3. ABOUT EWHURST AND ELLENS GREEN

3.1. The neighbourhood area comprises the parish of Ewhurst. Its population in 2011 was 2,480 persons living in 1,010 houses. The neighbourhood area is long and fairly narrow in shape, extending approximately seven miles north-to-south and between two and two and a half miles east to west. It is located to the extreme east of Waverley Borough, adjoining the boundary with Mole Valley and also borders with West Sussex to the south, as shown in Figure 3.1. The nearest larger settlements are Guildford, approximately

The village sign

eight miles to the north-east, and Cranleigh, two miles to the west.

3.2. The name Ewhurst derives from the Old English 'hyrst', meaning 'wooded-hill', and 'iw' meaning 'yew tree'. In the *Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* published in 1719 the antiquarian, John Aubrey notes "the vast quantities of yew trees that formerly abounded here". The first recorded spelling is "Iuherst" in 1179. However, the name is also popularly (but incorrectly) believed to have derived from the word ewe, for a female sheep and the village sign shows a both a ewe-sheep and a yew tree. The sign was erected to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and also incorporates the Royal Insignia and the date 1953.

3.3. The principal settlement in the neighbourhood area is the village of Ewhurst, bordered to the north by the B2127 as it runs to the east. The parish also includes the smaller hamlets of Ellens Green and Cox Green, near the border with West Sussex.

Figure 3.1: Map showing location of the parish

3.4. The parish covers an area of approximately 5,400 acres and is predominantly rural in nature. The northern part, including the tip of Ewhurst village, is Green Belt land located in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while the remainder of the parish, to the south, is classified as an Area of Great Landscape Value. Above the village, Pitch Hill stands out from the Greensand escarpment with commanding views over the Weald to the South Downs. Extending northwards is the Hurtwood, a large area of woodland and common land forming part of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of the parish, however, is on the Weald Clay, which in ancient times was a vast forest and is still one of the most densely wooded areas of Britain.

The Parish today

3.5. The Parish of Ewhurst and Ellens Green has grown in the ten years since the last census in 2011. As we approach the 2021 census, due to a number of new developments in the parish, there are now 1,866 residents aged over 18 living in 1,062 houses, according to the latest electoral roll. We enjoy a thriving village shop and a number of small businesses, among them a hairdressers and a veterinary practice, and the pub on Bulls Head Green will re-open later in the summer. The children of the parish are able to begin their education at the pre-school group which runs from the village hall, and move on to the Infant school opposite the church. The parish benefits from two churches, Church of England and Baptist, and is able to provide a number of venues for meetings and entertainment.

3.6. The Parish benefits from a wide range of community and recreational facilities, with over 40 clubs and societies meeting throughout the year. The strength of community spirit is evidenced in services like EwCare (voluntary social care and support); WeCare (voluntary Alzheimer care and support), LEAP (Ewhurst Local Environmental Action People) and community events including the biannual Ewhurst Carnival and Big Day Out and the annual 'Secret Gardens' and Parish meeting.

3.7. The rural surroundings are an important leisure asset and the position of the Parish at the foot of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty provides many opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding and other outdoor pursuits. The Parish draws a significant number of weekend visitors and the increasing popularity of cycling (both road and mountain biking) brings both impacts and benefits.