

COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2002
IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr.Mr. N.Campbell-White (Chairman), Cllr.Mr. M.Bell, Cllr.Mr. A.Walmsley, Cllr.Mrs. C.Simmons, Cllr.Mrs. J.Millar, Cllr.Mrs J.Vallis, Cllr.Mr. T.Threlfall, Cllr.Mr. G.Beckett.

In Attendance: Mr. S.Opacic – Forward Planning Team Manager, Winchester City Council
County Councillor Mrs. A.Bailey
City Councillor Mrs. C.Bailey
63 members of the Public.

Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Mrs. M.Shaw Dr. & Mrs Emerson
Mrs. Sherren Mrs. D.Matthews
Mr. Theo Hargreaves Mr. Bob Jordan
Gill & Tim Coleman Rev. J.Widdows.

Approval of minutes of the 2001 Annual Parish Assembly.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly, held on the 2^{7th} April 2001, having been previously circulated, were approved following a proposal by Mr. Barry Nichols, seconded by Mr. Paul Murray, vote unanimous.

Matters arising on the minutes.

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

Keynote Speaker – Steve Opacic, Forward Planning – Team Manager, Winchester City Council – “How revised Government Planning Policy is affecting Compton and Shawford” – Brief questions afterwards.

Mr. Steve Opacic gave a brief presentation of his team's implementation of the Government's policy, the salient points being as follows:-

- He provided a background concerning Housing Policies of Winchester City Council and central Government.
- There had been a move towards meeting Housing requirements by utilisation of sites within existing settlement areas – “Brownfield sites” – rather than developing “Greenfield sites”.
- This trend is strongly promoted by central Government – PPG3.
- Winchester City Council has a high “Housing Requirement”.
- The aim of the Winchester District Local Plan review was to provide as much as possible of Winchester's Housing needs from sites within existing settlement areas – “Brownfield sites”.
- A lot of work was undertaken on “Urban Capacity”, including the “Winchester District Urban Capacity Study”.
- This work resulted in being satisfied that Winchester's housing needs can be met from existing “Brownfield sites” and allocation of “Greenfield sites” for development should not be necessary.
- It is accepted that this is of concern to low density settlement areas such as Compton and Shawford.
- This is seen as generally being good news, but it does mean that there will need to be “infilling” and “redevelopment” in areas where most people already live, and at higher density.
- There has been a pressure for more affordable housing – 1 to 2 person households.
- Therefore it is not a need for 4 to 5 bedroom dwellings, more tightly packed in, but a demand for a different mix of dwellings with a greater need for the smaller units.
- The methodology of implementing PPG3 is still being refined, particularly the adoption of “density standards”.

- PPG3 density – 30 dwellings to the hectare – must be the starting point, Government advice cannot be ignored.
- However, local characteristics of the area are taken into account and “densities” can be moderated accordingly.
- A “Design Led” process follows this and thereby takes local characteristics into account, but at the same time Government guidelines cannot be rejected.
- The approach to these issues will be refined over a period of time via the Winchester District Local Plan.

Questions from the floor:-

(Q) Mr. Peter Toghill asked what is acceptable to Winchester City Council in respect to “density” of proposed developments.

(A) The starting point is 30 dwellings per hectare, but this is modified by a “design led” approach to accommodate the characteristics of the area in question.

(Q) Mr. Barry Nicholson / Mr Bob Friedland asked how W.C.C. reconciles the current policy of EN1 with the new policy of PPG3 which are in conflict.

(A) EN1 is in force but under the terms of the Winchester District Local Plan review there is a move away from EN1 towards PPG3.

(Q) David Thompson referenced the “Mawdlam Lodge” planning application and asked if it was true that W.C.C. had suggested to the applicant that an application for two houses would meet with better success than an application for one?

(A) Whilst the details of the individual application were not known, the higher density application would be more successful.

(Q) Tim Hunt asked if such developments on a piecemeal basis were of any real benefit.

(A) In an ideal world large developments are preferable to many small disparate developments. However, it is recognised that we have to work with the situation as it is and smaller “Brownfield” developments are seen to be preferable to single larger “Greenfield” developments.

(Q) George Beckett asked that as many of the possible developments in Compton and Shawford would be serviced by existing private roads, would the upgrade of such roads be part of the “design led approach” considerations. Also the cumulative effect on development would lead to road congestion – will this be taken into consideration?

(A) The upgrade of private roads would be taken into consideration. It is not considered that the question of Traffic Congestion would be applicable to developments within Compton and Shawford.

It was concluded by the Chairman, Cllr. N.Campbell-White, that it was disturbing that Parish Councils and residents of the Parish had not been consulted before the introduction of new policies that are as far reaching as that concerning PPG3.

