

**Minutes of Heatherside Ward Residents AGM  
29th April 2024 - Heatherside Community Centre**

**Present**

Committee members - Kirsty North, Ben Leyton, Caroline Hibberd, Katherine Sargent, Kim Leyton

Heatherside Borough Councillors - John Skipper, Bob Raikes

Heatherside County Councillor - Edward Hawkins

Approximately 15 local residents

Apologies received from Louise Ashbery - SHBC Councillor, Rev Heather Valletta - Minister Heatherside Church

**Agenda Items**

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

Kirsty welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the HWRA committee members and the councillors.

Kirsty explained that unfortunately, the planned talk by the Police on cybercrime had been cancelled at short notice. We hope to reschedule this to our next meeting.

**2) Chair's Report 2023-2024**

Kirsty talked about the activities which have taken place over the past year. These include the Pumpkin Path at Halloween, The North Pole Post and the annual Christmas tree and associated light switch on.

We have also continued to run the Heatherside Bookshed in the grounds of Heather Ridge School. We are very grateful to our volunteers who look after the shed and make sure the shelves are tidy.

Kirsty mentioned that at previous meetings residents had said that they did not think HWRA was well known about and that it would be good to find ways of reaching more residents who aren't on social media. As a result posters and leaflets have been produced and Kirsty has been putting these up around the area. We also plan to put leaflets on the tables at the Pop Up Coffee shop and other Heatherside events.

Kirsty also mentioned that the Christmas tree we provide may need to be smaller this year. Unfortunately the donations we received last year were lower than in previous years and the cost of the tree plus the public liability insurance needed means we would not afford to keep purchasing trees of this size.

**3) Treasurer's Report 2023-2024**

Caroline Hibberd, the HWRA Treasurer, gave a brief report on the accounts for 2023/2024. The full details of the accounts can be seen at **APPENDIX A** at the end of the minutes.

She explained that this year we have made a slight loss after paying for things such as hiring of meeting rooms, the Christmas tree and insurance. In previous years we have been lucky enough to receive donations from companies using Heatherside for filming and also the proceeds of the sales of a book of Heatherside history.

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We were asked how the membership of HWRA was organised and Caroline explained that HWRA doesn't have a formal membership list or subscriptions. All residents are automatically part of HWRA and welcome at our meetings.

The accounts were agreed by those present and signed off by Kirsty North and Caroline Hibberd. If you have any questions about the accounts or suggestions for projects which some of our funds could be spent on then please email us at [heathersidewra@gmail.com](mailto:heathersidewra@gmail.com).

#### **4) Election of a committee**

Each year we are required to elect a committee. The association is required by constitution to have four committee members normally made up of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We also have an additional post of Communications and Publicity Officer

Kirsty asked if any of the residents present would like to stand in any of the positions but there were no offers from the audience.

The following were elected for the next year.

Chair - Kirsty North (nominated by Caroline Hibberd and seconded by Andy Ward)

Vice Chair - Ben Leyton (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Andy Ward)

Treasurer - Caroline Hibberd (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Andy Ward)

Secretary - Katherine Sargent (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Andy Ward)

Communication and Publicity - Kim Leyton (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Andy Ward)

#### **5) Planned HWRA and Heatherside Events**

We will once again be providing Heatherside with a Christmas tree in the Heather Ridge Arcade. We intend to hold an event to switch on the lights on the 24th November. Lloyd Martin, the incredible marathon runner from Heatherside will be switching the lights on this year.

The October Heatherside Pop Up Coffee Shop will be raising money for HWRA to help us pay for the Christmas tree. This will be on the 19th Oct from 10am - 12 in the Heatherside Community Centre. The coffee shop pops up once a month on the third Saturday and raises money for different causes each month.

Kirsty talked again about the possibility of holding another quiz night or alternative event such as a beetle drive or race night. We had to cancel our last planned quiz night due to lack of bookings and are reluctant to book again unless there is a good level of interest.

We would like to try and get more information out to the community about HWRA and Kirsty wondered if we could see if the Scouts and Guides might be interested in helping with this. She also wondered if we could try and see if young people on Heatherside would be interested in making a video about the community and why it's good to live here.

## **6) The 41 Club and planned Father Christmas visit to Heatherside**

We were approached by members of the Camberley 41 Club to come and talk to us about who they are and what they do and also a Christmas event they are planning for Heatherside. Derek, a resident of Heatherside, and Chris, the chairman, joined us at the meeting and told us some of the history of the club.

