

Compton & Shawford Parish Council 2010 Annual Report

Chairman's Letter

Dear Parishioner,

Once again we have compiled this leaflet to give you a summary of what the Parish Council has done on your behalf over the past year.

28 April Annual Parish Assembly

To learn more about past events and future plans, why not come and join us at the Annual Parish Assembly in Shawford Parish Hall on Wednesday 28 April? You can question parish councillors on what/why they have/have not done things during the year and share your concerns and aspirations for the future.

Parish Council

We started the year with a full complement of nine councillors. Sarah Clay moved to Owslebury in November and so was obliged to resign. Regrettably we were unable to co-opt anybody, until February, when Mike Southgate agreed to join the Council. This did not bring us up to full strength. Our Vice Chairman, Tricia Caffyn, had to resign in January due to ill health. We will greatly miss her input and hard work. So.....we are still seeking someone to join

the Council. It is vital that we attract new, preferably younger, Councillors to serve the community and learn the ropes before an exodus of older Councillors.

David Drake has settled in as Clerk, and is a great asset to the village. He has streamlined our procedures, and is a superb "Responsible Financial Officer". Like me, he is constantly amazed at the amount of unnecessary paperwork and forms that emanate from Central Government and Winchester City Council.

Again this year, due to snow, we had to cancel the January meeting; this did not impair the Council's effectiveness. Last year, at this time I said we intended to review the frequency of Parish Council meetings, which we did. Councillors voted against meetings every other month, but did agree to restrict the duration of meetings, instructing that any business not concluded by 9.30pm should be deferred to the next month. It was therefore incumbent on the Chairman and Clerk to ensure that vital business was placed at the top of the Agenda

and discussions were "moved on". I am delighted to report, aided by Convenor's timely reports circulated by



email in advance of the meetings, that we have to date always concluded the full Agenda by 9.30pm.

Parish Plan and VDS

Of the 31 "action" points outlined for the Parish Council in the Parish Plan, 13 have been dealt with, 11 are in progress and 7 we have not yet been able to deal with. As you might imagine, a few may not be possible to implement... but we will try.

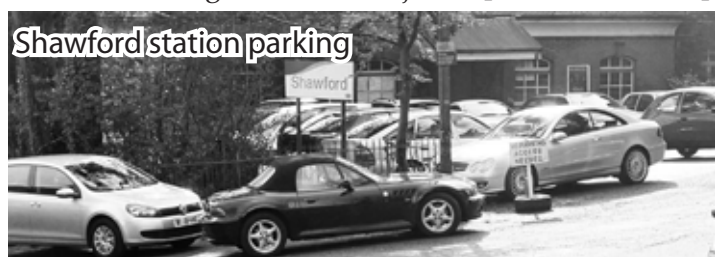
The VDS has, after prolonged work by Terry Wilson and Peter Betts, been through an initial review by WCC and sent back for possible changes. The actual final version will shortly be put out for Village consultation, and should finally be issued in the summer, and become a Supplementary Planning Guide in the WCC planning application process.

Parking

The two dominant issues of last year are still with us.

A revised scheme to aid All Saints School safety in Compton Street has brought the fear of more disruption to Compton

continued overleaf



Street residents. This is still to be finalised.

Shawford parking by rail users has got worse. We have established a good rapport with Network Rail and Southwest Trains personnel, have had actual meetings with them which we have never achieved before, and there is now a determination to provide more spaces dedicated to station parking. Schemes proposed involve knocking down the old Ticket Office, clearing the area all the way up the right hand side to Walcon Yard or storage company entrance, and possibly infilling part of the disused house garden on the left hand side. This is likely to lead to parking charges, which may well exacerbate the parking problem in Shawford, for which we have contingency plans. Proposals have been dropped to make a larger car park at the foot of the Downs in between the existing Downs car park and the Station for variety of reasons - cost, residents' opposition, and the fact that it is classified as a SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Park and Ride

At the time of writing, the new South Winchester Park & Ride is still scheduled to open on 19 April. We understand the cost will be £3 a day (£2 after 10:30) and buses will run every 15 minutes Monday to Saturday (every 10 minutes in rush hour). Buses will be sent via Romsey Road. County Council, Hospital and Prison workers are all being "encouraged" to use this scheme.