Chairman’s report on the last year.

Cllr. Mr Nick Campbell-White reported as follows:-

- A relatively Calm year when compared with previous years
- Regrettably Cllr. Stuart Jennings resigned and his position was filled by Co-option of Cllr. Mrs. Jude Vallis.
- All Convenors of Committees stayed in place except Cllr. Mr. George Beckett took over the Convenorship of the Finance and Administration Committee.
- Notable events during the year have been:-
 - The installation of the new Children’s Playground on Memorial Playing Field.
 - Resubmission of the Lottery Bid for the New Pavilion.
 - The M3 Noise campaign.
 - Publication of the Winchester District local Plan and Urban Capacity Study.
 - Initiation of the New Children’s Play equipment in the Compton Street Play Area.
 - The New Code of Conduct.
- The National Audit Commission audited last years Accounts with no queries.
- PC Clive Barham, the local Beat Policeman, left in June 2001 and has not been replaced.
- Three contentious planning issues remain outstanding:-
 - Bushfield Camp
 - The Old Southdown School

- Longacre.
Pressure is being exerted for higher density developments.
- Grateful thanks were expressed to the Clerk for streamlining all procedures and computerising the Accounts, Planning and Asset/Document Registers.
- Badger Farm Parish Council suggested that we may like to relinquish Bushfield Camp in their favour, this was declined.
- Increases in paperwork, directives and advice from Winchester City Council and Central Government have significantly increased.
- The introduction of a “Sothdowns National Park”, impacting a part of this Parish, is a major issue to be confronted in the coming months.
- The next big event within the Parish is the Golden Jubilee Celebrations being organised by Mrs Judy Harris and her Committee.
- The Chairman expressed his thanks to all his fellow Councillors, especially the Convenors of Committees.
- Having undertaken 3 years as Chairman, Cllr. Nick Campbell-White considered it was time to step down as Chairman.

Adoption of Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2000/2001.

The Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2000/2001 were circulated before the meeting. Cllr. Mr. George Beckett called for these accounts to be formally adopted.

Proposed – Mr. Ray Wilmshurst.

Seconded – Mr Rob Freiland

Vote – unanimous.

Unaudited Accounts for Financial Year 2001/2002.

The Income and Expenditure sheets together with the Balance Sheet relating to the Accounts for the Financial Year 2001/2002 were also circulated prior to the meeting for information. Cllr. Mr. George Beckett highlighted the following items:-

- The donation of £15,040, raised by Paul Murray’s “New Pavilion Building Committee” through various fund raising activities and to be used for the New Pavilion Project.
- Exceptional expenditure under Playing Fields which relates to the installation of the new Children’s Play Equipment, some of which was raised through Fund Raising by Cllr. Mrs. Mary Shaw.

Reports from Committee Convenors: (Brief questions will be answered after each report.)

Prior to the meeting, a News Sheet had been produced by the Parish Council and circulated to every household within the Parish. Within this News Sheet, each Committee Convenor had published their report. The salient points were as follows:-

Planning.

- Cllr. Mrs Jean Millar thanked her colleges for their assistance on the Planning Committee.
- There had been 44 Planning Applications, 8 of which related to trees and 6 for Telecommunication Masts.
- A total of 7 applications were refused.
- Special mention was made of “The Malms”, “Highdown” and “Mawdlam Lodge” Planning Applications.
- The ongoing debate concerning the Winchester District Urban Capacity Study.
- The uncertainties of the PPG3 guidelines were referenced.

Playing Fields

Cllr. Mrs. Mary Shaw was not in attendance, but her report was read out by Cllr. Mr. Martin Bell.

- The Children’s Play Area at Memorial Playing Field had been completed.
- The Children’s Play Area refurbishment at Compton Street is starting in May 2002.
- The Playing Fields are being regularly cut and are looking good.
- The millennium trees planted last year are flourishing.
- The acquisition of Dog Bins on the Memorial Playing Field is proving to be of benefit.
- Basket Ball Facilities at the Compton Street Play Area are being investigated.
- The existing Tennis Courts are to be resurfaced this year.

- The establishment of Cricket Nets on the Memorial Playing Field is being negotiated with the Sports Club.

Highways, Byways, Environment and M3.

Cllr. Mrs. Celia Simmons reported:-

- New Bus shelters have been installed.
- Two new Notice Boards have been established together with renovation of all others.
- Waste Injection into farmland continues to be monitored.
- Discussions with the Highways Department continue in respect of the junction of Shepherds Lane with School Road.
- The M3 Noise campaign continues in conjunction with Otterbourne Parish Council.

Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden.

