



Compton & Shawford Parish Council 2017 Annual Report

Dear Parishioner,

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting Review; the meeting will be on 18 May at 19.30 hours in the parish hall. This year Steve Opacic, Head of Strategic Planning for the Winchester City Council, will be giving a short presentation about the Winchester Local Plan and overall planning strategy. Please note that he is not involved or able to talk about individual cases, past or present. The rest of the meeting will be your chance to hear from and ask questions of your parish councillors about the year past and future plans. *If possible, please send your questions to the clerk before the meeting.*

I would like to thank Naomi Sadler, Una Stevens and Marc Townell who stood down during the year. Una had been a past chair and all three councillors made a significant contribution to our community during their time with the parish council. I am delighted to welcome new councillors Jonathan Brant, Jo Lockett and Frances Strange appointed at our March meeting, complimenting the existing team of myself, Richard Webster, Mike Goulding, Myra Wilkinson, Bob Jordan and Martin Bell, very ably supported by our clerk David Drake. This has meant that for a large part of the year under review we have had fewer councillors than normal which has created some workload and continuity issues. My usual plea is please remember that your Parish Councillors are volunteers who receive no payment, all of whom have full time jobs, and/or other commitments. We may not always be able to respond in the timescale or manner you would want in an ideal world – but we do our best!

I'd like to thank our three District Councillors Eleanor Bell, Brian Lamming and Jan Warwick, our County Councillor Phil Bailey and the teams at Winchester City and Hampshire County Councils

for their support and advice over the past year.

We have made two major representations during the year on the Parish's behalf. The first was in support of this Parish remaining in the Winchester MP's electoral boundary. We also asked MP Steve Brine to raise our concerns, with the appropriate Secretary of State, about publishing councillor's personal information on our website, in line with the current legislation. We are waiting for a response.

Planning, traffic and parking continue to be the principal concerns the Parish Council has to deal with. We have two new Portfolio Holders dealing with each issue, however, it's worth emphasising that much of this is dictated by local or national policy. There are also different opinions expressed about such matters with those in favour of policy often matched by a similar number against. The Parish Council's role is to attempt to reflect a balanced view of local opinion, recognising that any final decision will be made by officers and members of the appropriate local authority.

South Western Rail Franchise

This has been won by a consortium led by the First Group; final details are still emerging. The new franchise will begin this August, unfortunately at the same time as the start of a major rebuilding programme at Waterloo Station to increase capacity.

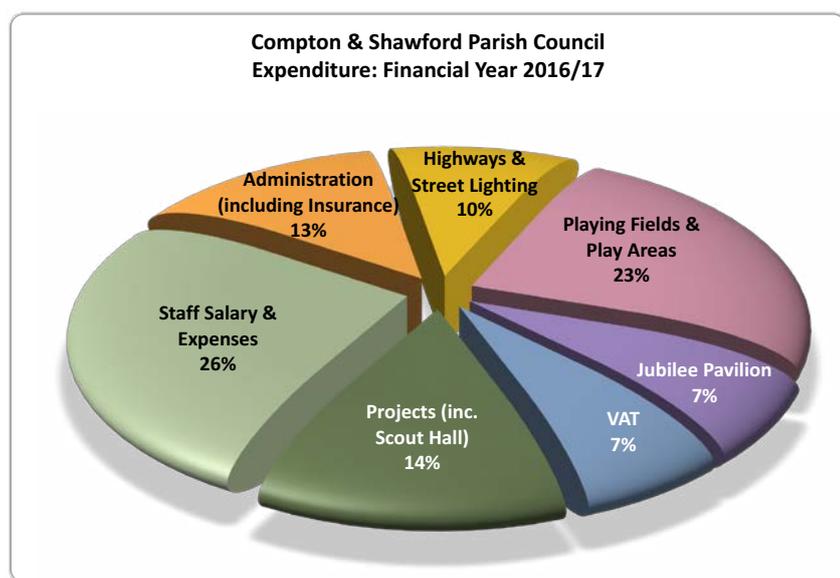
The Shawford Rail User Group and the Parish Council both made representations to the First Group before submission of their bid and have been in contact with them post announcement to pursue the matters raised, notably about service levels, station infrastructure and increasing parking capacity. We are waiting for a meeting date.

