

# Compton & Shawford Parish Council 2011 Annual Report

## Chairman's Letter

*Dear Parishioner,*

**M**uch has happened since I was elected as Chairman of Compton and Shawford Parish Council in May last year. We have produced this Annual Report to give you a summary of what your Parish Council has been doing since then.

**Thursday, 14th April, 2011,  
7.30: Annual Parish Assembly  
at Shawford Parish Hall**

Do please come along to hear more about past activities and future plans. You will have a chance to put questions to your parish councillors, to share any concerns you have and to express views about further actions that you would like to see in our parish. There will also be a discussion led by Councillor Southgate about parking at Shawford station.

### Your Parish Council

I am delighted that we have a full complement of nine councillors, with a great deal of experience in various fields. Equally important, we come from all areas in the Parish. Mike Southgate, who was co-opted onto the Council last February, lives in Southdown. John Broomfield was co-opted in May; he and his family live on the Otterburne Road. Myra Wilkinson, our most recent councillor, is a Shawford resident. I am very grateful to all three councillors who have joined the Parish

Council in the past year for all their endeavours on your behalf to date, as I am to those councillors who have given long-standing service to the Parish. We were delighted last May that Councillor Evans agreed to be Vice-Chairman of the Council. We are also very grateful to John Wilkinson for walking our footpaths and reporting any concerns to the Council.

I would like to acknowledge publicly all that Nick Campbell-White accomplished over many years in his various roles on the Parish Council. Nick and Margaret have moved to Wokingham, where they are in the process of transforming their new abode to fit all their requirements.

Tricia Caffyn, our previous Vice-Chairman, continues to give us regular reports on The Downs. The Clerk to the Council, David Drake continues to work extremely hard. He has a meticulous eye for detail, as you can see from his reports in the Parish Magazine.

### Parish Plan and Village Design Statement

The main action point from the 2008 Parish Plan that I have been pursuing is the quiet surface on the M3, between the junctions that are near our Parish. As reported last Spring in The Hampshire Chronicle, we resurrected the "Bin the Din" campaign, supported by two of our parliamentary candidates. We were identified as a



priority site last year by DEFRA, for noise mitigation measures, but, of course we now have a new government. I wrote again to our local MP, Steve Brine, on this front at the beginning of 2011 and shall also be following up with DEFRA.

The Village Design Statement is still being revised to reflect suggestions made by Winchester City Council.

### Road Safety and Parking

I chaired a well-attended public meeting at All Saints' School on the 17th June, to hear views on the proposed "pinch points" outside the school, which highlighted the importance of this issue in the village.

Councillor Southgate has worked very hard, in conjunction with Network Rail and South West

*continued overleaf*

Trains to provide more parking spaces near the station and to resolve issues with the lighting.

Councillor Evans has been negotiating for parking improvements in Martins Fields and Attwoods Drove.

### Otterbourne Road Speed Limit

It became clear that there were strongly divided opinions on the County Council's proposal to reduce the speed limit on the Otterbourne Road to 30mph. So we decided to poll adult parishioners. Questionnaires were delivered to all households. I was delighted that 62% of households responded. The result, 59% of those voting in favour of a reduction with 41% against, was forwarded to Hampshire County Council, which will make the final decision.

### Increasing industrialisation of our rural areas

On the 15th February, representatives of the three parishes of Compton and Shawford, Otterbourne, and Hursley were invited to The Castle to discuss this issue. HCC and WCC understood our request for a ten year plan for the use of redundant farm buildings, but did not know how they could achieve it. We found

this very disappointing.

### Amenities

Thanks to the support of County Councillor Charlotte Bailey, more grit boxes were installed in good time for the severe winter weather.

There have been on-going refurbishments of the children's play areas in Compton Street and on the Memorial Playing Fields, for which we thank Councillors Millar and Evans. Further progress has been made on the "Bottom Triangle" at the foot of Shawford Down, to provide a children's play area in that part of the parish. The cost would be met from the Open Spaces Fund. We are also in consultation with the Sports Club about providing additional cricket nets, the cost of which will again be defrayed by the Open Spaces Fund.

In The Year of The Tree, the Parish Council is planning to plant more trees on the Memorial Playing Field and elsewhere. We hope to do so as a Community Cohesion Project, with the two schools in our parish and The Fieldfare Project and The Woodland Trust.

### Outreach

I attended two national conferences on the Coalition Government's Localism Bill. The government's thinking behind this Bill is to give local communities greater influence in the development of the areas in which they live.