Sports Club

There is new life and impetus within the Sports Club with the appointment of two local people as Chairman and Secretary. This bodes well for the community. The Parish Council has now been able to arrange for the Club to carry its own insurance, thereby

relieving us of the obligation to insure and administer. We have also been able to negotiate and issue a new lease, with cost adjustments to benefit the Parish in line with our overall original plan for the Sports Club to be eventually financially independent.

Forward Projects

The telephone kiosk in Martins Fields has had another reprieve. If, in future, BT are allowed to decommission it, the Council will consider purchasing the box and leaving it in situ (without the phone).

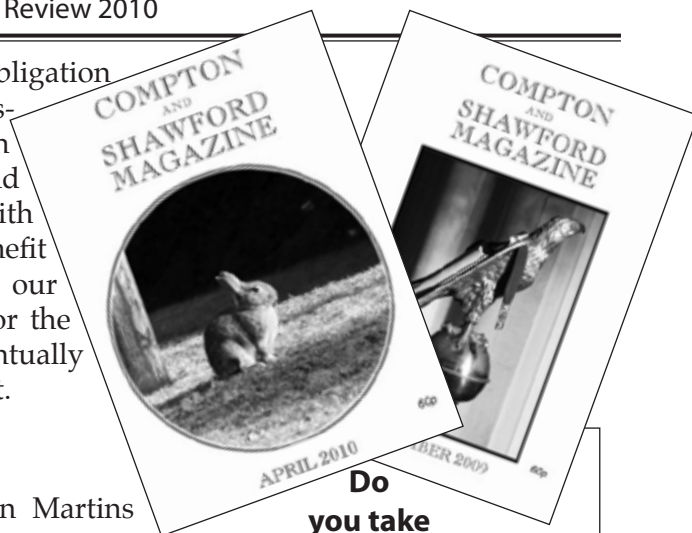
Lamping of rabbits at night on and around the Memorial Playing Fields will again be permitted, in an effort to stem the damage to the Sports Field. This involves careful monitoring.

Discussions are well in progress to lease ground at the foot of Shawford Down opposite the existing Car Park, to provide a children's play area in Shawford. This has been a requirement by WCC for over 10 years. The cost will be met from the Open Spaces Fund. (This is a fund into which developers have to pay according to the value of their new developments in the village.)

An all weather play surface, available to all villagers, is being considered in conjunction with the Sports Club, mainly for football use. None of this cost would come directly from your precept. A major proportion of the funding would again be met by the Open Spaces Fund.

If you have any other major issue you think deserve attention or any schemes that you feel should be implemented by the Council, would you please contact either the Clerk or me.

*Nick Campbell-White, Chairman
Compton & Shawford Parish Council.*



Do you take the Parish Magazine?

The Parish Council is happy to support the magazine, your best source of information about events run by local clubs, societies, the church and the Parish Council, as well as lots of very useful adverts..

Contact John Richardson on 712124 to arrange a subscription (£6 a year).

New to the village?

You should have received a Welcome Pack leaflet, a copy of the Parish Plan and the Parish Magazine with details about how to apply for an initial free subscription period.

If you missed out, contact Adrian on 606957.

What can Parish Councils do?

The 1997 Local Government & Rating Act gave Parish Councils new powers to organise or contribute to car pooling schemes, local transport, traffic calming and crime enforcement.

The full list of council powers is summarised on the Parish Council web site. It covers playing fields, lighting, villages halls, burial grounds, as well as historic powers such as provision of public wash houses.

Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act allows a local council to spend up to £6.15 per elector (currently) per year on anything for which it has no express power, if the expenditure is for the direct benefit of the parish, or some or all of its inhabitants.

Highways and Byways Report

Parking and Network Rail

Those living in Shawford Village are only too aware of the parking problems we have at the moment.

