



Compton & Shawford Parish Council

2018 Annual Report

Dear Parishioner,

This Annual Parish Report contains a summary of the work the Parish Council has carried out over the past 12 months. However firstly, I would like to invite you to the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 17th May at 19:30 in the Parish Hall. This year, a member of Highways England will be attending to discuss developments related to the M3 and the subsequent impact on our Parish. The remainder of the meeting will be your chance to meet, hear from and ask questions of your Parish Councillors.

I would like to thank Jonathan Brant for his work on the Council prior to standing down earlier this year. I am delighted to have welcomed Councillor Tim Hunt who was appointed in November, and joins the existing team of myself, Martin Bell, Richard Webster, Myra Wilkinson, Bob Jordan, Mike Southgate, Jo Lockett and Frances Strange, supported by our clerk David Drake. I would like to extend my thanks to all the Councillors (who are unpaid volunteers, and many of whom have full time jobs/commitments) for their hard work over the last year. I'd also like to thank our three District Councillors Eleanor Bell, Brian Laming and Jan Warwick for actively

supporting the work we do in addition to the teams at Winchester City and Hampshire County Councils

I would like to pay tribute to Bill Goodyear, who upon reaching his eightieth birthday, retired from Parish Council duties. Bill has served the community for many years, not just for the Parish Council but also at the school, where he is affectionately known as 'Uncle Bill'. His service to the community was formally recognized in 2014, when he received the Mayor of Winchester's Award for service to the community. We all hope that he will be able to enjoy a peaceful and happy retirement.

This year has been a quieter year for the Council, with planning, environmental issues and parking being ongoing concerns for parishioners. The major projects for the Council have been the refurbishment of telephone boxes in the village to contain defibrillators, the replacement of play equipment, as well as the distribution of funds provided through the Community Infrastructure Levy to projects throughout the Parish. Details on all these activities are included within the report.

Mike Goulding – Chair 2017/18

Finance

The Council spent £6,088 more than it received in the financial year, mainly due to unexpected costs in replacing play equipment. The Council maintains reserves to cover such eventualities. However this year the Council undertook the difficult decision to raise the parish precept (the amount we receive through Council Tax) for the first time in seven years. The Council has worked hard over this period to reduce costs and obtain grants to assist with funding, but we were unable to balance the budget for 2018/19 without a 2% increase in funding. To give this some context the amount we receive from a Band D property will be £32.20. Due to the increase in the size of our Parish this is actually less than the amount we received per property in 2004/5 (£32.92). Full accounts can be viewed on the Parish website.

Community Infrastructure Levy



The Council has had access to funds through the Community Infrastructure Levy which replaced the Open Spaces Fund in 2017.

The levy is applied to new houses which are built in the Parish and is to be used to provide funding for something which provides a community

benefit. Following a grant to the scouts in 2017 to refurbish the scout hut in Compton we have been able to fund a further four projects.

Sparrowgrove Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust (SOCCT) - £3,325 – Essential tree work. SOCCT is a charitable trust which manages 33 acres of woodland within our Parish. The grant enabled tree maintenance to be carried out to ensure the woods remained safe for parishioners.

All Saints School – £750 – Computer for The Lodge – The Lodge is used for specially trained staff to deliver interventions to help vulnerable children overcome barriers to their learning.

Compton & Shawford Sports Club - £1202.46 – MPF Car Park Drainage – The car park, which is used by many parishioners who visit the MPF regularly floods during period of rain. The grant, which was matched by the Sports Club provides a long term solution.

Compton Lock Grant - £500 – Part funding of a larger project to upgrade the steps, gates and fencing around the lock.

Highways

The Council put in another bus stop bench on Otterbourne Road this year and repaired a vandalised shelter (just like last year!). The Parish Council met with First Group (South Western Railways) to push the subject of additional parking at Shawford Station and we are awaiting developments. Additional

parking restrictions are being put in place in Shawford Road.

Timetable Consultation

South Western Railways consulted on a new timetable proposal from December 2018 onwards. Unfortunately this shows a loss of a local peak time service (students to Peter Symonds) plus an increase in journey times for some peak time commuter trains. This came as an unwelcome surprise and shows how vulnerable the service is. If the station becomes less well used, it may further increase that vulnerability. We should be careful not to drive to many users elsewhere.

Play Areas and Footpaths

The Parish Council has a responsibility to maintain the play equipment to a high safety standard and to keep the playing fields in good condition. Maintaining this high level of safety has led to a budget deficit of £6000; no new equipment has been installed but essential repairs and upgrades have been carried out.

All the equipment is inspected every three months by an independent agency and monitored weekly by the Parish Council. Essential repairs include work on the multiplay unit at the Memorial Playing field (MPF), and new Astroturf around the goals at the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) field. The chains and swing seats have been replaced at the QEII play area, along with maintenance of the timber. New chains and



seats at the MPF are planned for the coming year.

Vegetation is regularly cut back around the two playing fields, which are also regularly mowed.

Essential drainage work on the car park is currently being carried out.

The Parish Lengthsman visits the Parish every three months and has carried out roadside vegetation clearance along the Otterbourne road from Bushfield roundabout to Compton Street, work around the perimeter of the MPF and clearance of the path from Southdown road to the base of Shawford Down. The countryside Rangers continue to clear scrub from the Down and the area has been grazed by cattle over winter. They have now been removed so that the wildflowers and insects can thrive.

