

Dear Parishioner,

What has our Parish Council been doing this year? And what would you like us to do?

We'd love to see you at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Shawford Parish Hall on Thursday 16th April, where you can find out more and join in discussion about local issues. Flip this leaflet over for details.

Here are some of the areas where the parish council has been active.

M3 resurfacing

Last autumn, we were delighted to hear that the



M3 campaigners in 2009 (from left): Steve Brine, Margaret Campbell-White, Tricia Caffyn (hidden), Nick Campbell-White, Una Stevens, Veronica Bliss

campaign for a low noise surface on the M3 had finally succeeded.

Work on the quiet surface is now well underway. Anyone who lives near to or uses the M3 will have noticed already how much quieter the new surface seems.

Councillor Una Stevens, with the

support of MP Steve Brine, deserves great credit for making sure that the Highways Agency and successive Transport Ministers stayed focused on our campaign.

See inside for more background on the M3 Noise campaign.

Open Spaces

We are fortunate to have lots of green areas in the parish. Check them out on the map at <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/about/maps/open-spaces/>

For the past 15 or so years, we've been able to call on the City Council's Open Space Fund to pay for new sports and play equipment. The OSF is now closed.

Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field

In March 2015, the Parish Council selected new play/climbing equipment for Compton Street to replace some of the older pieces there. Assuming the City Council sign it off, the new kit should be installed soon.

We commissioned quarterly safety inspections of the play equipment in both fields.

Open Air Gym

In December 2014, we installed this grown-up exercise equipment on the Memorial Playing Field, next to the children's play area. Everyone big enough is welcome to use it (carefully!).



We gave a contribution from our Open Space Fund to Otterbourne Parish Council for their new Multi-Use Games Area. It's handy for Southdown and some of our parishioners may like to use it.

Memorial Playing Field - strategy

The MPF is owned by the Parish Council and leased to the Sports Club.

Under the lease, *“the whole of the playing field shall be open for the reasonable enjoyment of the public”* except for the tennis courts, cricket square and playing areas when games are in progress.

Last year we had several queries about new installations on the playing field: golf nets, an electronic cricket scoreboard and a fourth tennis court.

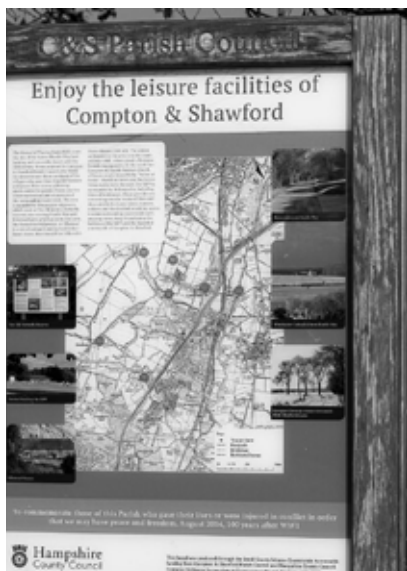
The tennis club recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and we’re proud to have such a thriving club in the parish. But any construction on the field reduces the space left for “reasonable enjoyment”, so we decided we should set out a policy for responding to these and any similar future requests. After much deliberation, in January 2015, the PC passed the following resolution:

The Parish Council would only consider further development on the MPF if there is demonstration of significant support from the Parish.

Map Board

Have you seen the new map board near the sports pavilion? It was ready just in time for the Great War Day event organised by Sports Club Chairman Paul Murray last August.

The board shows some of the lovely walks around our parish.



Sparrowgrove

If you’ve never visited Sparrowgrove, now is probably the best time of year to do so. The bluebells are in full bloom in the spring.

When Southern Water decided to sell off some of its woodland a few years ago, a group of local residents



Bluebells in Sparrowgrove in Spring

in our parish and in Otterbourne got together to conserve the woodland for the enjoyment of all.

The Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust raised the money to buy the woodland. The Parish Council has been making small grants to SOCCT each year, which allow the volunteers to spend more time on looking after the woods and less on fund-raising.

There’s an entrance to Sparrowgrove opposite Beckett’s Nurseries.

Shawford Down

In April 2014, the War Memorial and Wayside Cross were professionally cleaned and refurbished ready for the rededication ceremony. This was held in August at the end of the Great War Day.