As one neighbour said this morning – since Christmas it has become much worse. Cars park everywhere, including nose to tail in Pearson's Lane, and in very unsafe places – unsafe for others, that is. However, it is important not to wish all of them away and not to blame all of this on the regular commuters. St Cross Road has, we think, added to the problem. People who park at the county offices are parking here instead because of the traffic on the Romsey Road. So hopefully, when the Rail Bridge is completed and the Park and Ride opens, we may see some improvement. Also, Network Rail and South West Trains are at last taking some interest in improving the station car park. Our local police have been monitoring the parking situation, and have introduced cones this week to stop the parking close to the bend. Although no accident has yet happened, one of them has said that it is only a matter of time with cars coming from Twyford and meeting cars head on, on the wrong side of the road. The village hall also adds to the congestion, when there are too many punters for the parking spaces.

Speed Limits

Following a parishioner's request, locals and resident's associations were asked whether they felt that a reduction in the speed limit on Otterbourne Road from 40mph to 30mph would be a good idea. What emerged was that an overall majority from all sides of the parish favoured keeping it at 40mph, although a significant number favouring the reduction.



St Cross closure

However, although the Parish Council has asked HCC to keep them in the loop, it is clear that the decision will be made on the legal criteria alone. The Clerk has asked that the PC be informed of any progress. It is my personal view that, regardless of the speed limit, some attempt should be made to provide a safe crossing point somewhere between Shepherds Lane and Compton Street, as crossing in either direction to the bus stop near Shawford Road can be dangerous, due to the limited sight lines.

Flashers

This time last year, five parishes got together to share a flashing speed limit sign. Although all paper work from all the parishes is in place, we are informed that the support posts will be erected when the contractors can get round to it. However, my spies tell me that work has commenced in Hursley, so watch this space!

Spring Clean

No Spring Clean has been arranged this year, basically due to the fact that no satisfactory formula has yet been found. So the suggestion this year is that as many pa-

rishioners already pick up litter in their own back yards, regular 'Wombles' could be arranged for the key public areas – i.e. the Downs, the Playing Fields, the Main road and the Station area, with perhaps a social element to this as well. For those of you who don't know what a Womble is – ask your grannies. Ideas please, to the Clerk.

Vegetation

Although the county is now cutting back overgrowing vegetation on a regular basis, some areas remain that are not dealt with. This year the parish has paid for some of the smaller areas to be cut back. However, please can I respectfully point out that those of us with hedges and trees bordering the public pavements (and our home is one) have a duty to make sure that they do not impinge on the paths. Cutting these back is not an HCC responsibility – so please check your own liabilities, particularly on the main road. If the hedges are not dealt with, HCC can cut them back themselves and then charge the home owner for so doing. Actually though, leaving the paths to be encroached upon does not show good neighbourliness.



Tricia Caffyn, March 2010

Parish Plan

Considerable progress has been made in key areas of the Parish Plan, with public consultation on certain issues, for example the content, accessibility and locations of the parish notice boards and the support for a youth club within the parish.

No concerns were raised about the former, whilst in the case of the latter, young people and their parents felt that there were sufficient groups already operating most successfully in the immediate vicinity, so that they would not have the time available to attend a Youth Group in the village.

Sterling work on the part of Councillors Millar and Evans has resulted in considerable improvements in terms of better play equipment for our younger children, which has been much enjoyed.



In addition to overseeing the implementation of the Parish Plan in general, my major focus has been lobbying for a quiet surface on the M3, between junctions 10 and 12.

I have been in regular contact with the Highways Agency and have continued to register our deep concerns, as, for example, when urgent and extremely noisy

'patching work' took place late at night, with no prior warning to those residents living adjacent to the motorway, on a section which I had been assured only weeks earlier was in safe and serviceable condition. The Hampshire Chronicle has carried two major articles about the unacceptable levels of noise from the motorway. I have also been in contact with parliamentary candidates for the forthcoming election, thereby raising the profile of the need to resurface all lanes of the motorway within proximity of our parish.

With the aim of developing more links between our schools and the Parish Council, the Clerk to the Council and I recently had a very productive meeting with the Deputy Head of All Saints' School.

Cllr Una Stevens

Online at: <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/ParishPlan>

Sparrowgrove Woodland secured for the local community!

Woodland is very important to Compton and Shawford and a major step forward in caring for our Woodland occurred in 2009 when Sparrowgrove on the Southern boundary of the Parish, together with Oakwood Copse in neighbouring Otterbourne, was purchased by SOCCT (Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust) on behalf of all the residents of the two Parishes.

