlier in 2022 and our Assistant Officer in September 2022. We welcome the new Assistant Executive Officer to the team who commenced in January 2023.

**Parish Councillors:** We reached our full quota of councillors (fifteen) in 2022-23 and continue into 2023-24 with the full fifteen. Our thanks go to Cllr Ian Stannard for his efforts over the past years where he stepped down as a Parish Councillor during the year due to other commitments at district level (Horsham District Council).

**Southwater Ghyll CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation):** Numerous improvements to the building and other facilities were carried out at The Ghyll. Local clubs and groups continue to use the facilities of The Ghyll and Laurie Apted Building. The financial burden on the residents of running the facilities continues to reduce under the management agreement. Their annual report will be available on the Parish Council website.

**Internal Audit:** The independent internal audit of all the Council's processes, yearend accounts and actions was completed in 2022-23, with no concerns or issues highlighted demonstrating the progress and improvements the Council has made over the last few years.

**Skate & BMX Park, Bens Field, Stakers Lane.** The start of construction was held back due to planning issues. This has now been resolved and work will commence during the summer of 2023. This has been funded through Section 106 funding and an insurance settlement following the fire in August 2020. A group of skate and BMX park users have been involved in the designs and the Executive Officer is in communication with various members of the community to progress fundraising events that could assist with the future maintenance and alleviate precept and council tax requirements.

Southwater Skatepark



**Play Areas:** The play areas (Downs Link, Roman Lane, Larkspur Way, Nutham Lane, Eversfield, Warren Drive, Cornflower Way) operated by SPC continue to be regularly inspected and maintained where major refurbishment works were undertaken in 2021-22.

**The Queens Green Canopy:** The Queen's Green Canopy creates a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 trees were planted to signify this. These are located at the triangular open space between The Avenue, King Edwards Road, Christ Hospital and College Road Open Space.



**Fingerposts:** Fingerposts located at Two Mile Ash Road/Bax Castle, Two Mile Ash Road/Christ's Hospital School and Kerves Lane, Southwater were all refurbished and completed in August 2022.

**Highways and Footpaths:** Southwater Parish Council submitted a Community Highways Application to WSCC to install a footpath along Blakes Farm Road (from the mini roundabout connecting Wilberforce Way and Blakes Farm Road to the Hangmans Hill Roundabout). If approved, this will allow pedestrians to walk this stretch on a path. After many years, WSCC completed the works to the drains in Cripplegate Lane where regular flooding occurred, which has resolved a longstanding issue.

**Youth Services from Southwater Youth Project CIO (SYP CIO):** The agreements which set out how the Council fund SYP CIO were signed, and arrangements implemented for them to return to Beeson House. The report from SYP CIO will be available on the Parish Council website.



**Grant for Running Track at Castlewood School:** Supporters of Castlewood School, a local charity, had been fundraising to repair and sustain a running track at Castlewood School. On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Council approved a grant of £1,500 to improve the running track. This brought the charity one step closer to their goal which assisted in the project's completion in February 2023.

**Southwater Artifacts:** These continue to remain in storage, the plan is to show these in our own Southwater museum.

**Litter picking:** Our two Litter Wardens who, with the support of the residents who have adopted their streets, and the Southwater Litter Pickers have helped to keep Southwater clean.

**The Queen's Platinum Jubilee & Christmas Festivals:** Our special thanks to the Southwater Community Partnership, who organised and ran the events again. These were the most successful events, and our thanks also go to the local businesses who contributed to the provision of the festive lights and Christmas tree in Lintot Square. We look forward to more of the events they have planned.

**Annual Budget 2023-24:** The focus for all Southwater Parish Councillors is to ensure the people of Southwater receive good value from paying their council tax and specifically the proportion due to the Parish Council. For the second year, the budget for 2023-24 provides a reduction in precept (council tax) specific to Southwater Parish Council whilst maintaining quality of service and the necessary reserves.



**Improvements for the future** *being planned or being undertaken at present:*

- 1) Construction and rebuild of Southwater Skate & BMX Park, Ben's Field, Stakers Lane.
- 2) Upgrading of areas of street lighting the Parish Council are responsible for.
- 3) Refurbishment and change of internal structure to Beeson House to better accommodate Southwater Youth Project CIO / Southwater Museum.
- 4) Ongoing meetings with HDC and WSCC regarding improvements to highways.

## **Parish Councillors**

Thanks to a successful recruitment campaign, we have a full quota and there are no vacancies. We welcomed the following councillors to Southwater Parish Council:

- Nicola Brown
- Graham Turnwell
- Chris Pearce
- Steve Lewis
- Erica Haddon
- Jeff Villis
- Lloyd Everard

Our thanks to Cllr Ian Stannard for his efforts over the past years as he has stepped down as Parish Councillor due to other commitments at District level.

My thanks also go to our current Parish Councillors:

- Geoff COLE - [geoff.cole@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.cole@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Pauline FLORES-MOORE - [pauline.floresmoore@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.floresmoore@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Nikki KNOTT - [nikki.knott@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nikki.knott@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Geoff SCOON - [geoff.scoon@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.scoon@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Ilanit SLOWLY - [ilanit.slowly@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ilanit.slowly@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Claire VICKERS - [claire.vickers@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vickers@horsham.gov.uk)
- Graham WATKINS - [graham.watkins@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:graham.watkins@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Graham TURNWELL - [graham.turnwell@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:graham.turnwell@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Nicola BROWN - [nicola.brown@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Chris PEARCE - [chris.pearce@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.pearce@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Steve LEWIS - [steven.lewis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:steven.lewis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Erica HADDON - [erica.haddon@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:erica.haddon@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Jeff VILLIS - [jeff.villis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.villis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Lloyd EVERARD - [lloyd.everard@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lloyd.everard@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)

## **County/District Councillor Liaison**

The Parish Council would like to thank our County and District Councillors for their continued help and support over this period:

County Councillor:

- Cllr Nigel Jupp – [nigel.jupp@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.jupp@westsussex.gov.uk)

District Councillors:

- Cllr Claire Vickers – [Claire.Vickers@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Vickers@horsham.gov.uk)
- Cllr Ian Stannard – [Ian.Stannard@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Stannard@horsham.gov.uk)
- Cllr Billy Greening – [Billy.Greening@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Billy.Greening@horsham.gov.uk)
- Cllr Gordon Lindsay – [Gordon.lindsay@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Gordon.lindsay@horsham.gov.uk)

*Yours sincerely,*

*Cllr Derek Moore  
Chairman of Southwater Parish Council*