The Dexter cattle are back on duty on Shawford Down, cropping the grass. They are due be moved off before the wildflowers appear in the spring.

Thanks to John Wilkinson, working parties of Conservation Volunteers have been clearing dogwood, blackthorn and other scrub to stop it from out-competing the ground flora species that are associated with the chalk downland.

Cycle Racks

Last autumn we put in a bid for DfT matched funding to install secure parking for 12 more bicycles at Shawford Station. We’ve just heard that our bid was successful. Unless there are any last minute hitches, the extra racks should be installed quite soon.

Footpaths

Last October, John Wilkinson organised a working party of students from Sparsholt College to repair footpath 23, which runs from the end of Bridge Lane to Compton Lock.



The scalplings they put down have survived the winter and the path is still in good condition underfoot.

Street furniture

Councillor Alison Cordery organised the installation of a seat in the northbound bus shelter at the top of Shawford Hill.



She has arranged for the WI Golden Jubilee bench to be moved next to the noticeboard opposite Compton School. It's now much easier to use as a resting place if you are walking up Compton Street from the No.1 bus carrying heavy shopping.

Traffic/Parking

One of the downsides of having such a good train service from Shawford is the number of cars that park in and around the station.

We are trying to bring forward the installation of some yellow lines on Shawford Hill to make sure that there are safe passing places between the parked cars.

Buses

The Bluestar No.1 continues to be an excellent service between Winchester and Southampton, but unfortunately we were unable to prevent a reduction in the 63 bus service to Attwoods Drove. It now only runs three times a week.

Trains

The experimental hourly (instead of two-hourly) summer Sunday service from Shawford will run again this year.

Planning

Councillor Una Stevens took over the Planning portfolio in May 2014. She has reviewed our Council's own planning policy statement and responded to consultation on the Winchester District Local Plan Part 2.

For several years, because of the substandard sight lines at the junctions with Otterbourne Road, no net new dwellings have been permitted on Compton Down. This decision has been confirmed several times at appeal.

Another appeal on the same issue has recently been submitted. The decision could have far reaching consequence for the character of Compton Down.

Finances

Councillor Angela Jeffrey took over the Finance Committee this year. Her fresh eyes have brought a thorough approach to managing our assets.

For example, a much more detailed annual inspection of the pavilion and more recently the commissioning of a professional survey of the parish hall caretaker's cottage, which hadn't been renovated when the hall itself was refurbished in the late 1990s.

Our annual budget request submitted to the City Council remains fixed for the sixth successive year.

We expect the accounts to show a small surplus this year, thanks to success in obtaining grants, renegotiated insurance, and the timing of VAT refunds.

For the future, the Open Space Fund has been closed and replaced by the slightly different Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

It's not clear exactly how the CIL will work, but we will probably have to make our own provision for funding new play equipment in future.

And finally...

My thanks to my fellow councillors, to our clerk David Drake, to our footpaths warden John Wilkinson, to CASCA who run the Parish Hall, to its caretaker Frank Smith, and to all the people throughout the community who give up their time in various ways to make this such a wonderful place to live.

with best wishes,

Adrian Walmsley, Chairman

Ward Boundaries - Have your say

What's happening?	Winchester City Council plans to cut the number of district councillors from 57 to 45
Why does it matter?	Taking into account projected population figures, each district councillor should now represent on average just over 2200 voters instead of about 1650.
So?	Winchester ward boundaries have to be redrawn to achieve this.
How does this affect us?	Our present ward was formed in 2002. It consists of the parishes of Compton & Shawford, Otterbourne and Hursley. We have two district councillors (averaging about 1700 voters per district councillor). The Boundary Commission has to find different combinations of parishes to get as close as reasonably possible to 2200 voters per councillor. Because the City Council opted to continue the present system of City elections three years out of four, the Boundary Commission will try to create three-member wards, with each member coming up for election in turn.
What is proposed?	The draft proposal from the Boundary Commission puts Compton & Shawford into a new large ward with Twyford and twelve rural parishes stretching east to the outskirts of Alresford and the West Meon Hut. They propose joining Colden Common with Otterbourne, Hursley and Olivers Battery. They propose that Badger Farm should be split away from Olivers Battery and merged with the St. Luke ward.
What do the Parish Councils think?	Putting us into such a geographically large ward would make life very difficult for our district councillors, and break important links with our neighbours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twyford and Colden Common have close links with each other. They want to remain as a two parish ward, which would justify two district councillors. • We want to preserve our existing links with Otterbourne and Hursley. • Olivers Battery and Badger Farm have many interests in common and want to stay together.
What does the Parish Council recommend?	Joining the two current wards of Compton & Otterbourne and Olivers Battery & Badger Farm would preserve existing links and be the right size to become a 3-member ward. It would also fulfil the strong wish of Twyford and Colden Common to remain together as a two member ward. Look for the PC response at http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk
How can I have my say?	Whether or not you agree with the Parish Council's recommendation, you can express your views. Go to https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/winchester and click on "Have Your Say". The deadline is Monday 6 April 2015