This represents an outstanding community achievement: the Charity was established in 2008 and by the end of March 2009 the purchase was complete. The funds needed – around £90,000 were raised by generous donations from local community members, and the associated GiftAid, donations

from both the Parish Councils and a loan, which was itself repaid by the end of 2009! This simple statement of fact makes it sound easy but the reality was hours of hard work (and worry) from a relatively small band of working group members – our thanks are due to them.

The Forestry Commission is now in the final stages of agreeing the Management Plan for the woodland; the basic principle of this plan is that woodland should be managed to maintain it in its existing state as an environmental resource with access for all members of the local community. As well as the obvious basic maintenance needed and keeping the network of informal paths clear, it will be necessary to restart a coppicing programme in the Autumn of 2010. To achieve all of this a group of volunteers has been formed and, at the moment, they are meeting, normally on the first Sunday of each month, to clear

boundaries and keep paths open. Later the group may develop to include weekday working and training for coppicing ready for the next Winter season.

If you don't know the woods at all then access is very easy from the Main Road opposite Compton Nursery or from Sparrowgrove. Now that the woods have been acquired support is needed in both cash and kind: a number of supporters already donate a small monthly sum (typically around £2 to £5 by standing order) for maintenance and enhancement and SOCCT would be delighted to receive more if you can support in this way. If you would like to join the intrepid volunteers contact any of the Trustees. Currently the Trustees from Compton and Shawford Parish are: Colin Brook, Jeremy Dolphin, Vicki Fletcher and Kerrin Qualters.

Colin Brook



Compton & Shawford Sports Club

and effort already given. Anyone in the Parish who would like to offer ideas or time to the club is encouraged to contact the committee.

expert tuition to juniors, adults and vets of all standards.

As well as the established sports, the "new guard" aims to encourage more use of the pavilion as a meeting point. There should be something for everyone among the non-playing events planned for 2010, which include:

wine tasting, card evenings, Bar BQs during England World Cup matches, race nights, sports quizzes, fitness training, ale-sampling,

And this is addition to the regular evenings you can now put in your diaries - 1st Friday Quiz Night from 8pm and tennis Mix-In every 3rd Friday with Munch (food!) to follow.

If you'd like to join any of the sports sections or just become a non-playing member, you can contact the club via

mark.jenkins@vodafone.com

The Jubilee Pavilion and the Memorial Playing Fields form the focal point for the Compton and Shawford Sports Club, (CSSC). The club's objective is to provide facilities for, and promote participation of, the whole community in the sports of cricket, football and tennis.

Towards the end of 2009 a new committee was formed to 'move the club forward'. We are delighted to share some early thoughts from the new Chairman, Mark Jenkins. Mark has already set out a new Vision for the CSSC which is "More Sport, More events for the community and More Value"

We need volunteers to help achieve success on all fronts and Mark is quick to acknowledge all the time

The Football section is thriving at all age groups and is regularly receiving positive comments about being one of the most appealing places to come and play the nation's most popular sport.

The Cricket section is in a similarly upward phase and anyone passing the fields on a Friday summer evening is likely to think 'this is what makes Hampshire a great place to live'.

The Tennis section has seen a third court and superb new floodlighting added to our local facility in recent times. Again voluntary work is a key to this success but we are hugely privileged to have a dedicated coach in Mark Finlan (07970 502860) who provides

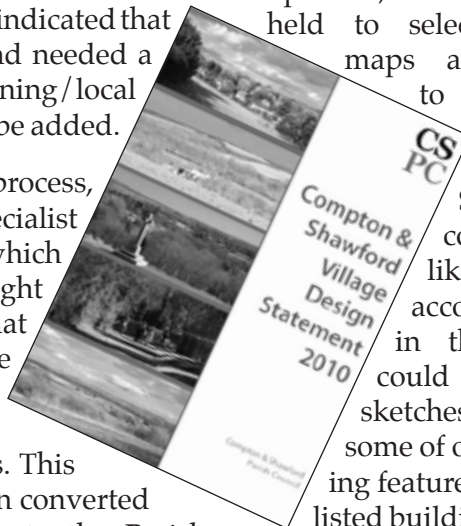
Compton & Shawford Village Design Statement

The eighth draft of the VDS has now been completed. A copy was sent to Winchester City Council to obtain an initial reaction. The response received indicated that it was too long and needed a number of planning/local plan references to be added.