The 41 Club was formed by members of the Round Table organisation who had reached the maximum age of 40 permitted to be a member of the Rotary Club. The organisation is only open to men but there is a similar group for ladies called the Ladies Circle for younger ladies and Tangent for those over 40. Unfortunately the Camberley Round Table group has disbanded due to falling membership but the 41 Club continues with 39 members aged between 63 and 90!

The group raises money for local good causes. Their biggest fundraising event is the Father Christmas float which has raised £57K over the last 10 years. The float consists of a house on a trailer and Father Christmas sits in the chimney waving and talking to children and collecting donations. In previous years the float would tour the streets of Camberley in the evenings during December but the increased age of the volunteers means this is no longer safe. It is too dangerous for them to deal with steps, uneven pavements etc in the dark. As a consequence, for the last few years the club have only done collections at static sites such as The Meadows, Waitrose Bagshot and Frimley.

The money collected is donated to local charities. They do not give money to large national organisations, just those which are helping people in the local Camberley area. Recent recipients include Home Start, Besom, Looking Ahead, Camberley All Night Cafe and the local Age Concern group.

The 41 Club would like to visit Heatherside with their Father Christmas float in the run up to Christmas and wondered if there would be support for this from residents for this. In previous years residents have enjoyed the float touring the streets and this has definitely been missed in the years since.

A post has already been put out on social media and a number of locations had been suggested for the float to stop. The 41 Club are proposing to stop in 3 places which, based on the social media feedback and suggestions made at the meeting, are likely to be Heatherside Recreation Ground, Cheylesmore Park and Copped Hall Green. A range of dates were discussed but it was felt that Friday 20th Dec would be the best day as it is close to Christmas when children are excited and not a school night. The volunteers will be collecting donations at the stopping points and will accept both cash and contactless donations. Further information will be released nearer to the time and HWRA will be very happy to help publicise the planned visits.

Some photos of the 41 Club Float are attached at the end of the meeting minutes in **APPENDIX B**

## **7) Councillor Updates**

### **Borough Councillor - John Skipper**

Councillor Skipper told us about the activities he has been involved in since the last meeting. 100 trees have now been planted around the edges of the recreation ground and near the Heatherside Pillar. Most are growing and doing well. The trees include rowan, hazel, wild cherry and silver birch and were provided free of charge by the Woodland Trust. John is also talking to Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) about the most

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appropriate types of tree that could be planted by the play area to try and soak up some of the water that accumulates here when it rains a lot.

More bulbs have been planted on the bunds around the playing field by John and volunteers from the community, at present these are mostly daffodils but other bulbs can be planted if residents wish. John wants to work along the bunds planting more bulbs each year until the full length is covered with wild flowers.

John has arranged for 3 more wooden benches to be installed at the recreation ground as the ones previously purchased have proved to be very popular. There will also be a Remembrance memorial bench which will be placed near the pillar. John has also ordered 6 soldier silhouettes which can be placed around Heatherside in the run up to Remembrance Sunday.

John gave an update on the recent grass mowing in Wellingtonia Avenue. Many people have been upset by the removal of plants and wild flowers across the full width of the avenue when the agreement with SHBC contractors was that only a strip adjacent to the path would be cut. It appears that the Glendale employees mowed the area despite instructions not to. The cut should also have taken place in March when the impact on growing plants would have been far less. Graham Tapper explained that he had managed to stop them mowing the area to the north of Inglewood Avenue so this small section at least remains intact. John said that SHBC officers have investigated what happened and are putting plans in place to ensure that the same thing does not happen again. Unfortunately we have been told this before so it is very frustrating that once again the instructions from SHBC have been ignored.

A resident at the meeting asked if it would be possible for more woodchip to be laid on the pathway down the middle of the avenue as some areas are becoming quite wet and boggy again. John said he would investigate this but members of the committee pointed out that this is Surrey County Council responsibility and that this means Edward Hawkins may need to investigate this.

Phil Green, the Heatherside Tree Warden once again raised the issue of the Wellingtonia trees which have been removed from the avenue but not replaced. For years SHBC have been promising to replant the missing trees but they have still not been planted. Councillor Skipper said he would chase this again with SHBC. Phil made the point that if a resident removed a protected tree and failed to replace it then the Council would fine them, it is wholly unacceptable that the Borough Council themselves fail to meet the requirements that they expect of residents.