The WW2 memorial at the top of the Down is now Grade 2 listed. There continues to be a serious litter problem at Compton Lock, but there will be a new official sign on the Shawford side to discourage antisocial activity.

Planning

Parishioners have raised issues this year relating to noise and light from the Biomass site in Poles Lane. The plant which recycles/

processes waste wood 24hrs a day, has given rise to explosions and light pollution particularly at night.

Three Parish Councils, Compton and Shawford, Otterbourne, and Hursley, worked together with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council, with considerable support from the affected residents, resulting in the upgrading of the plant. There have been no issues raised since January.

Staying Informed

As a Council we are always looking to ensure that parishioners are kept up to date with the latest decisions of the Council and that we are aware of issues impacting those within the Parish.

Website

www.comptonshawford-pc.gov.uk

The website contains a wealth of information relating to the entire Parish as well as past and present details on the Council, including:

- Responsibilities and contact details for Councillors.
- Calendar of events
- Meeting agendas and minutes.
- Governance Documents.
- Parish Plan and VDS.

The website contains an email sign up, allowing you to be made aware of any

updates posted to the website through email. Thanks to Adrian Walmsley for his continuing support in maintaining the website.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/ComptonShawfordParishCouncil/

Our Facebook page contains links to updates on the website as well as up to date news, events and issues which are impacting the Parish.

Parish Magazine and Notice Boards

We continue to publish articles within the Parish Magazine as well as posting information on the noticeboards throughout the Parish.

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.

Village Agent



A Village Agent is an information point and can signpost to relevant support services. There is contact with local services, agencies, organisations and the Information and Advice Service of Age Concern Hampshire, who runs the project. Any topic relevant to keeping parishioners independent in their own home can be covered, and gives a single point of reference rather than the person having to make multiple calls to get the information required.

Being part of the local transport group and a member of the Patient Participation Group for Twyford Surgery gives opportunities to become more widely known.

There is a permanent note of contact details in the Parish Magazine and I have managed to get a leaflet sent to all "housebound" patients of the surgery, in the hope that they would then feel that there is someone there to help them when they need it

With regard to actual numbers of people helped, it does tend to be the same people who come back to me again and again. I have been supporting one couple in the village for over 2 years in a variety of ways. Actual number helped would be in the region of 30-40 people, which may not sound many but a lot of them become "regulars" and I help in a variety of ways. Knowledge of local connections also helps. For example, City contacts help with issues raised by Council tenants and I am able to contact direct to get action.

Hampshire County Council has had to make further large budget cuts and they have, therefore, decided not to fund the Village Agent project this year. Age Concern Hampshire believe that this is a very important project which should not be allowed to fold. They are looking at other areas of funding available and are in contact with Parish Councils in the hope that they would feel it worth supporting their own Village Agent. This money, added to other funding being looked into, would help to pay for the administrative support needed to keep the project functioning efficiently.

The project is very important as a method of supporting people in their own homes and helping them to stay independent. My contact phone is 07813 368260 and I always return calls if you leave a message for me.

Frances Strange, Village Agent for Compton and Shawford

Defibrillators

Shawford and Compton telephone boxes have been purchased by the Parish Council and automated defibrillators installed (these are portable defibrillators especially designed to be used by people with no medical background).



The Parish Council was successful in being awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to purchase the defibrillators from The Community Heartbeat Trust and the regular checks will be taken on by the Residents' Associations. In a joint effort by Richard Webster, Parish Councillor who has managed this project, and Catherine Brant, Chair of Shawford Village residents' association, the Shawford phone box has been rejuvenated.

The Compton phone kiosk was fully repainted as part of the Big Lottery Grant.

Training organised by the Community Heartbeat Trust will be at Shawford Parish Hall on Wednesday 11th July at 19:30 and at Reeves Scout Hall in Martins Fields on Tuesday 30th October at 19:30. Everyone in the Parish is invited and encouraged to

attend – although it is hoped this potentially life-saving equipment is never required, the more people who are able to use the equipment the better.

Shawford has had several offers of help for the maintenance of the equipment, which will include a weekly simple check, but if anyone else would like to support with the maintenance of this equipment this would be very much appreciated. Please contact Catherine Brant: shawfordvra@gmail.com or Frances: Francesstrange@hotmail.com

CASCA

A vacancy will arise for the role of Chairman of the Compton and Shawford Community Association (CASCA).

The role involves liaising with the caretaker, over the running of the Shawford Parish Hall. It includes quarterly meetings of the committee to oversee the management of the Hall and a programme of annual maintenance and refurbishment.

The letting income enables the hall to be efficiently run for our diverse customers and surplus income to be re-invested.

What can Parish Councils do?



The full list of Council powers is summarised on the Parish Council web site. It covers playing fields, lighting, village 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.

About the Parish Council

Who does what? The Chairman and other roles on the Council have to be reappointed every year, at the PC's May meeting. On 2 May 2018, 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 Magazine or the website or the Parish noticeboards for details



Compton & Shawford Parish Council

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Invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting 7:30 pm Thursday 17th May 2018 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 by Highways England
- 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.