

St Martha Parish Council
Clerk's Report for the meeting on 16th April 2026

1. Additional Dog Waste Bins - in the Gunpowder Mills Site

On 01/04/26 an email and photo of the new proposed site along Lockner Farm track was sent to Hendryk and Galvin asking for re-consideration.

An automated message received : Thank you for your email. I am currently away from the office until the 5 January.

For a response in my absence please contact neil.barton@guildford.gov.uk.

Forwarded to Neil Barton – no response as yet

2. Renovation of the Bus Shelter opposite Lockner Farm

a) An update from the Chair on the response from Mrs Heard with regard to removing the arisings from behind the shelter – when the hedge is next cut.

b) Borough / Town / Parish liaison meeting on 11/03/26

Clerks received an update at the above from Perry Ashton, Joint Assistant Director of Transformation, regarding the progress of devolution and local government reorganisation in Surrey.

Perry reported that the Structural Changes Order (SCO), the statutory instrument establishing the process for implementing the new unitary authorities, had now been approved by Parliament and had come into force. The Order set out the legal framework and timetable for the transition to the new arrangements.

As a result, joint committees for East Surrey and West Surrey had been established. These committees would operate until the election of the shadow authorities, after which the shadow authorities would assume responsibility for preparing the new councils for vesting day. The joint committees had commenced work on the transitional programme.

Clerks were informed that a programme structure and governance arrangements had been established across the councils involved in the reorganisation. This included senior leadership oversight and a number of workstreams covering areas such as governance, finance, services, staffing and transformation. Work was underway to develop a comprehensive transition plan setting out how the existing councils would move to the new unitary authorities and the arrangements required for day one of the new organisations.

In response to a question regarding where the new West Surrey authority would be based, Perry confirmed that no final decision had yet been taken. It was expected that existing council offices and facilities would continue to be used initially, with longer-term decisions to be considered by the shadow authority once established.

In response to a further query regarding the future structure of committees and governance arrangements, Perry advised that these matters had not yet been determined and would be considered as part of the transition work.

c) The GBC Mayor for 2026/27

The Mayor for 2026/2027 will be Jayne Tyson, with Dominique Williams appointed as Deputy Mayor