John said he has been working with SHBC to try and get the ceiling of the covered area of Heather Ridge Arcade repaired. The area is becoming quite unsafe and SHBC Building Control are writing to the owners to try and force them to repair it. He will update us when he has more information on this.

John is involved with a new biodiversity programme at SHBC. The idea is to find out what plants and animals we have on Heatherside and therefore enable them to be protected.

### **Borough Councillor - Bob Raikes**

Councillor Raikes explained that he has been heavily involved with the work to renew the lease on the Heatherside Community Centre. Although this isn't yet signed the process is almost complete and there won't be the massive rent hike originally proposed. Tony Edwards, from the 4th Frimley Scout group, added that the Scout hut lease was also almost at the point of being signed and that similar terms to the Community Centre one would apply. Edward Hawkins was thanked for all the help he had given to try and resolve the lease issues.

Bob has also been working on issues with proposed new bin stores in Dawsmere Close. Residents had been very unhappy with the reduced size of the planned new stores so new plans will need to be drawn up.

Bob has been working on the finance issues at SHBC. He explained that outgoings have been reduced a bit to try and help the tight budget but that there are more difficult decisions to be made and a lot more to be done. Caroline Hibberd asked when the audited accounts for SHBC would be made available as these are now very overdue. Bob explained his frustration over the delay, the Borough Council are not able to choose who the auditor will be, but the company employed have failed to produce the reports promised a number of times now.

Bob gave an update on the proposed parking restrictions in the Martindale Avenue car park. He explained that residents had requested that the use of the disabled spaces by people not displaying a disabled badge be enforced. In order to do this, legally the council must also enforce the use of the other spaces. This had been part of a wider review of parking across the borough and as a result residents will only be able to park for 12 hours. The full details of this including the date when it will come into force are yet to be decided.

Bob briefly updated that a new set of tree guidance is being looked into but that more information about this would be given at the next meeting.

### **Borough Councillor - Louise Ashbery**

Councillor Ashbery was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update via email. She has been working with John Skipper and Bob Raikes on a number of issues affecting residents. She explained that she was able to use some of her Councillor grant to help Camberley Chess Club. Louise hopes to attend as many of the Pop Up Coffee Shops as she can as they provide a good opportunity to meet residents.

Councillor Raikes has provided information on all the Borough Council updates and these can be seen in **APPENDIX C** at the end of the minutes. This includes the following information about the Councillor Grants

The councillors have managed to allocate all 9 of their councillor grants (although some have not yet been processed as the council awaits documentation from applicants. They are:

- Heather Ridge PTA £500.00 Costs re Xmas Fair
- Heatherside Comm Centre £200.00 Refurb of Defibrillator
- Ravenscote PTA £500.00 DT Resources
- Camberley Chess Club £500.00 Room Hire
- Carwarden School PTA £500.00 Sensory Board
- Ravenscote PTA £500.00 DT Resources

- Frimley Scout Group £400.00 Camping Equipment
- Camberley Town FC £500.00 Pitch Repairs
- Ravenscote PTA £500.00 DT Resources

### **County Councillor - Edward Hawkins**

Edward gave an update on a range of Borough and County issues. He has provided a full report which can be seen at **APPENDIX D** at the end of the minutes.

### **Maultway**

The section of the road from the new area before Red Road Roundabout to the back of No.34 Buttermere Drive is to be resurfaced. Surrey County Council (SCC) is responsible for over 3,000 miles of roads and the logistics of organising major repairs can take some time. Edward and local residents have repeatedly asked SCC to repair this section of road as the surface is in a terrible condition. The work is planned to be carried out from 17th May to 21st May with the road closed from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm each day.

### **Heather Ridge Arcade**

Following the removal of the trees and replacement of the planters Edward was able to get the uneven paving relaid by Surrey County Council. The feedback from residents and retailers is that it looks so much better.

A resident pointed out that some of the plants in the new planters in the Heather Ridge Arcade have died. Edward will look into this but it is also possible that HWRA could purchase replacements with money left over from a community fund bid several years ago.

The bus shelter on Cumberland Road has also been replaced and has a bus time indicator installed.

### **Martindale Pavement**

The footpaths on Martindale Avenue were resurfaced by SCC, but unfortunately the work was poor in places. Edward is grateful to the residents who contacted him regarding the level of finishing. He contacted SCC to complain and has received confirmation that the Project Engineer and Contractor were aware of the problems. He then reinforced these concerns in a meeting with the contractor. He had been told that the required work has been added to the snagging list and will be remediated. He will update when he has more information on this

Katherine Sargent asked if Edward knew why Martindale had been chosen for resurfacing when the pavement was not that bad and there are other areas, such as the footpath down Old Bisley Road near Ravenscote where the condition of the pavement is appalling. Edward said he was unclear and that unfortunately some of the SCC officer decisions were not shared with Councillors until after work had been carried out.