To assist with this process, a planning specialist was consulted which resulted in a slight change of format and a more concise document, including all relevant references. This draft has now been converted to a form similar to the Parish Plan and it has been placed on the

Parish Council website. It can be viewed by following the link and comments from parishioners are invited. This document is still mainly in text form, with a minimum of illustrations.

At present, discussions are being held to select photographs, maps and illustrations to exemplify the character of Compton and Shawford. The committee would like to hear from any accomplished artists in the parish who could contribute some sketches / drawings of some of our more interesting features e.g. the church, listed buildings, outstanding views.



The next stage is to insert more illustrations and complete a final edit. A meeting has been arranged with Winchester City Council on April 13th to commence the initial steps of the approval process. There may be more minor changes needed following the meeting. There will then be a period of formal public consultation.

It is hoped that council approval will be obtained in the summer of this year. The document will then form part of the suite of planning documents which pertain to development / house extensions within the parish

Terry Wilson

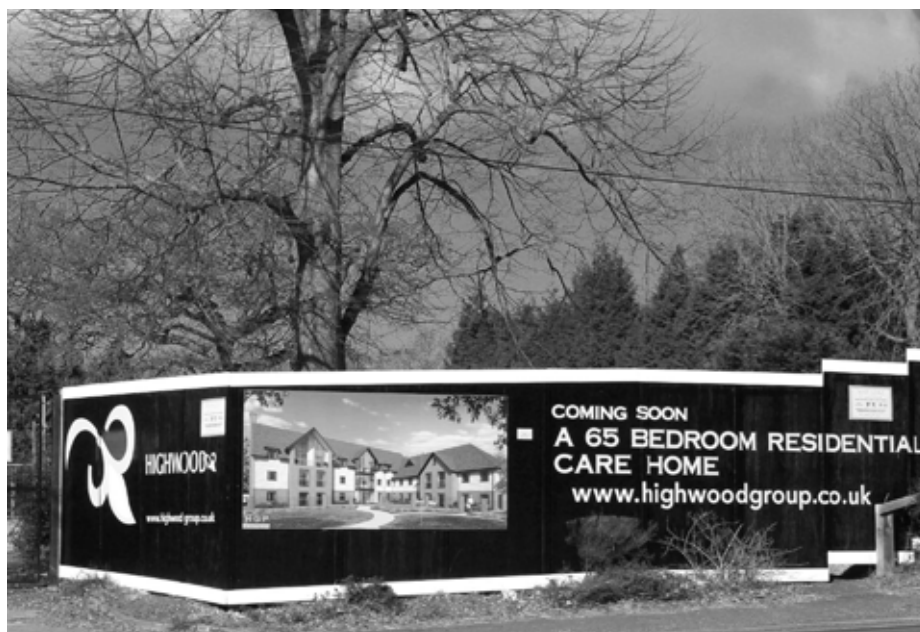
Chairman – VDS Committee

Draft is at: <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/ParishPlan>

Planning

This has been another fairly quiet year, reflecting the lack of building activity during the economic downturn.

seen what weight it carries with the planning department. I would urge local groups (CDS) to support such documents. Hopefully the



The Captain Barnard care home application went to appeal and the appeal was allowed (development is now under way - see photo). This was primarily because a similar development at Stanmore Hotel was recently permitted.

There have been two applications at The Lynchets for demolition and a replacement building of considerable size. This seemed contrary to the Compton Down Local Area Design Statement, a supplementary planning document produced by Winchester City Council to

Village Design Statement will also be of use in influencing local development.

Compton Post Office and Stores is to be converted into private residential accommodation. The accommodation is likely to be two flats. A planning application for four flats was recently rejected by the planning committee, for lacking imagination and for the impact the resultant parking would have on already congested streets. A new application is imminent.



give clearer guidance on what is acceptable development in the area. This should be an important document, but it remains to be

upheld the developer's appeal. We continue to be concerned at the lack of weight given to Conservation Area status by

planning officers and the Planning Inspectorate.

