



# West Horsley Youth Council

## West Horsley Youth Council- Annual Report for the Year 2023-2024

### Overview

- This has been the Youth Council's most successful year since its formation. The team is now strong, well-rounded and close-knit and a number of highly successful events and initiatives have been designed this year covering themes of: health and wellbeing, sustainability, community engagement, and family entertainment/event celebration, targeting a wide range of children and young people.

### Membership & Assets

- Two Youth Councillors left after Easter 2023 but we were pleased to co-opt two new members to fill these vacancies, in September and December. A further two have been recruited to join for 2024-25 onwards, taking the total to eight.
- The noticeboard on East Lane was repainted lime green and is now used for large displays promoting upcoming events.
- Branded t-shirts were purchased in June 2023, to identify Youth Councillors at events.
- An Instagram account dedicated to the Youth Council was launched along with an official @westhorsley.info domain email address, allowing increased marketing and communications opportunities.
- The budget set by the Parish Council was £500 and further funds were raised at events throughout the year. Expenditure did not exceed budget but income for 2024-25 will be higher.

### The Horsley Hustle- Fun Run

- Over 120 people of a wide range of ages and abilities took part in this free to enter event, held in the grounds of West Horsley Place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. There was a choice of 2km or 5km races, with everyone receiving light refreshments afterwards, including an 'edible medal' and additional prizes for race winners and fancy dress. We also welcomed Gray's Gelato and their very popular artisanal ice-cream van. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, so much so that the event is to be held again in June 2024.

### Christmas Movie Night- Home Alone

- Children and families were invited to this festive event held at Place Farm Barn, West Horsley Place, on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. The event sold out within a week of advertising, with almost 100 people attending for free. Children and adults alike, dressed in their finest Christmas gear, enjoyed the slapstick comedy of this seasonal classic and laughter was heard the whole night. The refreshments on offer didn't go amiss either! This movie night format has proved very popular and so we will aim to host more, with different themes and types of film, in the future.



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### **Clothes Swap**

- This event aimed to promote sustainable 'circular' fashion, especially for teenagers but adults too. In exchange for donating their unwanted but still wearable clothing items, people received 'tokens', the value of which they could redeem for new-to-them pieces at the sale on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Those who hadn't donated were able to buy for cash on the day. We were absolutely overwhelmed with donations, receiving total stock exceeding £15,000 retail value across two donation days. The Village Hall was then filled as people browsed and swapped or bought. A local personal stylist was on hand to provide free colour analysis and wardrobe advice. Thanks to a comprehensive marketing campaign involving Instagram advertising, filling the Village with roadside signs, and handing out flyers in person, the event was really well-attended and once again we have been asked to consider hosting another one.

### **The Good Neighbour Challenge**

- In January, following several months of development and design, the Good Neighbour Challenge project was officially launched in partnership with The Raleigh School. The aim was to raise children's social, environmental and historical awareness and encourage them to engage with their community. All 450 pupils had the opportunity to take part, which involved completing a series of tasks within a 'Passport', including litter-picking, acts of kindness, visiting historic landmarks and 'hidden gems' within the Horsleys, and supporting locally owned businesses. We were delighted that almost 100 pupils took part, representing 1 in 5 at the school, with the majority of these achieving 'gold' status for having completed all 10 tasks. We hope this will encourage long-term habits in the children and a real sense of achievement and pride in their community too.

### **Collaboration with other local groups**

- We have worked together with several other local groups this year, collaboratively building a strong and vibrant community. This has included:
- Supporting West Horsley Parish Council at events such as the Teddy Bear's Picnic, Christmas Lantern Parade, and Litter Picks;
- Contributing to the East Horsley Big Day Out and Christmas events;
- Decorating a WHYC Christmas Tree for the St Martin's Church Christmas Tree Fair;
- Supporting the Horsleys C.A.N. at their meetings and Village Awareness Day.
- We hope to continue these relationships in future and develop new ones.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Thanks must go to Cllrs Beynon and Buosi, as well as Clerk Julia McClung, for supporting and advising us in our activities. We would also like to extend a thank you to the volunteers who have assisted with our events, including other Parish Councillors, friends and family.

-We have developed a close relationship with West Horsley Place and are extremely grateful to them for hosting some of our events. We look forward to developing this partnership going forward.