Councillor Martin Bell and I will attend the follow-up meeting on the Blueprint consultation on the 4th April. This meeting should show us how local views have been acknowledged.

I also attended the Annual General Meeting of The Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Winchester Community Action meeting, and also the Partners and Communities Together meeting on the 24th January, 2011, organised by our local police officers.

### Celebrations

We enjoyed a very well attended Civic Service in St Matthew's Church, Otterbourne, on Sunday, 17th October. This year's service will be hosted by Compton and Shawford in All Saints' Church, on Sunday, 16th October at 11am, so do please come and join us.

In November, Fullers Brewery told us that our village had been Highly Commended in its Hampshire Village of the Year Competition, 2010. As it was the first time that we had entered, we were very pleased to have done so well.

### Diamond Jubilee

The PC has been asking organisations within the Parish whether they would like to be involved in co-ordinating an event to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have received some very positive responses to date. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join an organising committee.

[The Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday will be on Tuesday 5th June 2012. The normal late May Bank Holiday in 2012 is being moved to Monday 4th June to make a long weekend.]

### Other Matters

If you have any matters which you think need our attention or schemes that you would like the Parish Council to consider, do please contact me on 712370, or the Clerk on 600198.

*Una Stevens, Chairman  
Compton & Shawford Parish Council.*

Comments are welcome on new PC website in early development at

<http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/web>

**Compton & Shawford PC**

Home Contact us Parish Diary Newsletter

Welcome

These pages are the beginnings of a completely new Parish Council website, which should be easier to maintain and update, and will allow other people to contribute without the webmaster being a bottleneck in the process.

Much work still needs to be done to migrate content from the original website, whose design has hardly changed since its launch in about 1995.

Commenting will also be possible using the form or link below. To prevent spam, comments will have to go through moderation. At this stage of development we can't promise to respond to comments quickly or at all. The layout of the site may change or it may be rebuilt from scratch.

Parish Diary

Thursday, 24 March  
19:30 - Parish Meeting  
Sunday, 27 March  
British Summer Time Begins  
Wednesday, 30 March  
14:15 - Compton & Shawford  
18:15 - Village Club  
19:30 - Compton Club  
Friday, 1 April  
20:30 - Sports Club Fx  
Saturday, 2 April  
09:30 - Village Club  
18:30 - Village Club  
Sunday, 3 April  
Mother's Day

Useful Links

Local Info

- All Saints Church
- All Saints Library
- CPRE
- Compton Primary School
- Shawford Down School

2011 Annual Review Draft

Printed on 12/03/2011 11:00:00 AM

AnnualReview2011FinalDraft.pdf - with any luck - the Sunday 20 March version which

## Highways and Byways Report

### Otterbourne Road Speed Limits

Following a proposal to the Parish Council from HCC to review the speed limit on Otterbourne Road, the parish council undertook a poll of the whole parish to seek views on the proposed reduction from 40mph to 30mph. from the Otterbourne/ Poles Lane roundabout to a point just north of Southdown Road, before the junction with Shepherds Lane Bridge until the Bushfield roundabout bridge. Having received a good response (62% of households representing 52% of electors) the poll came out in favour of the proposed reduction to 30mph by a majority of 128 votes.

The Parish Council reported the results of the poll to HCC but it is clear that the decision will be made on the legal criteria alone and not just the view of the parishioners. The Clerk has asked that the PC be informed of any progress and any feedback will be reported to parishioners via the Parish Magazine.

The Parish Council after representation from several parishioners have been discussing further an attempt to bring in 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. HCC are currently seeking quotations for a possible proposal prior to reporting back to the Parish Council.

### Flashing Speed Limit Sign

Over the last year you may have noticed periodically a flashing speed limit sign appearing in the parish. The sign is shared between five local parishes and we have agreed a rota for its use. Let's hope that you don't see the signs flashing too regularly.

### Parking



Over the last year we have seen an increase in antisocial parking within the parish ranging from cars parked half on and half off the road leading down to Compton School on Otterbourne Road and parents of the private school bus drop offs / pickups parking on paths blocking them for pedestrians. We would

respectfully ask that we all try to park more considerately within the parish not only for our own safety but also others using the parish roads and paths.

### Vegetation

Since early last year the Parish Council have been trying to get HCC to provide a cutback of vegetation on the main roads and some priority locations within the parish. The reason for pushing for this is that over the last couple of years many of the signs are becoming more and more invisible due to vegetation cover. Our concern is that lack of visible signs at junctions and on roads may promote unsafe

driving and increase risk.