Cllr. Mr Tom Threlfall reported:-

- Footpaths, although looking somewhat neglected due to the lack of funding, are all open.
- The Compton Lock/Twyford Meads renovation project nears completion, under the auspices of Twyford Parish Council.
- Discrepancies in the precise location of the Parish Boundary between Compton & Shawford and Twyford are being investigated.

Finance and Administration.

Cllr. Mr. George Beckett reported:-

- Continues to operate the Budgets on a tightly controlled basis.
- Overseeing the finance relating to the New Pavilion Project
- Negotiating the consequential agreements with the Sports Club and Tennis Club in connection with the New Pavilion.
- Compilation of a comprehensive Asset/Document Register.
- Attend to an ever-increasing volume of directives, instructions, rules and guidelines emanating from Central Government.
- The New Code of Conduct.
- Only a modest 2% increase in Precept for the Financial Year 2002/2003.

Parish Hall – with an update from Capt. Mike Matthews, Chairman CASCA.

Capt. Mike Matthews reported:-

- First full year without building works.
- Some organisations consider the Hall is being let go to “rack and ruin”.
- This is disputed as the complex is thriving.
- A colour brochure attracts new hirers.
- Income now exceeding general running costs.
- Currently, the Caretaker’s cottage is the priority for maintenance.
- Sponsored the “Bartlett High School Choir” and Proteus Theatre’s “3 Musketeers”.
- CASCA has assisted in fundraising for the Children’s Play Equipment.

New Pavilion – with an update from Paul Murray, Chairman New Pavilion Building Committee.

Mr. Paul Murray, as Chairman of “The New Pavilion Building Committee” reported as follows:-

- Planning Permission for the New Pavilion has been granted By Winchester City Council, albeit a small issue concerning partial revocation of the previous Permission is being worked upon by the Lawyers.
- Currently undertaking “Pre Tender Work” – preparing detailed designs for contractors to quote.
- Anticipate going out to tender at the end of June 2002, with responses within five weeks of that time.
- Anticipated cost will be £271,000.
- The full Parish Council will have to ratify the decision to use the chosen Contractor.
- Once the Contractor and his quote have been accepted, Sport England will be approached for final agreement to their funding in the region of £120,000.
- Projected Funding for the project is as follows:-

Parish Council	£100,000
Sports Club	£20,000
Open Spaces Fund	£10,000
Hampshire Playing Fields	£1,800
Hampshire Waste	£4,000
Sport England	£120,000
Total	£255,800

- Shortfall from £271,000 = £15,200 which has been raised through Fund Raising activities by Paul Murray's Committee to the amount of £16,000 to date.
- The generosity of Parishioners in supporting the Fund Raising confirms that the project has the support of the majority of the local community.
- Building work is due to start in October 2002.

School Governor's Report.

Mr Ray Wilmshurst, as the Parish Council's representative on the Board of School Governors, reported as follows:-

- Although Compton Primary School is one of the smallest schools in the area, it has a very good reputation.
- The Head Teacher and Staff were congratulated for continuing teaching throughout the building work undertaken during the year; the completed re-building being opened in October 2001.
- Subsequent to the opening of the new buildings, an "open day" was held.
- The one remaining temporary classroom is yet to be removed.
- During the year, two teachers left and the Administration Officer retired.
- The current "Roll" is 117 pupils, of which 27 are on the Special Educational Needs register.

Question Time; relating to any aspect of village administration – current or future.

1. Captain Mike Matthews asked the same question as last year – when are the "pink tubes" protecting young trees/shrubs going to be removed? Cllr Celia Simmons advised that some have been removed but the remainder must stay for the time being as protection against Rabbits.
2. Mr. Macmillan stated that it is apparent that there is a change in Planning Policy thereby resulting in a potential change in the character of the Parish. What is the attitude of the Planning Committee? District Councillor Charlotte Bailey responded by advising that the Committee is bound by rules and must take note of the "Local Plan/Strategic Plan". Recommendations are made by officers and presentations can be made. Questions can be raised. Cllr. Mr. George Beckett stated that the Parish Council are a Statutory Consultee and as such work in accordance with the policy that is in force. When issues contravene that policy, those issues will be questioned. However, if the policy is to change and new rules apply, then we will have to work within those new rules. Currently we do not know what those new rules are.
3. Cllr. Mr. Nick Campbell-White asked why does Winchester City Council follow without question the Governments Guidelines on Planning issues? It was answered that comments are sent back to Central Government and greater emphasis is to be placed upon "Design Statement" taking into consideration the character of the area. It was also emphasised that it is not a political matter.
4. Mr. Barry Nicholson asked whether the Parish Council was in a position to "instruct" the District Councillor in conveying the views to Winchester City Council. District Councillor Charlotte Bailey responded by advising that the answer is "no". The District Councillor is not a delegate to Winchester City Council representing the views of the Parish Council.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 10.15pm