### **Potholes**

Edward believes global warming is resulting in damage to infrastructure such as the road surface leading to potholes. We are experiencing so much heavy rain that he feels they will not go away, especially with the high

usage of our roads. Edward would like to ask that as soon as a resident sees a pothole they report it on the SCC website as well as letting me know. ([www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online))

Katherine Sargent asked if SCC have any plans to revisit the current strategy for dealing with potholes. At present a pothole will only be repaired if it is a certain size or depth which means they aren't always dealt with until they are enormous and causing damage to cars etc. She asked if it would not be more cost effective and efficient to deal with potholes while they are still small rather than letting them become so problematic. Edward isn't aware of any plans to change the current strategy as there are finite resources.

### **Heatherside Community Centre Lease**

As mentioned by the Borough Councillors, the centre is owned by SHBC and the lease expired last year. The lease was for a term of 20 years without review at a peppercorn rent. SHBC decided that they would seek a new lease for a term of 20 years with reviews every 5 years and a mutual option to break the lease at each fifth year anniversary. The initial rent proposed was £14,000 per annum.

Whilst Edward is no longer a member of the Community Centre committee he has been helping on the lease discussions. He made it clear that in his professional life he had never agreed to a position where a landlord could hold a tenant to ransom.

Edward spoke with contacts at other community centres in the Borough and found out that in the last year the terms quoted were not unusual for SHBC although a discount of 90% was offered but not as far as I could ascertain for the extent of the term which still left the occupier at risk. The initial discount had not been offered to the Heatherside Community Centre.

Edward and John Skipper entered into a campaign of "robust" correspondence with the Chief Executive at SHBC, plus other officers, pointing out the community benefits of the centre etc. As a result SHBC have offered revised terms of a 10 year lease, no reviews and at a peppercorn rent. Edward and the other councillors are very pleased with the outcome.

### **Works to the Centre**

Edward explained that Surrey County Council has two funds to help revitalise neighbourhoods. The smaller one (Smaller Your Fund Surrey) is £50,000 per year for two years.

There are areas in the Community Centre that need up-grading and Edward has been working with members of the Committee to see where he can help with funding. Discussions continue on the extent of works SHBC will carry out as part of the lease renewal however it is unlikely that these works will be sufficient to create an environment that all residents can benefit from. Therefore, Edward has proposed that through the Smaller Your Fund Surrey, SCC pays for upgrading the lighting and the installation of Solar Panels. Discussions on this are continuing.

### **Heather Ridge Infants School**

Edward recently met with the Head and School Secretary to discuss replacing the privacy fencing around the school perimeter at Heather Ridge School. Edward and the school team feel it would be a false economy to

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replace just the fabric fencing and that a different solution is needed. The PTA obtained quotations for replacement fencing and an application for circa £25,000 was made to SCC for funding through the Smaller Your Fund Surrey allocated to Edward. This has been agreed.

### **Ravenscote Junior School**

Edward is in contact with the school to see where he can help them through my Smaller Your Fund Surrey allocation.

### **Community Fund**

Every year each Surrey County Councillor is given £5,000 (Members Community Allocation) and the fund for 2024 / 2025 is now open for applications. Community groups and organisations can apply with the funding to be used for revenue and capital expenditure.

In previous years Edward has used his allocation to help

- Ravenscote School – Feet First Walking Programme. Further installment due on 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Mustard Seed Autism Hub
- Looked After Children Fund
- Sight for Surrey

Anyone with funding suggestions or requests should go on the link below then contact me

[Community Funding - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

There was a brief discussion and the committee asked whether HWRA could apply for some of this money to replace some of the Heatherside Christmas tree lights which are getting rather old. Caroline will investigate this further.

### **8) Wellingtonia Avenue**

This item was covered in the Councillor updates so was not discussed again.

### **9) Heatherside Pillar Memorial Plaque**

HWRA were approached by local groups including the Scouts and Girl Guides organisations to ask if it would be possible for some kind of memorial to those who fought and died in conflicts around the world to be placed on or close to the Heatherside Pillar. In previous years members of these groups have gathered and placed poppy wreaths at the base of the pillar on Remembrance Sunday but they feel it would be nice to have something specific to mark the sacrifices made.

