



The Annual Report of the West Wycombe Parish Council 2006/7

This publication is based upon the report given by Cllr. Mrs J Smith, Chairman of the West Wycombe Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 12th 2007, further reports from West Wycombe Community Association, The National Trust, West Wycombe Combined School, West Wycombe Library Action Group and The Parochial Church Council can be found at our website www.westwycombe.org.uk

Devolved Powers

This last year we have been waiting to see what benefit the Local Government White Paper would mean for Parish Councils. The one thing that seems to be emerging is that Parish Councils will be able to take over some of the jobs that the County Councils do for us at present.

We have had talks with Bucks County Council and because we are a Quality Parish Council we are able and very much want, to do jobs such as clearing gullies, grips and drains when we have flooding problems rather than wait for the County Council to do it for us. At present they only do these particular types of jobs once a year. That, often, is not enough in this Parish.

We will be given a set amount of money per year to facilitate this programme which will obviously be strictly audited. We have talked to our neighbours Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council and a partnership to share jobs with them, to reduce costs is being processed.

Annual Report Accolade

The 2006 edition of this publication won the award for the Best Parish Report in Buckinghamshire.

Burial Ground

We continue to maintain the Burial Ground and have plans to improve the car park and paths because of new burial ground laws regarding health and safety for walking surfaces. Some of the trees have had to be replaced this year.

School Children's Safety

We continue to fund Mrs. Palmer the school crossing patrol lady based near the Garden Centre and we organised and part funded the new footpath leading to the school.

New Street Lights

One of our biggest projects this year has been the new street lights on Bradenham Road and the High Street in the Village. We worked very closely with Jacobs Babbie, BCC contractors, to make sure the lighting was sympathetic to our surroundings, choosing the lamps in the High Street for instance.

We have wanted these new lighting schemes for some years but it took much negotiation on our part to get a large portion of the cost of the High Street lighting paid for by BCC and WDC. We are indeed very grateful to both these authorities for their contributions. The Bradenham Road lighting we alone paid for.

Christmas Lights

One important element of the whole lighting plan was to install safe permanent sites for two Christmas trees and their Christmas lights.

We were racing against time in the end but we did manage to achieve our aim to have both trees, supplied by Sir Edward Dashwood, lit for Christmas.

The Christmas lights caused a great deal of discussion amongst our residents, some people hated the blue ones but most people liked them and we still have enquiries from people who travel through West Wycombe asking where we purchased them.

Pollution Monitoring

Because we have always been concerned about the pollution in the Parish, especially in the High Street, Wycombe District Council has placed a pollution monitor in the Village Hall car park which, over the next three years, will record the levels of pollution and if it is as high as we think it is, we may be able to use this information to help us with traffic management in the future.

Emergency Contingency Plan

Last year we mentioned that we had to put together an Emergency Contingency Plan. We did do some initial work on this but our Clerk has put in an enormous amount of time and effort to get our plan ready and accepted by WDC. Very few other Parish Councils have managed to do this.

Jane Temple

On behalf of the Parish, Cllr Mrs Smith presented Jane Temple with a cut glass vase as a thank-you for her excellent work as the Village Librarian.

Public Transport

Over the last four years we have consulted with the BCC travel team to keep a bus service through our parish especially on the Bradenham and Chorley Roads.

We have had many meetings over the years some hosted by ourselves and eventually The Rider on Call Service started. This scheme was originally funded by the Government but the money ran out after two years and BCC have been funding it for the last year.

This service has now come to an end but we have managed to settle on another scheme which started on the 16th of April. We have also been involved in the Stokenchurch/Marlow Access Forum which looks at accessing all sorts of services including shops, schools, hospitals, GP surgeries and Post Offices

Networking

We belong to other organisations and regularly attend their meetings. They are The Wycombe District Association of Local Councils and the Bucks Association of Local Councils.

Cllr. Mrs Smith is on the Executive Committee of the Bucks Association and also on the WDC Standards Committee as a Parish Council representative.

We always attend the Local Area Forums run by BCC and the Rural Forum organised by WDC. This keeps us in touch with other councils and new ideas and we are able to pick up valuable information that can help us run the Council efficiently.

Training / Planning

We attend training sessions to keep ourselves up to date with all the new legislation and changes to things like planning.

For instance, by July all planning applications will have to be submitted by email and then passed on to Parish Councils by email. Anyone can go into the planning portal at wycombe.gov.uk and look at plans but of course not everyone has a computer!

Parish Councils will have to comment by email. We will have to print off the plans by investing in an A3 printer and/or projector and screen, if necessary, to look at plans and to show the public as we do now.

