

Chairman's Annual Report 2015

Councillors

Looking back on the last year there has been a lot going on in our Parish and your councillors have been busy representing your views, identifying the needs of the Parish and finding ways of resolving issues. Our team of councillors are committed to all they do on your behalf and willingly give a lot of time and are proactive to the needs of Sunningdale.

One of the team, David Lupton, resigned last summer on his move to the North and we thank him for his valuable contribution.

Ray Coogan was co-opted but stayed for a very short time as he found council was not for him.

With Parish Council elections in May there will be further change as there will certainly be vacancies and we are very keen that new people come forward. This is good for council to have a fresh approach and ideas and a willingness to serve our community. Could **you** be interested?

We aim - to make it an even better place for us all to live, to work and to enjoy.

Finance

We were able to keep the precept for 2014/15 virtually unchanged from last year: (£84,835 against £84,444.)

Apart from this we receive income from the cemetery, the allotments, hiring out the community room, the tennis courts, and sponsorship of Sunningdale in bloom and our Christmas event, and from grants from the Royal Borough and payments from developers under section 106.

We have set the precept for the next financial year commencing 1 April at £87,460. The small increase is primarily due to the fact that when the budget was set we anticipated that the police would not be renewing their lease on the room they were using in the pavilion. I am pleased to report that part of that shortfall is likely to be recovered as arrangements are in hand to licence the space to the Village Hall Trustees.

Our financial position is sound and we will continue to do our utmost to keep our costs down whilst maintaining the high standards you expect in the village.

Thank you to Robin Booth the Chairman of the Finance Committee, for his fiscal prudence and firm hold of the purse strings

Projects during the year –

A cycle shelter at Holy Trinity School was installed last summer, the school are delighted and it is certainly appreciated by the parents and children. It was funded by contributions from RBWM, the parish council and participatory budget – thank you to Christine and Sayonara.

Thank you to Mike Hanson for this great idea and seeing it through.

Our red telephone box in the Chobham Road is now a thriving community book exchange, with a great turnover of books and I am told the most used premises. The

shops keep an eye and our stalwart volunteers Sheila and Gordon Williams regularly tidy it up.

Recreation Ground

A second pergola was erected for the use of football players and others - very popular and well used.

A new refreshment and tennis cabin has been erected replacing the kiosk. This will give enhanced refreshment facilities offered by Monika with facilities for tennis players and their families. Both funded by S106 contributions.

The rec. seems to become more and more popular with the vast choice of equipment to play on together with the refreshment facilities in such a fantastic setting.

Thank you to Nick Dawson, Chair of Recreation for all he does.

The Heathermount boys continue to help Graeme on their work experience and it is great to have them with us and see them develop and grow in confidence.

The Head Teacher of Heathermount, who cannot be with us this evening, is really keen for Heathermount to be an active part of the local community.

Planning

Takes up a significant portion of council's time where we scrutinise all planning applications. We listen to comments from applicants and neighbours and make judgements according to Neighbourhood Plan policies and saved Local Plan policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been a statutory document for a year now and its policies are the first point of reference for all planning applications.

We attend and speak at Development Control Panels and at planning appeals.

Trust we have done a good job in representing your interests.

Thank you to Ian White who heads up planning and for all the preparation and work he does and to other councillors who help Ian with detailed work.

Medical Centre

We along with so many in our community were disappointed that the planning application for a new medical centre at BEN Lynwood was rejected at Development Control Panel last July. The application failed to satisfy Green Belt policy and the Neighbourhood Plan policy. Very Special Circumstances must be demonstrated how, by building, the benefits delivered to the community clearly outweigh any harm caused and that this facility could not be provided in any other location.

Over the last months the Parish Council have been actively engaged with the Borough, the doctors, BEN Lynwood and NHS England in close liaison with the Patients Forum of Magnolia House, to enable a fresh planning application that meets the criteria for a successful outcome.

There have been many delays and frustrations, but at last the doctors are using the services of a Planning Consultant in preparation for a fresh application.

We have your e-mails and we will let you know when the new application is received so that you have the chance to comment.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for a much needed new medical centre – We must seize the opportunity.

DERA

We continue to keep a watching brief on the proposed DERA development and the impact it can have on our village. This includes monitoring the movement of heavy lorries down the Chobham Road.

Lilly Evans has taken this on board and Lilly we thank you for your investigative work.

Heathrow Flight Paths

Again we are keeping a watching brief on any further flight path trials and procedural changes over our area.

Parking in RBWM car park

The new parking arrangements in the London Road car park, after initial teething problems, are working well, with an increase to the available short term parking while maintaining enough long term parking for our businesses – very important for the retail life of our village.

Changing Face of the Village Shops

The Old Pound House will become Home Entertainments.

The Wonderful World of Golf has closed and we await a new owner.

Corals have closed and we await a new owner.

Rumours have been circulating that Waitrose will close – this is not so and Waitrose is here in Sunningdale for the long term.

New businesses welcomed by our present traders for the vitality of the village.

Community Events

Circus Normandie - This traditional family circus by popular demand will be returning this year from 15 to 17 May.

Flower Festival Holy Trinity – 31 May.

Magna Carta celebrations (river relay) on 13 – 14 June

BEN Vintage and Classic Vehicle Rally and Lynwood Fete – Saturday 4 July

The Carnival – Sunday 13 September

Christmas Celebration - a new committee of councillors ran last year's very successful event and we thank Cllrs Hanson, Buxton, Nash and Dawson for providing such a fantastic community event. This year's event tbc.

Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers for caring about our village and doing your bit.

The Adopt a Street Teams –

Special thanks to Rosemarie Nash and neighbours for their weekly litter picking and for arranging a community litter pick recently.

The attractive flower beds – **looking for new volunteers**

Delivering the Newsletter.

Our wonderful new website.

We have many helpers in different ways and we thank you for the support you give.

Our Staff

We have a great team in Anne and Graeme