

# WEST BYFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Furthering the social, economic & environmental well-being of West Byfleet



News Release

Immediate

*Residents and Businesses in West Byfleet are proud to announce.....*

## **THE WEST BYFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

After 6 months of meetings, emails, questionnaires to the community, the Joint Chairs of the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum were delighted to be given official recognition at the Council Meeting of Woking Borough on Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Penny Hoskyn, from the Residents' Association and Pauline Hedges from the Business Association said:

*"We are really delighted that the Council were unanimous in backing us in our formal request to create a Neighbourhood Forum for West Byfleet. The Forum will consult with every one – residents and businesses about issues which affect the whole community, such as planning, parking, transport, and use of green space, leisure facilities, and anything else which might become an issue of interest or concern. The first task will be to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan and this will be passed to the relevant authorities; the Forum will act as the go-between to ensure that our village is a safe, pleasant and prosperous community."*

Leaflets will be delivered to every house and business in West Byfleet informing every one of the formation of the Forum and asking for their views on their village. A Drop-In will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> between 6.00 – 9.00pm at West Byfleet Library and everyone is welcome.

An exciting new era opens for the village, which celebrates its centenary in 2017.

Ends

For more information:

Pauline Hedges – 077 577 16493

Notes to editors:

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to:

- make a neighbourhood development plan
- make a neighbourhood development order
- make a Community Right to Build order

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the [Localism Act 2011](#). [Neighbourhood planning legislation](#) came into effect in April 2012.

### **Neighbourhood development plans**

A neighbourhood development plan establishes general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, like:

- where new homes and offices should be built
- what they should look like

The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want.

Neighbourhood plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area. In most cases we expect this will mean that neighbourhood plans will have to take into account the local council's assessment of housing and other development needs in the area.

More and more communities are taking up the right to produce a neighbourhood plan.