Mike Southgate, PC chairman 2016/17

Parliamentary Boundary Changes

You may have read in past parish magazines or elsewhere of the proposal from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) to move the parish of Compton and Shawford from the parliamentary constituency of Winchester to a redrawn Test Valley. The Parish Council discussed this at the November meeting and agreed the preferred option is to remain with our neighbouring parishes as part of the Winchester Constituency. However, this would mean the Commission redrawing the map afresh and removing other parishes, which may not happen. Therefore, the position we have concentrated upon is solely for our parish to remain, as we believe this can be achieved within the regulations without displacing anyone else. The BCE website is www.bce2018.org.uk. There is more information on the parish council website.

Finance



This year has been another successful year for the council's budget, as only the pulling forward of some maintenance work budgeted for 2017 caused us to be slightly over budget. This has allowed us to keep the precept (the amount we collect from the households in the parish) at the same level for the fifth successive year.

The council has also maintained a healthy level of reserves which allow us to budget for any significant future maintenance.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

This year the council has had access to funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy which replaces the Open Spaces Fund. The levy is made up of funds from where new houses are built in the parish to provide a community benefit. The funds have enabled the council to provide a grant of £5,000 to the Scouts to help refurbish the scouts hut in Compton. Guidelines on claiming a CIL grant will be available at the Parish meeting and will be published in the next Parish Magazine!

Planning

There have been a range of planning applications this year, with some attracting many objections, but we try to represent the parish's view (as best we can) to the city council and the decision makers.

Our Village Design Statement doesn't carry as much weight as we would like it to and its age detracts from its value. We are being encouraged to refresh the document. This could do no harm, but the wider protections exist in the Winchester Local Plan, part 2 of which has just been adopted. This is the document that determines planning policy, and the parish council always looks to make appropriate comments as these plans are put together. Looking further ahead, the next local plan is already being thought about and we shall again be giving our input accordingly.

Bushfield Camp

There was an informal consultation on proposals to develop Bushfield Camp at the end of last year. The parish council attended, commented and will be monitoring proposals and keeping the parish in touch with developments.

Steve Opacic will give a brief presentation about planning at the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be constrained by the city council being in "purdah" (i.e. the council may not make comments that could be construed as having any political bias). He will not be able to discuss any specific cases.

Highways and Traffic

A new bus stop bench has been installed next to Shawford Down and the bus shelter opposite repaired after some vandalism. We are installing another bus stop bench up from the nursery, again on the south-bound side, this month.



There was a serious accident on Otterbourne Road, but it was not speed related. We are told that, statistically, there is an improving trend in safety on this route. We shall continue to monitor the situation.

Despite significant reductions in on-road parking around Shawford in recent years, it remains an issue. With a new franchisee running the rail service, there is some hope of additional parking (see transport report). Steve Brine says he has “already secured an undertaking from First Group to work afresh on finding a long-term solution to the parking problems at Shawford and Micheldever stations”. We continue to meet and talk to Shawford residents, and as ever there is a balance to be achieved between the needs of local residents and keeping the station busy and well used.

A new life for our Red Phone Boxes

The parish plans to adopt its two red phone boxes from BT and house a life saving defibrillator in each of them. We are working with the The Community Heartbeat Trust for the provision of the defibrillators and the local resident associations for the ongoing maintenance of the service and the boxes.



Progress is underway to formally adopt the boxes from BT and to seek funding from the lottery for the defibrillators.

No calls have been made from either phone box for at least a year, so there is no proposal from BT or the parish council to keep them as active phone boxes.

For more details please contact Richard Webster. You can contact him via the clerk or the PC website.

Footpaths

In July 2016, the Parish Council, in partnership with the Hampshire Garden’s Trust and with the approval of Hampshire County Council, were able to design and erect a colourful and informative



feature board on the footpath leading to Compton Lock, in front of the renovated Tudor Gateway. This display board gives historical details about Compton Place as a site of special archeological significance as previously highlighted by the Local History Society.

Local History Society

The Local History Society (LHS) continues to meet and publish its research and reports in the parish magazine. The society now has its own website which can be accessed directly or through the Parish Council website.

It contains many useful historical articles and ideas that keen local historians could follow.