Although the County Council is now cutting back overgrowing vegetation (such as long grass and lower limbs of trees overhanging paths) on a regular basis, some areas remain that are not dealt with. We are pushing HCC very hard to undertake the trim back of vegetation at key locations but they insist along the roads that a lot of issues are been caused by overhanging branches from private properties.

### Your responsibility??

Those of us with hedges and trees bordering the public pavements have a duty to make sure that they do not impinge on the paths.

Cutting back of private property trees and shrubs is not an HCC responsibility – so please check your own liabilities, particularly on the main roads. If the hedges are not dealt with, HCC can cut them back and then charge the home owner for doing so.

### Hampshire County Council update

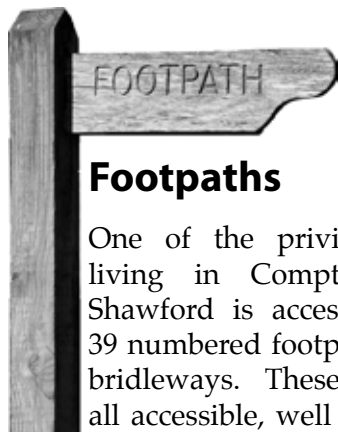
Unfortunately over the last six months we have increasingly seen a change in response from HCC

to requests for works within the parish. What previously was a "we will see attitude" with a medium level of success has now become more of a "budgetary availability" response. We will be pushing very hard for works within the parish over what can only be described as challenging times.

Should you have any highways issues then please do call or drop the Parish Clerk an email and we will see what we can do.



*John Broomfield, March 2011*



## Footpaths

One of the privileges of living in Compton and Shawford is access to the 39 numbered footpaths and bridleways. These are all accessible, well used and generally respected. They have all been walked within the year, some many hundreds of times. The views of the Hampshire countryside from several vantage points are often stunning, as from both Shawford and Compton Downs. Many of the routes are circular, and the Parish Council is working with Hampshire County Council and the Test & Itchen Valleys Countryside Access Planning Group to increase circular linkages, access points and to encourage access to the countryside for disabled "walkers". The Parish Council is seeking to bring existing tracks into public footpath status. However, it must rely upon parishioners to help maintain pathways in good condition, litter free and with the absence of dog-fouling. Vigilance and assistance by all will help main this glorious heritage for all to enjoy for the future.

*John Wilkinson. OBE  
Footpaths representative for  
the Parish Council.*

## Sparrowgrove & Oakwood Trust (SOCCT)

*Mike Southgate writes:*

The Parish Council continues to support SOCCT and the group has made good progress with woodland and boundary maintenance. Monthly working parties take place on the first Sunday of every Month; volunteers are always welcome.

The Woodland Management Plan has now been agreed by the Forestry Commission. For further information visit [www.socct.org](http://www.socct.org) or contact me.

## Public Transport

Good public transport is an important part of our parish and



we want to work with all stakeholders to ensure we achieve the best result for our community.

During the year I have representing the Parish at various stakeholder meetings with British Airports Authority, South West Trains and Bluestar Buses. I have also attended transport forums held by Hampshire and Winchester local authorities concerning public transport issues such as concessionary fares.

## Shawford Station

The principal concern for the year has been to find a solution to the car parking problems around Shawford Station. We have been working with South West Trains and Network Rail for the reinstatement of parking in the old roadway providing an extra 12 spaces. The intention is to use these extra spaces to improve the situation for local residents by asking Winchester City Council to provide some form of a parking regulations in areas close to the station for an equivalent number of spaces.

We are currently in discussions with residents and the Shawford Residents Association about the way forward on this matter and where and what type of regulations to apply for. Unfortunately, it's not a quick process.

We have worked with South West Trains to resolve the light spillage from the car park, adequate safe lighting was necessary as a condition of refurbishment. Time clocks have now been installed with the main lights being extinguished post 21.00 and the rest after the last train.

We have had problems with parking in Compton street close to the School and we are working with both the School and local residents to find solutions including spaces available at the Park and Ride.

*Cllr Mike Southgate*

## Local Schools

We are proud of and continue to work closely with both our local schools: Compton CofE School and Shepherds Down School. We were delighted with the excellent results recorded by Compton School, and the success of the joint Fete held last summer (photo of tug of war below).

We are working with the school to further strengthen local community ties. Parishioners serve on the governing bodies of both schools.

*Cllr Mike Southgate*





## Compton & Shawford Sports Club

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.