The LDF (Local Development Framework) continues to make progress. It is important because it will form the basis of determining planning applications in the future. See <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/liveforthefuture>

*Cllr Martin Bell
Planning Convenor*

Shawford Rail User Group

Representatives of the Parish Council and the Shawford Rail User Group (SHRUG) have been talking to Network Rail (NR) and South West Trains (SWT) about options to improve and increase parking on the station site. This could provide between 18 and 28 extra spaces at the station so removing pressure from on street parking. However, any investment by SWT or NR will inevitably lead to some form of car park charges being introduced.

We are also trying to increase the amount of cycle storage available at the station which now has CCTV installed. It is unclear whether the new park and ride will have any impact by encouraging London rail passengers to use Winchester instead.

For information the train service provides an hourly service Monday to Saturday direct to Winchester (4 mins) Basingstoke (25 mins), London (75 mins), and Southampton (20 mins). In peak hours trains services are more frequent: up to four an hour and include services to and from Portsmouth. Tickets with railcard discounts to most UK destinations are available from the ticket machine available in the station entrance. Information about SHRUG can be found at www.shawfordrail.co.uk.

Cllr Mike Southgate

Playing Fields

Attwoods Drove/ Compton Street

The new equipment, installed last year, has been much enjoyed. The roundabout mechanism (right) was criticised in the Council's annual "Safety Report on Playgrounds" which has just been carried out, so it will be checked by Meridian. A shiny new "mower's" gate was speedily installed by John Richardson when the old one needed replacement. Our helpful handyman, Bill Goodyear will tidy up the connection to the old Post Office – perhaps occupants will arrive there this year !!

Jacqui Evans ensured the arrival of a rubbish bin and a new red Dog Waste bin, both positioned on Attwoods Drove just outside the playground. It is hoped that this will help to keep the area clean and tidy.

Memorial Playing Fields

Access from Cliff Way was improved and the wild undergrowth removed last summer.

The perimeter of the field was successfully cut back during 2009 and bare, reclaimed ground will soon be sown with grass and henceforth mown by our reliable groundsman, Jim Kimber. He does a fine job keeping both play areas mown and tidy all the year



round.

Those of you who visit the Playground will have seen work being done there during these last weeks. We were disappointed to find that the safety surface around the play equipment was developing hollows and a hole appeared near the big swings – the surrounding wooden edging was also becoming a "tripping hazard" – such that replacement was recommended. The "Open Space Fund" has agreed to pay for this work and a rotating climbing cone (see below) has been installed at the same time, bringing this area safely up to date.

Discussion continues about some "fitness and training" equipment to encourage healthy exercise in the open air. The Sports Club, with its new Chairman, is also exploring the possibility of an area of all weather training surface.

The troublesome rabbits were considerably reduced in numbers last year and a similar programme is to be carried out in the coming months – again, with strict controls for safety.

We are deeply indebted to Nick Campbell-White for all his efforts for the Parish to enhance these facilities for our benefit.

The Parish Council is currently pursuing the introduction of a new Play Area at the foot of Shawford Down, productive discussions with HCC Countryside Officers are being held.

Cllr Jean Millar



CASCA 2010

CASCA continues in a sound financial state, bookings are holding up well with a few new customers.

The maintenance programme for this August includes painting the outside and re-roofing the store room.

Thanks go to the committee and Trustees for the excellent support and Frank Smith for his hard work in maintaining the Hall bookings and all the work he does in presenting the Hall in an excellent state for our customers.

John Griffith, chairman, CASCA



Finance and Admin Committee

Administration

Thanks largely to David Drake, who has completed his first full year as our clerk, the administration of the council is running smoothly and we get through our meetings quickly and efficiently.

New edicts from central government require us to produce and conduct regular reviews of our financial regulations, audit procedures, risk assessments and asset register. While much of this is good practice, there is a feeling that some of the controls may be overkill for small parishes.

Nevertheless, we do our best to comply with the regulations and our governance documentation is available on the Parish Council website.