For more details, or to suggest other topics for research, contact John Wilkinson or see <http://lhs.comptonshawford.uk>.



Folk Nights

The musical activities of the Parish have been enhanced by a local Folk Band which meets periodically at the MPF Pavilion. These concerts led by Martin Harris and John Wilkinson have brought in a range of talented musicians from across the parish. They perform a range of pieces ranging from traditional to contemporary folk music with many opportunities for audience participation. Concerts this year will be held on 23 June, 8 September, and on Saturday 9 December as Christmas Folk Carols in All Saints Church Compton. Most concerts are free, but the Christmas one will raise funds for charity.

Playing Fields

The two playing fields in Compton and Shawford, the Memorial Playing field (MPF) in Shepherds Lane and the Queen Elizabeth II field in Attwoods Drove continue to provide excellent sport and recreation facilities. Some repair and maintenance of the play equipment at both fields has been necessary, and regular inspections are carried out by an independent company. The Parish Council ensures that the grass is cut regularly and that the trees at both fields are cut back when necessary. At the MPF the drinking fountain has been replaced, the pavilion and shed re-stained and a worn basket ball net replaced. New dog signs have been put in place to encourage responsible behaviour and a new bench positioned near the cricket nets. The Astroturf around the goal mouths at the QEII field has also been replaced and extra 4m fencing erected behind the goal mouth adjoining properties on Compton Street. These are prime facilities for which the Parish council has responsibility and their regular upkeep ensures they are fully used and enjoyed by everyone.

Compton & Shawford Sports Club

The Jubilee Pavilion and the Memorial Playing Fields form the focal point for our local Compton and

Shawford Sports Club, (CSSC). The club's primary objective is to provide good, value-for-money facilities for cricket, football and tennis though increasingly it provides regular events such as 'First Friday Quiz Night' for the community and members to enjoy. Chairman Mark Jenkins says this summer will have several special events to look forward to, such as wine tasting, BBQs as well as the regular 'Every Friday Bar Opening at 6pm, May through September.

The Tennis club runs a 'Third-Friday Mix'n'Munch evening combining (optional) tennis with supper (come rain or shine!).

The fields and pavilion are also used as the focal point for other activities such as the village Walking Group and a Running Club. All sports sections go from strength to strength with additional youth cricket teams being well coached and including more and more local children. Keep an eye out for details of Summer Camps which help keep the youngsters in a state of well-being.

Good weather boosts the number of local families walking up to make their weekend plans or discuss the week just past. If anyone would like to put together a 'themed' evening at the club, please just drop a note to Mark. For more information about the Sports Club or offers to help out, please see the Sports Club's pages in the Parish Magazine, the pavilion noticeboards or simply contact Mark.

If you'd like to come to the social events but are not an active sports person, why not join as a non-playing member by visiting casltc.org.uk and going to Club Membership?

Also please remember to renew!

*mark.jenkins4.mj (at) gmail.com,
Chairman, CSSC
07831 194184*



The Parish Council Website

The website is your one stop shop for everything about the Parish Council, including:

- What the parish council does,
- Planning matters and a map of recent planning applications
- how to get in touch
- Archives of PC meeting minutes since 2001, and meeting reports since Dec 1994
- Local clubs, societies, and local walks
- Parish events diary

For those who haven't looked at the website before, the screenshot above, from a desktop or laptop

computer, gives some notes about how to use it. On a tablet or smartphone the display rearranges itself to fit the smaller screen.

Address: <https://comptonshawford-pc.gov.uk>

More about the website

When we first set up the website, in 1995, we were one of the first parish councils in the country to have its own website.

The website has grown to have a significant archive. It records Parish Council business and important events in the life of the community, such as the two weeks of celebrations for the centenary of the Parish

Hall, and the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees.

We gave the website a major overhaul in 2012, and another in 2016 when we had to find a new hosting provider.