Under its new Chairman, Mark Jenkins, as well as the normal sporting activities of Cricket, Football and Tennis, the club has been running regular social events which have included wine tasting,

beer tasting, BBQs during England's matches in the 2010 world cup (if your memory stretches back that far), and the regular First Friday Quiz Nights and Third Friday Mix'n'Munch evenings.

Particularly notable in 2010 was the Compton Youth Football Club winning not one but two cups: the Hampshire Youth FA Cup and the Testway League Division 1 Cup. The team were thrilled that the pres-



entations were given out at their awards evening by Ricky Lambert, Southampton FC's 30-goal star striker, see here with team manager Ian Duthie.

For more information about the Sports Club, how to join it, and the valuable package of discounts available to members from local businesses, see the Sports Club's pages in the Parish Magazine, the pavilion noticeboards (left), or contact:

*mark.jenkins@vodafone.com*



## Compton & Shawford Village Design Statement

After review of the eighth draft of the VDS by Winchester City Council, we updated it to include planning references and a change in format to meet with their preferred layout.

The revised document was submitted to WCC for further comment.

They still asked for some more changes before they publish it on their website for consultation as the next step in the approval

process.

We have completed the updates to the text and are now assembling and finalising the maps and photos which will illustrate the salient points of interest of the parish, including footpaths and rights of way, viewpoints and characteristics of the parish.

A final push is now required to complete the document, including maps and photographs. We hope to do this without much further delay.

*Terry Wilson  
Chairman – VDS  
Committee*

The draft shown above, from April 2010, is available at:  
<http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/ParishPlan>

## 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 £6.44 (2011/12 figure) per elector 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.

## Planning

It has been another quiet year on the planning front application wise, reflecting the poor economic backdrop, although there always seems to be one or two developments going through and being built.

We are waiting to see how the Local Development Framework progresses and have been following court decisions on regional housing target numbers. Combine these developments with "Localism" and we have a very interesting, if uncertain, time in planning terms.

It behoves us to be very alert to development locally; the uncertain times may be seen as an opportunity by some. The results of the Barton Farm planning appeal (due shortly) are also likely to have significant planning implications in the Winchester area. It is not a quiet time as far as policy is concerned.

As a community, we should make the most of any opportunities to represent our interests to the planning authorities, through consultation on the Local Development Framework and through local documents like the Compton Down Local Area Design Statement and the Village Design Statement. The documents carry weight in planning terms, especially in times of uncertainty and we need to make the most of them and keep them up-to-date.

There have been more permissions granted for activities at Four Dell Farm, and the parish council is actively encouraging the planning authorities to develop a broader view on development there as opposed to what appears to be a piecemeal approach.

*Cllr Martin Bell, Planning Convenor*



New building in Compton Street

## All change in forward planning

Since the change in Government in May, Winchester City Council has been obliged to alter course in the preparation of the new Winchester District Local Plan.

This is in order to take into account the change from 'top down' imposition of targets by the now defunct Regional Assembly to an assessment of future housing, employment, and other needs in line with the concept of 'localism'.

The City Council established yet another consultation exercise under the label of 'Blueprint' and many organisations responded including some Parish organisations and the Parish Council.

Your Council's view, broadly, was unchanged from the representations made in the recent Local Development Framework consultation response. The Council was not against development, but reiterated that any building should be

- within the current village boundaries,
- of a density that respected the character of the area and
- of a scale and design that respected its surroundings and the semi - rural nature of the settlement.

We now await drafts of the policies proposed for the new

district plan. The Parish Council will comment on these in order to ensure that our villages have the most appropriate planning control policies into the future.

*George Beckett, District Councillor*



## 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 (£8 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.

## Playing Fields Committee

The Playing Field Committee started the year with Nick Campbell-White and he worked particularly hard for us, knowing that he was intending to move as soon as his house was sold. He is due many thanks for so much competent organisation of jobs since carried out on the Memorial Playing Fields.



John Richardson ensured that the boundary clearance was efficiently carried out (by Alexander, who advertises in the Parish Magazine) at Compton Street as well as around the Memorial Playing Fields.

We are grateful to Jim Kimber who has continued to keep all the grass well mown and tidy.

Jacqui Evans (helped by her husband) has kindly taken on the job of adjusting the contracts Nick had organised, so that new extended netting will be installed around the Compton St Playground soon.

We hope you agree that the playground equipment has been kept running smoothly.

It has been a challenge, on occasions, to persuade contractors to do repair and replacement works as quickly as possible!

### Play Area in Shawford?

Our newest Parish Councillor, Myra Wilkinson, has now joined this committee. As she lives in Shawford, we have been discussing the suggested Playground for the foot of Shawford Down. This would be paid for by the Open Space Fund and is a project which has been emphasised ever since WCC set up this facility.

