

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8

Parish Councillors for the Year ending 30th April 2008

Bruce Batting -Parish Council Chairman and also chairman of Planning and Village Green Committees
Ivan Gosden -Parish Council Vice Chairman and also Chairman of Finance Committee
Sandy Johnston -Chairman of Leisure Facilities Committee
Brian Archer
Tracy Lander-Sims
Lorraine Smith
Richard Gaiger
Ken Clark
Percy Sims
John Dodd (resigned at the end of 2007)

All Parish Councillors became trustees of the Village Hall on October 29th 2007.

Meetings

Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, we held 61 meetings:

11 Parish Council
7 Finance and General Purposes Committee
7 Leisure Facilities Committee
20 Planning Committee
7 Village Green Committee
2 Burial Ground Working Party
1 Allotment Holders Meeting
1 Annual Parish Meeting
2 Greenway residents
3 Football Pavilion Working Party

During the year, the Parish Council has ...

- Become Trustee of the Village Hall
- Contributed to steering group to establish Sherfield Park Community Association
- Attended meetings to assist with the development of a new Community Centre at Sherfield Park
- Received reports from Police and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Monitored safety on the Village Green, via monthly reports from the litter warden.
- Carried out weekly checks of the play area.
- Taken on an annual contract with a pest control company, rat control on the allotments.
- Received approximately 35 County and Borough documents for consultation.
- Reviewed Traffic calming measures
- Layed No-Mow surface and provided basket ball and football facilities for older children
- Improved BMX track
- Arranged for improved Line painting around village

- Arranged for improvements to traffic calming on the Bramley Road
- Worked with the Borough to improve road layout and parking arrangements in Bow Drive and the adjoining roads.
- Organised grass mowing and trimming of hedges around the Village
- Arranged for the removal of dead trees
- Contacted Environment Agency about leaking oil Tank in Bow Drive
- Liaised with Police about nuisance motorcycle riding in Village
- Organised pest control treatments to ensure Loddon Sports FC have been able to play their matches.
- Approved memorial trees and benches to be placed on The Green

Ongoing/outstanding projects

- Protection of the Village Hall
- Traffic calming improvements on Bramley Road and Reading Road with vehicle activated signs
- Pedestrian Walkway over A33 Near to Sherfield School (Wildmoor Lane exit point)
- Speed limit reduction (from 50mph to 40mph between the 2 roundabouts) outside Sherfield School
- Preparation of new Burial Ground .
- Replacement Football Pavilion.
- Solution to the problem of potholes along Greenway.
- Voluntary registration of allotment land
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6 Village Green Committee meetings: This is an Advisory Committee of the Parish Council, which makes recommendations on the upkeep of the Green to the Parish Council, eg, ditch work, re-planting, pond clearance, repairs to bridges. Bruce Batting is Chairman and he will present a report on the work of the Committee later in the meeting.

Annual allotment holders meeting: Tracy Lander-Sims is the contact for issues regarding the allotments. . Skips have been provided twice per year. An annual pest control agreement has been in place to keep rat population at a minimum.

20 Planning meetings: Chairman - Bruce Batting.

Forty six applications were considered during the year and 5 objections were lodged by the Parish Council: (1) Objection to 02 mast at Wyevale Garden Centre (2) Objection to enclosure of communal courtyard at Wheelers Court resulting in loss of amenity for other residents in row of cottages and change to street scene (3) Objection to membrane parasols at White Hart Public (4) Objection to scrap yard on boundary of MOD land at Bramley Camp and (5) Objection to change of land use from agricultural to residential land at Church End.

7 Finance and General Purposes Committee: Chairman - Ivan Gosden. The Committee's remit includes reviewing recommendations from Village Green and Leisure Facilities Committees, managing the new Burial Ground, considering quotations and drafting the precept. Our precept has increased from £32,179 in 2007/8 to £39,146 in 2008/9. This is approximately a 22% increase, and is necessary to accommodate the increase in maintenance charges for open spaces plus the borrowing costs to purchase our new burial ground and a loan to the Village Hall of £8000 to help them through the crisis caused by the petrol leakage into the water pipes. However, with an increased parish population, the net result is an increase of £1.86 per annum for a band D property.

Having obtained from the District Valuer and independent valuation of an area of land adjoining St.Leonard's Churchyard, the Parish Council sought and obtained planning permission for a change of use from agricultural to a Burial Ground extension and purchased this land for £25,000. The purchase was financed by a 25 year loan from the Public Works Loan Board and the land will be used as the new Burial Ground as soon as the existing graveyard has been closed by the Privy Council.

The Parish Council was been in receipt of Section 106 money for open space/play equipment during the year, and these funds were put towards new surfacing between the very popular basketgoals, much-needed surfacing below the cableway and BMX track improvements.

7 Leisure Facilities Committee: Chairman - Sandy Johnston. The Committee discusses issues relating to play area, BMX track, tennis courts, football and cricket grounds/pavilions and allotments. The Committee meets approximately every two months.

In addition, to these meetings, Councillors attend Country Watch meetings to keep abreast of the Local Plan issue, regular meetings of the Chineham Incinerator Liaison Panel, Sherfield Park Community Association, Community Safety Forum, SPISE, CPRE and the Basingstoke District Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Thank you

We are most grateful to our local beat officer WPC Jewell, the Village Green Volunteers, the Friends of the Village Hall, our auditor David Hitchins, to Phil Cole, our Litter Warden, who does an excellent job at keeping our village clean and tidy and also to Geraldine House-Barklie, our Tree Warden who advises on tree work within the parish, particularly within the Conservation Area. Members of the WI continue to tend our planters along Reading Road for which we are grateful. Thanks, too, must go to our local contractors who we use on a regular basis; Barry and Roy Bulpitt, Mike Barnes, Ben Stoopman, Mark Stewart and Joe Bate.