

Area 4: Grayswood

History of Grayswood

The settlement of Grayswood had its own distinct identity as a village until the turnpike was created in 1756 when the road layout we know today came into existence. Prior to that, the cross roads formed where Haslemere High Street meets Three Gates Lane on one side and Church Lane on the other was simply a T-junction with those two lanes. With the Turnpike Act, the old forge which existed at the top of the High Street was demolished and the road to Grayswood came into being.

Grayswood village originally was a very modest place with a few scattered cottages forming part of the farming community and one or two more substantial dwellings owned by yeoman farmers in the village itself.

Grayswood now is a quintessential English village with a thriving pub, church, school, club, village green and a new village hall (one of the first public buildings to be provided by lottery funding).

There is a strong sense of community and residents are proud of their detachment from



Grayswood Church



Grayswood, White House

Haslemere. The feeling of identity shared by Grayswood people is probably engendered by a number of things: the village cricket club is one, but probably the scale of the village is a more significant factor. Surrounded by land owned by the National Trust and the Forestry Commission, which all forms a part of the Surrey Hills AONB, there are planning constraints upon further development.

Another property of interest is The White House, an architectural gem in the Modernist style, built in 1932.

The heart of the village probably lies between the Wheatsheaf Inn and the primary school where a line of late Victorian cottages along Lower Road provides much of the residential core. This nucleus is supplemented on The Mount, near the church, and a few large houses and farms in the hills nearby.

The largely post-war linear development along Clammer Hill tends to reflect more the national style than local distinctiveness.



Grayswood Village Hall



Grayswood, Grayswood Farm



Grayswood Wheatsheaf

Grayswood is characterised by:

- Cohesive rural village community, which values its separate identity
- Clustered nucleus of Victorian cottages along Lower Road
- Many enclosed front gardens have been opened up for parking
- Larger houses around the edge
- Some more recent developments along Clammer Hill and behind the Wheatsheaf Inn
- Ribbon development along the Grayswood Road and Holdfast Lane, some Victorian (Klondyke Villas of 1896/8) and more modern houses
- Only Swedish Gothic Church in Surrey (possibly England), designed by Axel Haig (1902)
- White House, a rare and outstanding example of Modern Movement architecture in this part of Surrey, dating from 1932 and grade II* listed.



Grayswood Cottages



Grayswood Club and its plaque



Grayswood, Lower Road



Grayswood Old Post Office

Design guidelines for Grayswood

- *Generic Design Guidelines also apply in relation to any development in this area and these are stated in context in sections 4, 5 & 6 and Appendix 1. The complete set of guidelines can be found in Appendix 8.*
- Any new building should respect the character of the village, its topography and features while respecting the views and vistas of the locality
- Design and choice of materials should integrate with the existing uniformity of design of the Victorian terraces
- Any new development, together with alterations and extensions, should be of high standard, complementing the existing and adjacent buildings
- The scale and building height of new developments should be consistent with the character of the existing street scene