Discussions at previous meetings had indicated support for this idea and the proposed wording for the plaque had been suggested to be:

*Lest we forget*

*The people of Heatherside remember all those who have given their lives in service to this country.*



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We invited comments and feedback on this by the end of Dec 2023. No comments have been received so the intention is to go ahead and have the plaque produced. This will be subject to approval from Surrey Heath Borough Council who own the land. Katherine agreed to contact them and to also speak to Amanda at Evelyn's Funerals who had offered to help. The cost can be covered by the money in the pillar fund held by HWRA. Hopefully the plaque will be in place by Remembrance Sunday 2024.

#### **10) Next Meeting Date**

Our next meeting will be on the 23rd September subject to Haven House being available and there being no clashes with SHBC or SCC meetings.

#### **11) AOB**

##### **Cheylesmore Park Bunds**

Katherine Sargent asked the Councillors if they could please investigate what is happening regarding the bunds which were installed in Cheylesmore Park last year. The bunds have been left in an unfinished state and not grassed over nicely like the ones on the Heatherside Recreation Ground. John Skipper said he would look into this and speak to SHBC about it.

**APPENDIX A - Treasurer's Report Year ending Aug 2023**

**HEATHERSIDE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	<b>YEAR 2023 £</b>	<b>YEAR 2022 £</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	340	0
Christmas Tree Donations	494	127
Quiz Night	0	170
Total Income	<u>834</u>	<u>297</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Christmas Tree and Lights	570	360
Hall and School Hire for Meetings	98	133
Public liability Insurance	129	129
Book Shed	0	0
Pumpkin Path	126	0
General and Stationery	0	64
Total Expenditure	<u>923</u>	<u>686</u>
<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>	<u><b>-89</b></u>	<u><b>-389</b></u>
Funds Brought Forward	3,994	4,383
<b>Funds Carried Forward</b>	<u><b>3,905</b></u>	<u><b>3,994</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Bank account	<u><b>3,905</b></u>	<u><b>3,994</b></u>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>		
General	3,235	3,324
Community Pillar (designated)	545	545
SHBC - High Streets Community Clear Up (restricted)	125	125

**Declaration**

The Committee declare that they have approved the Income and Expenditure Account above  
Signed on behalf of the Association's Committee:

Signature:	K North	C Hibberd
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Full name:	Kirsty North	Caroline Hibberd
Position:	Chair	Treasurer
Date:	29 April 2024	

APPENDIX B - Photos of the 41 Club Christmas Float



## **APPENDIX C - Borough Councillor Updates**

John Skipper and Bob Raiques (SHBC councillors) set out some of their recent activities along with Louise Ashbery.

- New trees, shrubs and bulbs in the Rec
- New additional benches have been ordered using CIL money (contributions from developers) as well as 'Tommy' silhouettes that can be put up around Remembrance Sunday
- There have been many attempts to get the ceiling in the Arcade fixed, but the developers have been unresponsive. This was escalated to the HSE, but it now seems that SHBC building control may need to be involved.
- A lot of work has been done by borough councillors and the county councillor to get a new and appropriate lease for the Community Centre. The terms have been agreed and once documents are prepared will be signed. This will allow grants and other sources of money to be accessed/
- Meetings and discussions were held with the owners of the land around the Dawesmere flats as the residents were unhappy with proposed new stores and bin stores. As a result of discussions, the plans were withdrawn and are being redrawn. There has been a commitment to consultation with residents over the revised plan,
- There have been several discussions over revising the guidance on tree preservation in the borough to bring it closer to the desires of Heatherside residents.
- Councillors engaged with the parking strategy to get an optimum solution for parking in Martindale. There will be no parking charges. Tickets will be needed even for free parking as this will then allow the council to enforce the regulations on the use of disabled spaces. Enforcement cannot be done on just those spaces. The number of bays that are for EVs only was reduced from four to two after actions by councillors and meetings with the provider of the chargers
- Councillors have managed to allocate all 9 of their councillor grants (although some have not yet been processed as the council awaits documentation from applicants. They are:
  - Heather Ridge PTA £500.00 Costs re Xmas Fair
  - Heatherside Comm Centre £200.00 Refurb of Defibrillator
  - Ravenscote PTA £500.00 DT Resources
  - Camberley Chess Club £500.00 Room Hire
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  - Ravenscote PTA £500.00 DT Resources
  - Frimley Scout Group £400.00 Camping Equipment
  - Camberley Town FC £500.00 Pitch Repairs
  - Ravenscote PTA £500.00 DT Resources
- Discussions with Council about maintenance of football pitches on the Rec and elsewhere
- A lot of work has been done to bring the expenses of the Council closer to the level of income and reduce the funding deficit. More will have to be done.