Up to now all plans have been paper; easy enough to read and they are posted out to us. But this is progress! Or is it?

The District Councils have been told that they have to change to this way of doing things but most Parish Councils think that it will cost the Parishes more money and paper instead.

more Planning

We spend a good deal of our time deliberating over planning applications and although it feels sometimes that our concerns are not always listened to, overall they are. Local knowledge counts for a great deal.

We knew for instance when the very first plans came in 9 years ago for the proposed new houses at Copperfields they would cause awful problems not only for the present residents but also because lots more traffic would be coming out on to West Wycombe Road.

We objected strongly then, even managing to get the plans turned down but unfortunately the builders won their appeal and most of the things we worried about then have come to fruition.

We always knew homes would be built on this site but hoped for a scheme that fitted into the environment a little easier. This particular planning application has taken much of our time over the years.

Neighbourhood Watch

Early last year we had a presentation by the Neighbourhood Watch Association and through this schemes have been set up in Park Farm Road, Chorley Road, Bradenham Road, Beechwood Road, the Village and the Pedestal end of the West Wycombe Road including Cookshall Lane.

National Trust

We would like to thank Nick Phillips for his continuing support of this Parish Council and being part of our team. Mr Phillips is the National Trust's Property Manager for West Wycombe and it helps us to have him come to our meetings to answer any questions relating to the Village and the surrounding countryside.

Highways On Call

Need a hole filling in the road, street light not working, road sign broken, tree or hedge over-hanging the pavement?

Telephone Highways On Call on
0845-230 2882

or you can log-on to the website and report your problem online at:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/hoc



History

It is twenty years since this West Wycombe Parish Council was first formed. There was a Parish Council here some 55 years before then, but it fell by the

wayside in the 1930's.

A referendum was held in the 1980's to see if people wanted to be represented at local level by a Parish Council and we hope that we have fulfilled the expectations of the residents of West Wycombe since then.

All the Councillors during this time have worked hard to try and make life in West Wycombe Parish as comfortable and safe as we possibly could.

Cllr. Mrs Smith is the only founder

member of that original Parish Council still serving. She admits that it has been a steep learning curve at times but always worthwhile and interesting and never dull! She has been the Chairman of West Wycombe Parish Council for the past 18 years and considers it to be a privilege.

Parish Councils work best as a non political group of people and we have always worked well as team. We don't always agree with one another but we do respect the other person's point of view and are ready to listen.

A big thank-you must go to all the Councillors for their interest and dedication to the Parish Council. They are all unpaid and put a lot of time and effort in to ensure West Wycombe residents get the best service possible



20th Anniversary

Cllr Jean Teesdale, Chairman of Wycombe District Council presenting our own Chairman, Cllr Mrs Smith with a bouquet to celebrate Mrs Smith's twenty years as a Parish Councillor of which 18 years have been spent as the Chairman of West Wycombe Parish Council.

Library

Once, we thought we were going to lose our Library but now, thanks to the West Wycombe Library Trust and



Thank You

We are grateful to Jean Teesdale and Ian McEnnis our District Councillors for attending our meetings and representing us at WDC when we have issues with planning applications. Although Frank Downes is a West Wycombe Parish Councillor he is also our County Council representative and he works hard to keep us up to date with all BCC news and initiatives.

We would also like to thank the regular members of the public who turn up to our monthly meetings without fail, in all weathers. We really do appreciate your support.

We have said before that we try and keep an eye on everything in the Parish but we can only react to situations if we know about them.

Unfortunately we cannot be everywhere so we rely on you, our residents, to be our eyes and ears and to tell us when things are not quite right. We may not always be able to help but we often know someone who can.



Website

Our website at westwycombe.org.uk continues to grow and flourish. As well as reading all the minutes of our meetings you can also keep up to speed on who's planning to build what in the Parish and our Directories are full of useful local contacts.

You can also email our webmaster with details of your business, organisation, or local activities for inclusion.



Bucks CC we have not one, but two libraries. Please everyone, try to support both of these community facilities.



Three Chairman and One Clerk

Cllr Mrs Smith (centre) Chairman of WWPC pictured here with Cllr Tom Nixey (left) Chairman of Hambleton Parish Council and Cllr Simon Digby Chairman of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council seen here with the Clerk they all share, Sharon Henson discussing Devolved Powers.

