

**St Martha Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report for the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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

Following the SALC Clerk's Forum on 20/01/26 an email request was sent to Mary-Ann Edwards Senior Countryside Access Officer (Maintenance & Enforcement) Surrey County Council Countryside Access - along with Cllr Toynbee's photos.

A further email has been sent – with additional information kindly supplied by Cllr Toynbee to assist Mary-Ann Edwards identify where the additional bin is requested. My apologies that my wording has been confusing for you. The reason I decided to contact you was:

1. From the comment made by Galvin Gillies GBC Team Leader, Parks & Street-scene stating that: *The land belongs to Countryside, and it is Countryside's decision on what bin provision is required on the land*".
2. And on the attached presentation you gave at the Clerk's Forum (on Tuesday 20/01/26) it advises to 'report a fault' and that 'Parish/Town Councils have a power to carry out work on a PROWs.
3. Additionally on your last slide: 'Next Steps'- to contact the Countryside Access Team to discuss ideas.

I have been kindly sent the following formation to help with identifying the spot where we would like the bin:

WHAT THREE WORDS: hook.traded.curly A red circle on the map below which will also hopefully help.

The road down to the mills from Dorking Road is a public footpath, as I'm sure you know. After the entrance to the mills, where we would like the bin, the path immediately crosses the Tillingbourne. Here footpath carries on straight ahead, and the paved road swings right, through a gate and onto private property with access to Longfrey Farm. The path from Dorking Road to the gates has recently been surfaced and can easily be used by cars.



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**4. Authors for the Chilworth Village Magazine**

**Julia** – would you be able to help with the Oct/Nov 2026 (deadline 12/09/26 please...?)

<b>2025</b>		<b>2025</b>
Feb/March	Debbie Toynbee	
April/May	Graham Brown	
June/July	Patricia Allen – Chairman's report	
Aug/Sept	Julia Tantram	12 <sup>th</sup> July
Oct/Nov	Debbie Toynbee	12 <sup>th</sup> September
Dec/Jan 2026	Maureen Osman	12 November

<b>2026</b>		<b>Date to send to Clerk</b>
Feb/March	Ray Young	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
April/May	Graham Brown	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
June/July	Chair's annual report	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Aug/Sept	Debbie Toynbee	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Oct/Nov	<b>? Julia Tantram</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Dec/Jan 2027	Patricia Allen	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2026

**5. Renovating the Bus Shelter opposite Lockner Farm**

Work continues on site and I have spoken to Bill regarding the proposed size of a new internal notice board – 750mm x 750mm – to take 6 sheets of A4. Or a smaller one 750mm x 550mm – which holds 4 x sheets of A4.

Both quotes (from Panel Warehouse) have been circulated prior to the meeting and Members will be asked for their view and decision on which size to purchase.

Bill has removed a fair amount of topsoil from the back/sides of the shelter. This is currently piled up by the side of the shelter. Bill was not planning to take it away. He remarked that it is good compost as it has originated from the back of the shelter and is mainly consists of fallen leaves from the laurel hedge - which have composted there for many years.

I intend to take a bagful for my garden – and wondered if anyone else is interested in taking some...? Otherwise, I could approach Ian Watson – our gardener at the War Memorial to move it.

**6. Dog thefts and request for wooden posts to be erected**

Message received from a Parishioner on 25/01/26: *this week my next door neighbours\_dogs both went missing. After a thorough search of the area involving literally hundreds of people over 5 days they are still missing. Yesterday when up at St. Martha's, there was a silver Ford transit van, photos and video below, parked on a gap on the verge on the right just before the car park entrance on White Lane. The van doors were all left open and there was a large sack of dog food left nearby as a lure. The vehicle owner was very aggressive when only saying "hello".*

*The police were informed immediately as his van was parked in the exact spot the dogs had been potentially spotted the previous day and this information was shared online to the searchers helping to look for the dogs.*

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*Whilst I accept that my neighbours' dogs may already be captured and re-located elsewhere, this is a horrible situation for other local walkers who may lose their dogs too as a result. If there is any way of preventing parking here using wooden posts to 'clock' this "parking spot" it would hugely help others to keep their dogs and not have them stolen.*

Following another enquiry re further details, the location was then described to me as: ***parked on a gap on the verge on the right just before the car park entrance on White Lane. The what3words location is:***

***Reader.dozen.skill***

Cllr Bob Hughes confirmed that the location is in Albury Parish. However, only County Highways can authorise posts on or near the Highway and Bob has written requesting that they look into doing so. I am aware of the issue of dogs being stolen and this van has been seen in other country locations in the Shere division.