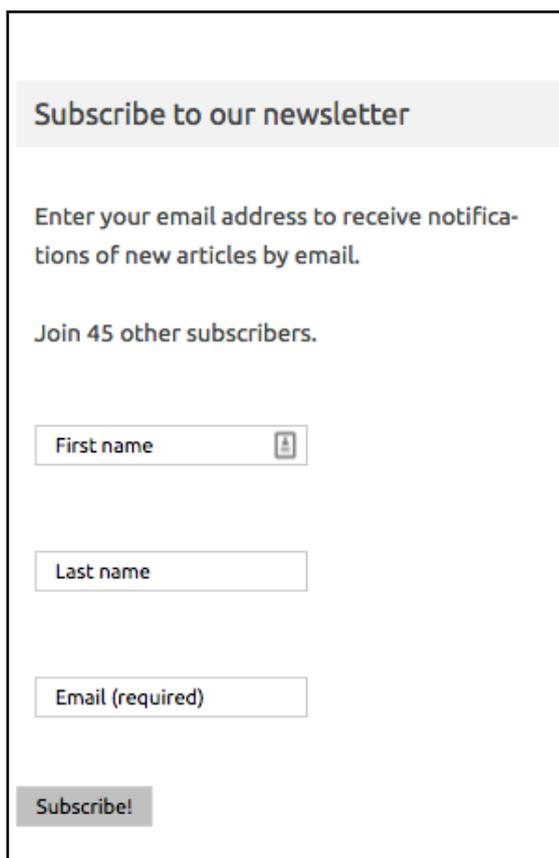
What do others think?

In 2012 and again in 2016 the Parish Council won the Best Website award from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

In 2013 the independent CPALC (Communities, Parishes and Local Councils) organisation reviewed our website and wrote "*The CSPC website is in our opinion simply stunning ... a standard to which others should aspire*". Their full review is reproduced on our website, with their permission.

Would you like to receive regular updates by email?

Just fill in this form on the PC website home page.



The image shows a screenshot of a newsletter subscription form. At the top, it says "Subscribe to our newsletter". Below that, it asks the user to "Enter your email address to receive notifications of new articles by email." It also states "Join 45 other subscribers." There are three input fields: "First name" with a person icon, "Last name", and "Email (required)". At the bottom left is a "Subscribe!" button.

If you're a Facebook user, you can "Like" our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ComptonShawfordParishCouncil/>.

Facebook should then notify you whenever anything is added to the Facebook page.

Future Plans

We want to make the website as useful as possible. We are always happy to receive suggestions about how we could improve it.

Please let us know if you find incorrect information or something that doesn't work.

It's also important to make sure the latest security fixes are applied and to be vigilant against hackers and spammers.

What can Parish Councils do?

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.

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.

Section 137(4)(a) of the 1972 Local Government Act allows a local council to spend up to £7.57 (2017/18 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.

Local councils in England were given wider powers under the heading of 'general power of competence' (GPC) in the Localism Act 2011, sections 1 to 8.

For example, using its GPC, a council could set up a business and engage in commercial activity, perhaps for the purpose of reducing the need to raise council tax. In order to exercise powers under the GPC, at least two thirds of the councillors must have been elected (rather than co-opted), and the clerk needs to have certain qualifications.

War Memorial Grade II listing

Last autumn, Winchester City Council's Historic Environment Team announced that Shawford Down War Memorial, unveiled 4 April 1921, had been listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- **Historic interest:** as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community, and the sacrifice it made in the conflicts of the C20;
- **Architectural interest:** a simple yet dignified memorial cross in Portland stone.

More details about this Grade II listing were published in a short article in the November 2016 Parish Magazine.

You can also find the article on the parish website.



About the Parish Council

Who does what?

The chairman and other roles on the council have to be re-appointed every year, at the PC's May meeting. On 2 May 2017, Councillors elected Mike Goulding as PC Chairman and Martin Bell as Vice-Chairman.

Most of the Parish Council's work is done through its portfolio holders. You can find a list of councillors and their responsibilities on the PC website.

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

If you missed out, contact Adrian on 606957.



Compton & Shawford Parish Council

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

email: clerk@comptonshawford-pc.gov.uk

Invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting 7:30 pm Thursday 18th May 2017 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.

Topics will include

- A presentation on planning by Steve Opacic (Winchester City Council - Strategic Planning Projects)
- Reports from portfolio holders or an opportunity ask questions.
- A report on our finances and Community Infrastructure Levy
- General questions and observations
- Any other business

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.

**Mike Goulding
Chairman**