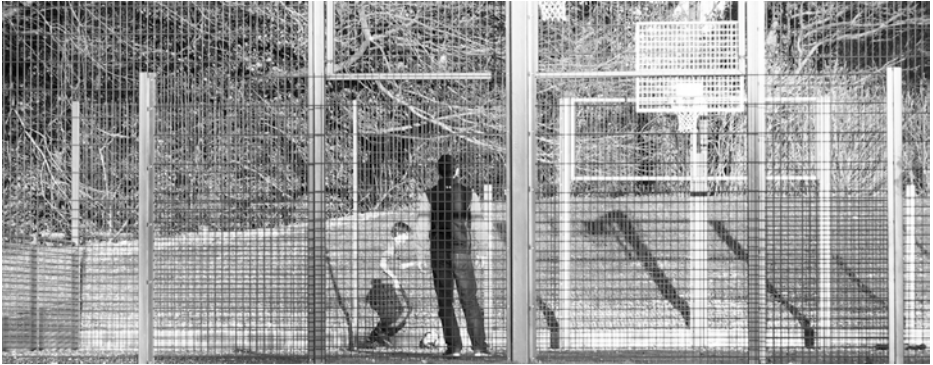

Compton & Shawford Parish Council 2014

Letter from the Chairman



Dear Parishioners,

This letter is but a summary of the many activities in which your Parish Council has been involved over the past year. To glean more detail, please come to the Annual Parish Meeting at Shawford Parish Hall at 7:30pm on Thursday, 24th April, for which the invitation is on the back cover. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, offer comments and suggestions to parish councillors and hear plans for the future.

The MUGA and other Playing Fields news

Thanks to the unstinting efforts of Councillor Wilkinson, our multi-use games area will be officially opened on April 4th, by some of our Olympic volunteers, at 4 pm. Refreshments will be provided. We have also invited Steve Brine and The Hampshire Chronicle to attend. The MUGA will be a welcome addition to our already excellent sporting facilities. The cricket nets have also been upgraded and a new mower

purchased for the cricket square.

Replacement fencing has been installed at the QE II field, and hedging planted on the southern perimeter of the Memorial Playing Field. Councillor Wilkinson has used the Open Spaces Fund most judiciously.

Budget and Finances

The Parish Council precept, namely the amount we receive from your Council Tax has remained consistent for the fourth consecutive year. This is a remarkable achievement, which is undoubtedly due to the meticulous financial acumen of the Finance and Administration Committee, led by Councillor Walmsley and the Clerk, our Responsible Finance Officer. Notwithstanding, we shall be unable to hold this level indefinitely. The Council has also passed all financial and regulatory compliance requirements again this year.

Communication

In addition to the Parish Magazine and the notice-boards, the Parish Council website is an excellent port of call for information about the Parish Council and the parish in general. It has been extended this year, to incorporate maps of open spaces, rights of way and current planning applications.

Parishioners can subscribe on the website to be alerted to new content, or follow @CSPCWebEditor on Twitter. Plans are afoot for a Facebook page.

Affordable Housing

This topic has taken up considerable Parish Council time over the last two years. As the lack of local community support became increasingly evident, the Parish Council had to abandon any further investigation into the feasibility of the scheme for Compton and Shawford. A glance at The Hampshire Chronicle will reveal how many other communities have participated in the scheme, but it was not to be for us. As I said in my statement at the September Parish Council meeting, should Winchester City Council decide to build in the Parish to meet housing need, the Parish Council will only have access to normal planning processes, not the much fuller scope for influencing the position, construction and environmental impact that the HARAH (Hampshire Association for Rural Affordable Housing) scheme offered.

The M3

We are continuing our efforts to obtain a quiet surface on the section of the motorway through our Parish. On May 14th, Tricia Caffyn, Councillor Southgate and I attended a meeting with

the Roads Minister, which our MP, Steve Brine, had arranged. The minister was very much in listening mode, but subsequently moved to a different portfolio. Notwithstanding, I am determined to maintain pressure for this cause, and have written to Mr Brine again recently.

Transport and Highways

Councillor Southgate liaises frequently with Winchester City and Hampshire County Councillors on matters that impinge directly on our parish. He has continued to work with the Lengthsman. It is time consuming, but has seen pleasing results.

Councillor Southgate has worked hard to secure the Compton Street 63 bus service. He also successfully secured an extended summer Sunday rail service in 2013, which is to be repeated this year.

The Hockley Viaduct, pictured on the front cover of last year's Annual Review, has been a notable success. However, there are some attendant safety issues, relating to accessing the entrance to the viaduct from the Park and Ride. I wrote to Councillor Southgate, in his District Councillor role, to ask him to bring these dangers to the attention of the City Council, and proposing possible solutions. Discussions are currently underway.

War Memorials restoration

To mark the centenary of the beginning of World War I, the Parish Council is arranging for the restoration of the two memorials on Shawford Down in late April. We have obtained a grant from the War Memorials Trust, which will meet half the cost. The rest will be provided by the balance of the funds

remaining after the completion of the Village Design Statement. The Parish Council agreed that this would be a very appropriate use of those funds.

Awards

In 2013, we entered the South and South-East in Bloom competition. We were delighted to receive a silver gilt award, which we were told was a very rare achievement for a first time entrant.

Compton and Shawford was awarded second place in the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) competition for the best local council website. David Drake was joint runner-up in the HALC Kirk Shield award, to celebrate outstanding service in the role of clerk.

On March 27th, three members of Compton and Shawford will receive a Mayor's award for outstanding service to the community, Bill Goodyear, Jean Millar, and Frank Smith.

Councillor Walmsley's work on using maps on websites won two categories as part of the Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA).

Views

I would welcome your views on whether we should continue to enter regional competitions, such as South

and South-East in Bloom. If we are to do so, we need individual committees to share all the preparatory work involved. Equally, the Parish Council has plans for a wild flower meadow and community orchard at the base of Shawford Down. Regrettably, these plans are currently on hold, as a result of lack of volunteers to progress the work. Do let me know if you are interested in any of the above projects.

Parish Council

Councillor Evans resigned from the Parish Council in January 2014, because of increased work commitments. She has served the Parish Council very well, and will be much missed. Two excellent candidates have put themselves forward for possible co-option onto the Council, so that we shall shortly return to a full complement of nine councillors. Apart from the Parish Councillors, I would like to give particular thanks to John Wilkinson for all the work he continues to do to improve our footpaths, to our litter pickers around Compton Lock, to PCSO Michelle Wilkinson for her support and to our excellent clerk, David Drake.

If you have anything you would like to raise, please ring me on 712370, or the Clerk on 600198, or email us.

UNA STEVENS



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

PO Box 565, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 3HG
Phone: 01962 600198

email: clerk@compton.parish.hants.gov.uk

**Invitation to the
Annual Parish Meeting
7:30 pm Thursday 24th April 2014
Shawford Parish Hall**

The Parish Council will be reporting on our activities, on your behalf, during the past year and looking at future possibilities to enhance our community further. County and District Councillors will be present.

The agenda will include updates, amongst others, on

- Our continuing campaign for a quiet surface on the M3 between the junctions that link our parish
- Outcomes of the “drop in” session, held on the 17th March, at the Sports Pavilion, to explore parishioners’ views on further sporting facilities they would like to be considered
- Format of the Civic Service
- Future participation in regional events

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend. There will be opportunities to ask questions on any issues relevant to the Parish.

We aim to finish not later than 9:30 pm, when coffee and biscuits will be served for those who would like to stay and chat.

Una Stevens
Chairman, Compton and Shawford Parish Council