Keeping in Touch

What's your favourite way to keep up with what's going on in the parish?

Noticeboards? Parish Magazine? Hampshire Chronicle? Word-of-mouth? The parish website?

email newsletters? Facebook? None of the above?

Please let us know which you prefer .

Brief History of the 20 year M3 Low Noise Campaign

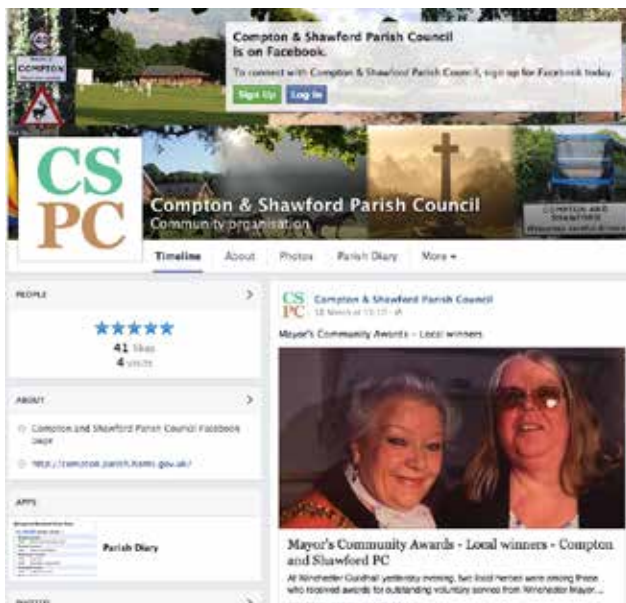
Early 1990s	Before construction begins, the Parish Council is worried about noise. We seek and get an assurance that the surface will be tarmac rather than concrete. Low-noise surfaces are not (yet) able to take the predicted volume of traffic.
1997 Annual Parish Meeting	"Parishioners continue to suffer ... from noise pollution" and are using agents to progress their compensation claims.
June 2000	Councillor Simmons has been having discussions with the Highways Agency concerning the laying of a quiet surface on the M3. The resurfacing of the parish section is not scheduled in the next 5 year plan.
November 2001	An estimated 300 people pack into Otterbourne Village Hall for a public meeting chaired by PC Chairman Nick Campbell-White. Our local MP Mark Oaten, the leader of Winchester City Council Rodney Sabine, District Councillor Charlotte Bailey and Highways Agency representatives were present. Shepherds Down School Head Teacher, Tony Gazzard, gave a very disturbing and concise resume of how in many ways the constant din was affecting the teaching of his Special Needs pupils.
Spring 2003	Action group newsletter: "Our intention is to highlight the need for greater noise mitigation measures along our part of the M3, to have the 'quiet road surface' before the projected 10 year period and to have more efficient noise barriers at noise hotspots".
September 2008	The Compton & Shawford Parish Plan is published. Action point 6: Lobby for 'quiet tarmac' to be used when M3 resurfacing occurs.
November 2008	Councillor Stevens agreed to oversee work on the recommendations of the Parish Plan.
October 2009	Councillor Stevens reported that recent repairs had resulted in a marked reduction in the level of noise. Neither the Highways Agency nor the DfT seemed interested in accelerating the current resurfacing programme. She intended to raise the issue with prospective parliamentary candidates Steve Brine and Martin Tod, to ensure that M3 resurfacing becomes an 'election issue'.
June 2013 Parish Magazine	Report of a meeting organised by MP Steve Brine with Roads Minister Stephen Hammond, attended by Councillors Stevens and Southgate, and Tricia Caffyn, former Chair of Governors at Shepherds Down School. "We made a powerful case to the Minister and, while we are all realistic in these austere times, we will keep on making the case".
September 2014	Steve Brine brings the news, from Minister of State John Hayes, that the M3 will be re-surfaced between junctions 9 and 12 during the period 2015-2017. This work had not been expected before 2020. He adds that "it was very clear how important Shepherds Down School was in getting us to this point".
December 2014	The Highways Agency tell us that completion has been brought forward to April 2015, and that the effect of the new surface should be "equivalent to halving the level of traffic on the road".