## **APPENDIX D - Update from County Councillor Edward Hawkins**

Maultway; I have repeatedly posted that the section of the road from the new area before Red Road Roundabout to the back of No.34 Buttermere Drive is to be resurfaced. Surrey is responsible for over 3,000 miles of roads and even the most obvious of repairs can, frustratingly, take time to manage with both the availability of equipment and personnel.

As a result of my, and residents, pushing an application to close the road and carry out works has been issued. The work to be carried out from 17th May to 21st May with the road closed from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm each day. I will post more as soon as I can

Precinct; Following the removal of the trees and replacement of the planters I was delighted to, as I mentioned at the meeting last November, to get the paving relayed by Surrey County Council. The feedback from residents and retailers is that it looks so much better.

The bus shelter on Cumberland Road has also been replaced and has a bus time indicator installed.

Martindale Pavement; A project that was carried out by SCC, but did not go as planned. The work carried out was poor in places and thanks to the residents that contacted me over the level of finishing. I made firm representations to SCC and have received confirmation that the Project Engineer and Contractor were aware of my / our concerns. I reinforced these concerns in a meeting with the contractor. I am told that the required work has been added to the snagging list and will be remediated. I will post more as soon as I have further information.

Potholes: I think that we are all coming to the realisation that there is Global Warming and it does have an impact on our infrastructure. Potholes are one indication of this impact and regrettably will not go away, especially with the high usage of our roads. We live in a community and need to help each other. Can I ask that as soon as a resident sees a pothole can they report it on the SCC website as well as letting me know. ([www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online))

Community Centre Lease: The property is owned by Surrey Heath Borough Council and the lease expired last year. The lease was for a term of 20 years without review at a peppercorn rent. SHBC decided that they would seek a new lease for a term of 20 years with reviews every 5 years and a mutual option to break the lease at each fifth year anniversary. The initial rent proposed was £14,000 per annum.

Whilst not a member of the committee I am helping on the lease discussions. I made it clear that in my professional life I had never agreed to a position where a landlord could hold a tenant to ransom.

I spoke with contacts at other community centres in the Borough and found out that in the last year the terms quoted were not unusual for SHBC although a discount of 90% was offered but not as far as I could ascertain for the extent of the term which still left the occupier at risk. The initial discount had not been offered to HWRA

I then entered into a campaign of "robust" correspondence with the Chief Executive at SHBC, plus other officers, pointing out the community benefits of the centre etc. I was also joined in this campaign by John Skipper.

The net result is that SHBC offered revised terms of a 10 year lease, no reviews and at a peppercorn rent. Clearly a great result

Works to the Centre; Surrey County Council has two funds to help revitalise neighbourhoods. The smaller one (Smaller Your Fund Surrey) is £50,000 per year for two years.

There are areas in the Community Centre that need up-grading and I have been working with members of the Committee to see where I can help with funding. Discussions continue on the extent of works SHBC will carry out as part of the lease renewal however it is unlikely that these works will be sufficient to create an environment that all residents can benefit from.

I have proposed that through the Smaller Your Fund Surrey, SCC pays for upgrading the lighting and the installation of Solar Panels. Discussions continue.

Heather Ridge Infants School : I recently met with The Head and School Secretary to discuss replacing the fencing. My view was – and this was agreed by all of us – was that it would be false economy to do so and a different solution was needed. The PTA obtained quotations for replacement fencing and an application for circa £25,000 was made to SCC for funding through the Smaller Your Fund Surrey allocated to me. This has been agreed.

Ravenscote Junior School: I am in contact with the school to see where I can help them through my Smaller Your Fund Surrey allocation.

Community Fund: Every year each Surrey County Councillor is given £5,000 (Members Community Allocation) and the fund for 2024 / 2025 is now open for applications. Community groups and organisations can apply with the funding to be used for revenue and capital expenditure.

In previous years I have helped

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- Sight for Surrey

Anyone with funding suggestions or requests should go on the link below then contact me

[Community Funding - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community-funding)

Edward Hawkins

28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

edward.hawkins@surreycc.gov.uk