



Compton & Shawford Parish Council

2019 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 the 16th May at 19:30 in the parish Hall. This year, there will be a presentation from representatives of Southampton International Airport about the company's expansion plans. The remainder of the meeting will be your chance to meet, hear from and ask questions of your parish councillors. *If you have any specific questions, please send them to the clerk prior to the meeting.*

I am delighted that this year our team of Councillors have remained constant and consist of myself, Tim Hunt, 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 which 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 Lamming and Jan Warwick for actively supporting the work we do in addition to the teams at Winchester City and Hampshire County Councils

This year has been a consistent year for the Council, with regular issues of planning, environmental and parking being ongoing concerns for parishioners. The major projects for the Council have again been 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.

The Council meets every other month and each meeting has time scheduled for parishioners to raise any concerns, which help guide the direction of the Council. A full schedule is available on our website.

Mike Goulding – Chair 2018/19

Finance

The Council had a small surplus in its budget of 2018/19 and, as a consequence, has only increased its budget for 2019/20 by £90, despite inflation in the region of 2%. The Council maintains reserves to cover unexpected eventualities and considers its current level is acceptable to meet most contingencies. The Council continues to work hard to reduce costs, and to obtain grants to assist with funding. For example, a grant was obtained from Hampshire County Council to erect safety fencing either side of the new bus shelter on the corner of Place Lane and Otterbourne Road. Full accounts can be viewed on the Parish website

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council continues to receive 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. For further information on CIL and details on how to apply for funding please contact Richard Webster.

Some of the projects funded this year included:

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

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.

Age Concern Hampshire - £250 – Part funding to cover the costs of the village agent.

Bus Shelter - £3,000 – to replace the bus shelter opposite Compton Street which had been assessed as in a dangerous state.

Shepherds Down School - £2,000 towards the cost of an adventure playground.

Sports Club - £2000 towards the cost of improving the pitch to meet required league standards.

Compton Pre-School - £500 to help support the ongoing work of the pre-school who offer a diverse range of activities to local families.

Planning

New terms of reference for Planning were agreed by the Parish Council in 2018 and posted on the website.

It was also agreed that there would be a required update to the Village Design Statement to remove out of date information and refresh existing information where changes have taken place within the Parish. This has been done and circulated to local associations for their input. The next stage will be to ask Winchester City Council to approve the document.

A variety of meetings have been attended during the year, including Supporting Local Vulnerable Residents, Community Housing, Winchester City Local Plan, and Winchester City Planning Review.

Planning applications have been monitored and the views of the local residents obtained where relevant.

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.

All the equipment is inspected every three months by an independent agency and monitored weekly by the Parish council. Essential repairs include replacement of the swings at the Memorial playing fields, and repairing the safety surface at the QEII Field play area. The chains and swing seats have been replaced at the QEII play area, along with maintenance of the timber.

Vegetation is regularly cut back around the two playing fields, which are also regularly mowed. Essential drainage work on the car park at the MPF is has been 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.

SOCCT

The council provided an additional grant to Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust. The trust are responsible for the woodland between Otterbourne and Shawford which is an excellent asset for the parish.

The grant enabled them to tackle a number of fallen trees. A recently fallen one has been cut into smaller sections to aid the local habitat and to provide wood for local donors with a wheelbarrow, and an older one which was made safe.



Parking during construction

In recent months (and in fact years) a number of people have been extending their homes throughout the parish.

Some homes are difficult to access when the building starts and the contractors can occasionally turn up in large numbers. In many cases they may not

have anywhere easy to park other than the local roads. This is often done sympathetically however sometimes much less so. If you are engaging contractors to perform work please consider the effect of your contractors' vehicles on road safety.

The parish council has received many of complaints over recent months about inconsiderate parking and whilst it is not within our control, we have made enquiries to the highways authority and the police.

The inconsiderate parking can cause some real safety concerns as well inconvenience to neighbours and other parishioners.

The police have recommended this communication as a first step and have advised that under certain circumstances formal action will be taken. Therefore we would appreciate if you could discuss parking with your contractors prior to any work starting, so they can ensure they are parking responsibly.

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.

Our main communication is through:

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 notice boards 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 (£10 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 3 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 have 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*

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 £7.86 (2018/19 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 notice boards for details.

Invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting 7:30 pm Thursday 16th May 2019 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 Southampton Airport
- 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 9:00 pm, when coffee and biscuits will be served for those who would like to stay and chat.