The Financial Report

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st March 2006

Receipts	Year Ended 31.3.2007	Year Ended 31.3.2006
Opening balance	12902.93	6639.98
Precept	32000.00	27000.00
Interest	474.86	291.71
HM Customs	4093.83	2493.32
Burials	650.00	300.00
Southern Elect (clock)	0.00	220.00
BCC Community Fund	0.00	170.00
WDC Community Fund	0.00	250.00
WDC Grant for Parish Plan	0.00	300.00
Donations for clock repair	0.00	199.50
Income towards tel line	276.29	180.70
Prize for Annual Report	200.00	0.00
WDC refund—air quality elec	347.98	0.00
Cheque adjustment	0.00	0.30
Total income	51125.89	38045.51
Payments		
Administration	10215.02	8785.88
S137 payments	2254.17	350.64
Operational costs:		
Street lighting	15628.39	5563.29
Contribution to High St Lights	5000.00	0.00
Burial ground	4640.84	4850.52
School crossing	1548.72	1548.72
Training	20.00	72.38
School Footway (Misc)	3000.00	0.00
Towerage Lane Grips	300.00	0.00
Tree Works (Misc)	540.00	0.00
Subs/misc	332.44	1311.67
VAT on purchases	4093.83	2493.32
Capital	0.00	166.16
Total Expenditure	47573.41	25142.58

Cumulative Balance

Opening Balance	12902.93	6639.98
Income	38222.96	31405.53
	51125.89	38045.51
Expenditure	47573.41	25142.58
Balance	3552.48	12902.93
Bank Reconciliation as at 31.3.2007		
Balances:		
Barclays Community Account		882.67
Business Premium Account		128.64
Bank of Ireland Account	10589.92	
Less Cheque No: 028	8048.75	2541.17
Total		3552.48

Balance agrees with receipts and payments account.

Report from the Responsible Financial Officer Year ended March 2007

We contributed £5000 to BCC for the new lighting scheme in the High Street, West Wycombe and a further £3000 for the footway from the school; we paid £12407.76 for the new lights for the remainder of the Bradenham Road; we paid a total of £2000 for the purchase of Christmas tree lights, creating two permanent base fixings with covers, waterproof sockets and the hire of the cherry picker; the internal and external audits cost £300; Insurance increased by £30 to £796.84; we have our own telephone line for which we received refunding from Hambleden and Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Councils; salt for the salt bin; tree works to create visibility of the High Street lighting; we cleared existing and created new grips in Towerage Lane to stop the flooding occurring near the Cricket Meadow; we paid £300 for the Annual Report but won £200 to set against this; we made a donation to West Wycombe Brass Band and also one to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and paid the Community Association £200 to allow us to use their waste bin for our Burial Ground rubbish; we have replaced some of the trees in the burial ground and made an easier pedestrian access. We have also received a refund on electricity used for the Air Quality Monitoring unit from Wycombe District Council and a refund from Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council for the use of our office equipment.

The Section 137 figure includes all the preparatory work for the Christmas trees as well as the purchase of the lights and electricity consumed. Section 137 also includes the refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting and a contribution to the Old People's Party Fund.

Your Councillors for 2007/2008

For Local Authorities May is the beginning of the year and as you all know there were elections this year. Our existing seven Councillors stood for re-election and as there were no other candidates they were all re-elected unopposed. At District Level our District Councillors were also re-elected. This means that there are no changes to our Parish Councillors or District Councillors for the coming year we will continue to be represented by the following people:

Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, 2 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AE
Tel: 01494 532239 email: chairman@westwycombe.org.uk

Cllr. Roger Seymour, 78 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR
Tel: 01494 439081 (no email address at the moment)

Cllr. Frank Downes, High Barn, Flint Hall Farm, West Wycombe, HP14 4ES
Tel: 01494 440860 email: frankdownes@westwycombe.org.uk

Cllr Mrs Carole Dakin, 18 Copperfields, West Wycombe Road, HP12 4AN
Tel: 01494 437670 email: caroledakin@westwycombe.org.uk

Cllr Danny Callaghan, 33 Bradenham Road, West Wycombe, HP14 4EY
Tel: 01494 562346 email: danny@westwycombe.org.uk

Cllr Mrs Ailsa Harris, 482 West Wycombe Road, HP12 4AH.
Tel: 01494 448234 email: ailsaharris@westwycombe.org.uk

Cllr Neil Timberlake, 8 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU.
Tel: 01494 459004 email: neiltimberlake@westwycombe.org.uk

District Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks
Tel: 01494 483298 email: jean_teesdale@wycombe.gov.uk

District Cllr Mr Ian McEnnis, 49 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BN
Tel: 01494 462834 email: ian_mcennis@wycombe.gov.uk

County Cllr Mr Frank. Downes – as above

Clerk: Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 448048 email: clerk@westwycombe.org.uk