New this year: facebook

Thanks to Councillor Mike Goulding, the council now has its own page of information on facebook.

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ComptonShawfordParishCouncil)

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You don't have to sign up to facebook to view the page.

But if you are a facebook user, you can "Like" the page and should then be notified automatically of any updates.

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, VDS and the Parish Magazine with details about how to apply for an initial **free subscription** period.

If you missed out, contact Adrian on 606957.

Parish Website: did you know...?

Like many organisations worldwide, the Parish Council is working to put lots of useful information on its website. For example, maps at <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/about/maps/>

Did you know, in the right sidebar of most pages?

- you can sign up to be told when new content is added (form at the bottom right of most pages)
- the calendar tells you about parish events that are coming up (that we've been told about)
- there's a live traffic feed so you can check when the M3 (or other Hampshire roads) are blocked
- there's a list of recently updated pages,
- and links to many local and national organisations

See <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk> or <http://shawford.parish.hants.gov.uk>

About the Parish Council

Who does what?

Most of the Parish Council's work is done in its various committees. You can find a list of committees and their members on the PC website. The chairman and committees have to be re-elected every year, at the PC's May meeting. So we try to publish an updated list of committee members in the June edition of the Parish Magazine.

Can I attend a PC meeting?

Yes, by law all PC meetings have to be open to the public. Most parish councils, including ours, have an open session at each meeting for people to make comments and ask questions.

When does the PC meet?

We meet six times a year, at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of every other month, usually in Shawford Parish Hall. Check the Parish Mag or the website or the Parish notice boards for details.

Do you want to do more for your community?

As a Parish Councillor, you could help to look after, and improve, many of the facilities in our parish.

All 9 seats on the PC will be up for election in May 2016. New candidates are very welcome.

See the information box below, adapted from an HALC leaflet.

Or visit <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk/parish-council/becoming-a-councillor/>

COMPTON & SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION 2016

Want to do something positive?

Help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community?

Then stand for election to become a Councillor on your Parish Council!

Who is eligible?

Any person over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the United Kingdom, The European Community, or the Commonwealth can be a Councillor if they are an elector in, work in, live in or live within three miles of the area of the local Council.

What will I do if elected?

- Raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to take action about at meetings
- Attend Council meetings
- Make informed contributions which influence the debate on the business that needs to be decided at those meetings
- Participate in the Council's decision making process, which in itself is subject to strict rules and guidelines
- Represent the Council externally

Key Points

- A Councillor's normal term of office is 4 years
- He/She is the holder of a Public Office and not a volunteer
- The main job of a councillor is to participate in the collective decision making processes of the Council
- He/She has no authority to make decisions about Council business on their own
- They can be reimbursed for expenses incurred when leaving the parish.

Further information may be obtained from the Clerk
(clerk@compton.parish.hants.gov.uk or 01962 600198)

Summarised from a leaflet produced by the
Hampshire, Kent, Sussex and Surrey Associations of Local Councils



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Invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting 7:30 pm Thursday 16th April 2015 Shawford Parish Hall

This is your once-a-year chance to come and find out what the Parish Council has been doing in your name, and help us decide our priorities for next year.

We've invited our County and District Councillors.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend. We welcome questions and suggestions on any subject relevant to the community.

As well as a review of the year, topics will include

- An update from the Police
- Open Spaces in the parish
- Questions about M3, roads, traffic, footpaths, parking, the station, buses and trains
- Keeping in touch - how can we help you to find out what's going on
- The future of the Civic Service
- An update from the Twyford Patient Participation Group

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

**Adrian Walmsley
Chairman**