Cllr Hughes has reported the incident to the Police along with further information received from Holmbury St Mary at the other end of his division where this van has been seen in a number of locations.

**7. Crazy Paving at Halfpenny Close**

I have sent a request to Cllrs Matt Furniss and Bob Hughes (cc Sir J. Hunt) – with photos from Cllr Mrs Osman and Bill Stacey asking for an increased standard of work to be carried out – as the 'current repairs' have only lasted 8 weeks.

Concerns were also raised regarding the contractor who is being paid by Surrey County Council to carry out the repair. In view of the poor quality of workmanship and the length of time the repairs have lasted, they seemingly do not care about the quality of their work - knowing they will have to return for a second attempt - and get paid again.

It would be helpful to know if a Surrey County Council Officer – with responsibility for the Highways repair budget is aware of this contractor's practice and is monitoring the quality of work. If so, I will forward the photos and location details to the relevant SCC Officer.

**8. Broken Light on Dorking Road email from Tony Moreton**

A message was received from Mr Moreton – which I forwarded onto Shalford CC. Nuala replied: *"our contractor visited the light a few weeks ago and reported back that the lantern has a dead electricity board service in the column. This means that there is a cable in the column, but it is not live. I have reported this to UK Power networks, and I am awaiting a response from them at the moment. I will let you know when I have anything else to report".*

**9. Enhancing Road Safety Measures for Chilworth Infant School**

A message has been received from a concerned member of the community to formally raise the critical issue of road safety in the immediate vicinity of Chilworth Infant School.

Cllr Bob Hughes has replied to the enquirer on the timescales of the initiative.

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**10. Road Safety and traffic calming measures along the A248**

**From : Michelle Collins – SCC Stakeholder Manager Highways Operations & Infrastructure**

*I'm following up on the queries that were raised at the SALC Clerks Forum and I remembered that you mentioned that the parish council were told by local Officers that you were unable to contact SCC Highway officers directly to discuss road safety in Chilworth.*

*There might be some confusion here. As a Council we receive over 1,000 enquiries a week for highways improvements, and therefore it is important that all enquiries are submitted through the Council's reporting tool rather than to individual colleagues. These queries then get allocated to the relevant teams to consider and provide a response.*

*The Council has currently agreed the provisional programme of works for road safety and general highways improvements for the 2026/27 year. However, if you would like to discuss a road safety scheme for the future including funding that you have, you can submit the information through the FixMyStreet [Making a request for highway improvements - Surrey County Council](#). This will then be submitted to the relevant team (either to the Road Safety Team or Traffic Engineering Team) for assessment for potential inclusion on the Pipeline of Future Works, which teams across the county will reference to develop future programmes.*

*I understand that in the correspondence you had with Annie, the majority of the issues were relating to vegetation clearance, which is important to report through the online reporting tool FixMyStreet, so that they can be assessed by the Highways Customer Team for potential delivery. [Report it online - Surrey County Council](#)*

**The Parish Council's response:**

The Clerk (with permission from Cllr Mrs Tantram) sent a copy of her notes from the Highways Stakeholder Engagement meeting in March 2025, attaching a copy of the risk assessment, which sets out all the safety concerns.

I pointed out that twelve months has now elapsed and the comments/advice received/and sent to SCC in 2025 re FixMyStreet may not now be the current position.

Additionally, it was mentioned that with devolution looming this matter becomes even more pressing. Time needs to be given to ensuring that County policy / strategy development includes working with Parish Councils and our budgets - as a matter of urgency - otherwise there is a risk of significant disconnect and potentially avoidable challenges occurring as a result.

**11. Reports sent to SCC 'Fixmystreet'**

- a) Request to clear the footpath along the Dorking Road alongside the 'pond' at 100 Dorking Rd.
- b) Request the removal of a broken sign erected by SGN for work being carried out in November 2025. This is currently propped up along the fence of The Manor House at Tanglewood Crossing.