The starting point is to level off a grassed "kick-about" area, to be fenced off, with an access gate for mowing equipment.

Our team would be delighted if local parents of young children would tell us if they agree that they would like to see installed, at one end – a kiddies slide and a "nest" swing.

Plans and pictures will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting so please come and give us your support.....or constructive criticism.

*Cllr Jean Millar*



The repaired and re-sited bench on the Memorial Playing Field near the play area



### CASCA 2011

CASCA, which is responsible to the Parish Council for the management of the Shawford Parish Hall, can report another successful year.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our caretaker, Frank Smith, the hall has been let to over 100 different organisations and individuals over the last year. This resulted in the Hall's rooms being hired on over 700 occasions.

These cover a wide range of activities for residents of the parish and for the wider community. Parish hirings account for about 20% of the total, similar to last year.

In the financial year we have spent money on painting the outside of the Hall and on re-roofing the flat roof.

The revenue generated has more than covered expenses and the cash built up in the bank accounts puts CASCA in a healthy situation.

*John Griffith, chairman, CASCA*



## Finance and Admin Committee

### Administration

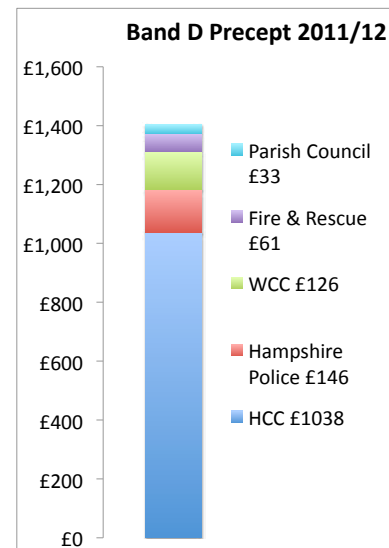
Again, thanks largely to our clerk David Drake, the administration of the council is running smoothly, and we get through our meetings quickly and efficiently.

We are required to document and conduct regular reviews of our financial regulations, audit procedures, risk assessments, and maintain an asset register. Anyone who wants to see how the Council runs is welcome to check the documentation on the Parish Council's website. Our meetings are open to all.

clerk has negotiated favourable interest rates for us, and recently saves us a further small sum by recommending that we stock up on a year's supply of postage stamps before the rate increase.

### Finance

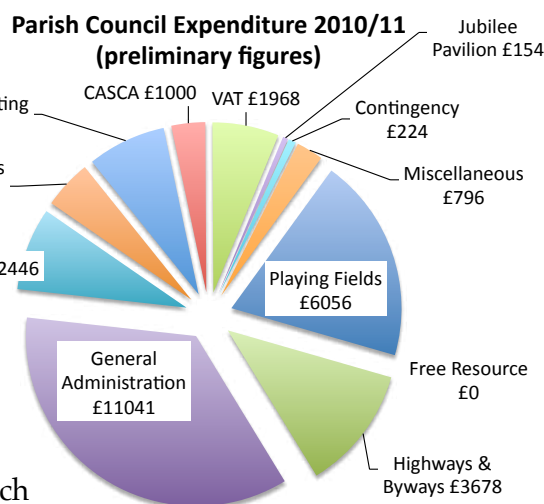
Our expenditure for 2010/11, based on preliminary year end figures, is shown in the pie chart. The largest areas of expense are General admin (including the clerk's salary, room hire etc.), Playing Fields (significant sums on maintaining the two play areas safely), Finance (audit and other



professional fees). Highways and Byways this year includes a share of the costs of the flashing speed warning lights.

### Budgets and Precept

This year's precept (the money the Parish Council receives to run the Parish), is £27,170. This comes to £32.68 for the benchmark Band D property, or 2½% of your Council Tax bill, a marginal decrease from last year. This comes to us in two half yearly instalments, which we bank until we need it. Our



As reported last year, we are earmarking specific amounts of our reserves for eventual major maintenance of the pavilion, the parish hall and other assets.

Leaving aside this ring-fenced money, best practice is to maintain uncommitted reserves of about six months' worth of turnover. This we aim to do, as nearly as we can, given that our precept income arrives in two six-monthly instalments.

### And finally

My thanks to my colleagues on the Finance and Admin committee, to Jan Russell and Bill Goodyear for bus shelter, underpass cleaning and other tasks, 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*

**Precept per Band D property vs our neighbours 2001/2 to 2011/12**