Budgets and Precept

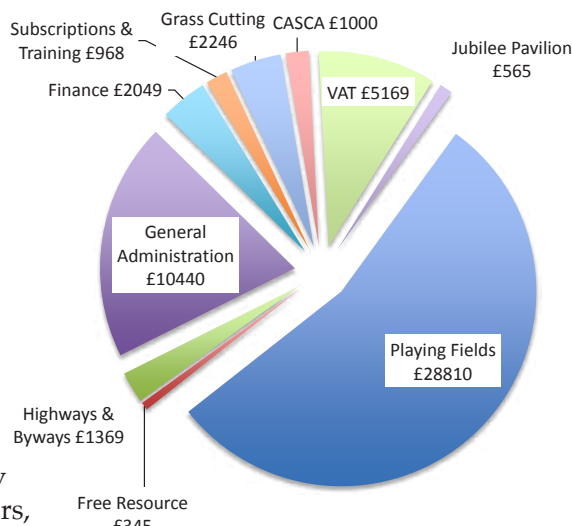
As you can see from the chart below, our annual budget, and therefore the council tax precept, have been pretty flat for the past few years, with a marginal decrease per

property for 2010/11.

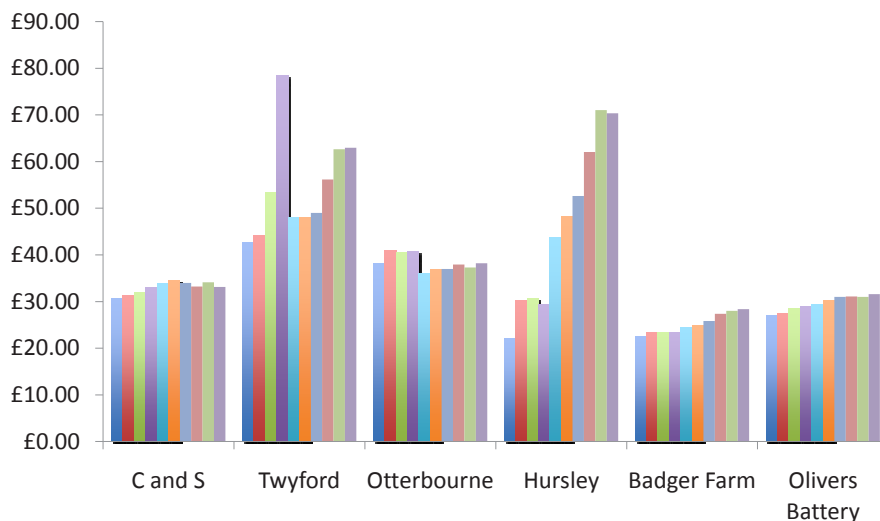
Finance

Our expenditure for 09/10, based on preliminary year end figures, is shown in the pie chart. The figures are dominated by VAT (which we can reclaim) and by the costs of updating play equipment in Compton Street and on the Memorial Playing Field, which we can reclaim from the Open Space Fund. Pavilion expenses are down because the

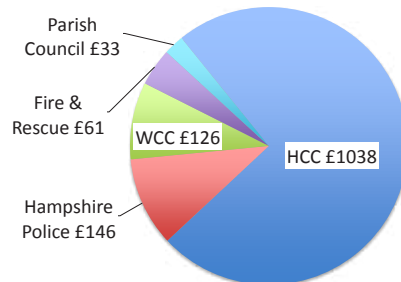
**Parish Council Expenditure 2009/10
(projected figures)**



Precept per Band D property vs our neighbours 2001/2 to 2010/11



Band D Precept 2010/11



Sports Club is now bearing the cost of insurance. To reflect this there is a reduction in the Sports Club's payment to the PC for the use of the facility. Highways and Byways expenditure is less than forecast because of delays over the speed flashers.

We are now earmarking specific amounts of our reserves for eventual major maintenance of the pavilion, the hall and other assets. Leaving aside this ring-fenced money, best practice is to keep about six months' worth of turnover available. This we aim to do, as nearly as we can, given that our precept income arrives in two large six-monthly instalments.

CASCA

As reported last year, we now make an annual payment of £1000 for the use of the hall for our meetings, and which CASCA is expected to put towards the maintenance sinking fund.

And finally

My thanks to my colleagues on the Finance and Admin committee and especially to David Drake, our clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, who continues to help us simplify our procedures while at the same time making them more effective.

*Adrian Walmsley, Convenor
Finance & Admin committee*