

Dear all,

I think we need to reassure you all as to what has and is being done in relation to the current use of Frensham Great Pond. A joint statement (attached) by Churt and Frensham Parish Councils was widely circulated on 1st June. It is apparent, however, that some of you may not have seen it. This is a complex issue which will not be easily resolved. Rest assured, however, that both Parish Councillors and Waverley Borough Councillors are doing all they can to find a solution to this problem. We are well aware of the content on Waverley's website advertising the Great Pond as a leisure activity and have raised our concerns.

Lots of measures have already been put in place which in the main are being ignored by the current inconsiderate and selfish visitors. The best thing you can all do at present is to monitor the situation and when it descends into chaos (as yesterday and today) to call the Police (whether it be Surrey or Hampshire) to deal with highway obstructions or perceived danger. Or indeed as someone has done this morning to contact Surrey County Council Highways and for Hampshire issues, Hampshire County Council Highways.

Should any camp fires or BBQs be seen, please contact Waverley Borough Council via their call centre. There is a 24 hour emergency number. Please do not call the Fire Brigade unless there is an obvious wild fire in progress.

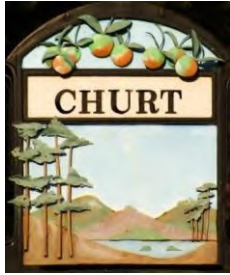
We are fully aware of the littering problem and volunteers from both Churt and Frensham have been assisting with litter clearance. We are also fully aware of the SSSI status and implications on the area.

David Crossley

Chairman

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1st June 2020

Frensham and Churt Parish Councils are working jointly in an effort to find a short, medium and long term solution to the vast influx of visitors to our natural attractions within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, namely Frensham Great and Little Ponds and The Flashes. Huge volumes of visitors descended upon Frensham Great Pond over the May Bank Holiday weekend causing chaos to the area and surrounding roads. As a result both Parish Councils reacted speedily and urgent discussions took place together with Surrey County Councillor, David Harmer and Waverley Borough Councillor, Julia Potts. A Joint Action Group was established, led by Waverley Borough Council and consisting of representatives of Waverley Borough Council, SCC Highways, Surrey Police and the National Trust. Extra measures were put in place to control visitor numbers and parking last weekend which helped to improve the situation.

We have now requested Waverley Borough Council to add East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire Police to the Joint Action Group as the traffic problems also extend into Hampshire.

Unfortunately there is no quick fix. Current focus is to manage the situation in the short term over the coming days and weeks, with the ultimate aim of seeking a long term solution. There are many things to consider including double yellow lines and/or rural clearways. We will also not lose sight of the situation in Jumps Road, but unfortunately processes for these to be implemented are not quick and easy.

Very valid concerns have also been raised about the appalling littering situation and the risk of woodland and common fires due to the use of BBQs. We are pleased that Waverley Borough Council has increased the numbers of litter wardens and also the provision of large litter receptacles. Volunteer teams from both Churt and Frensham Parishes have also been assisting with litter collection.

Both councils would like to reassure residents that we are doing all we can to ameliorate and ultimately resolve this situation.

Councillor David Crossley, Chairman Churt PC

Councillor Sean Willis, Chairman Frensham PC