



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2005

The past year has been very busy for the Parish Council, there honestly is never a dull moment!

We were very pleased when at last the Pelican crossing on West Wycombe Road was installed. Looking back in the records the idea of the crossing was first turned down about 10 years ago, so it gives us much pleasure to see the children crossing there to get to school buses as well as everyone else that uses it.

By working closely with Bucks County Council Highways dept, and receiving partial funding, on some of the costs of this and other projects, we have managed to achieve our goals in getting, what we see as necessary work, done in the Parish. Many of the issues we deal with as a Parish Council are Highways related, but sadly because of our geographical position we are limited with what we can achieve or change. We will continue to do our best in maintaining and improving the quality of our resident's environment.

We are currently battling with the Government and the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA), backed by Bucks County Council (BCC) and Wycombe District Council (WDC) to have them recognise the effect of increased traffic on the A4010 caused by expansion of housing in Aylesbury and the Stoke Mandeville hospital proposals.

We have added more lights in Chorley Road and Bradenham Road this year. We currently have 44 lights that are either new or we have replaced. The residents of these roads asked for this work to be done and have said how pleased they are with the results. We plan to sort out and add new lights on the rest of Bradenham Road in our budget for next year.

We are in negotiations with Bucks County Council, Wycombe District Council and Babbie to improve the lights in West Wycombe High Street, and we are offering some funding towards this project, albeit quite small in relation to the overall cost, which could exceed £80,000. Obviously, the National Trust will be consulted on the planning and the design of the lamps etc. in this historic and sensitive area.

"Reg's Island," named after Mr Reg Hickman of Church Lane, who came up with the idea, has been made a permanent traffic calming measure at the top

of Church Lane, as residents felt that the trial had definitely acted as a deterrent to traffic in both volume and speed.

Beechwood Road residents asked if we would put a grit bin at the end of their road and they also asked the Parish Council to sort out cars that parked there during the day, which meant that the road was blocked, and for some weeks the refuse lorry could not gain access.

These may seem like small things to some, but can make a difference to people's quality of life.

We are awaiting the results of Bucks County Council speed review, and have been told that the consultation period for the "No right turn" at Chapel Lane is nearing its end, so hopefully there will be better signage on West Wycombe Road about this junction soon.

There has been a problem with emergency vehicles not been able to find their way to residents in West Wycombe Hill Road, (by the Caves) as it is now called. We carried out a survey of the people who live there and they would prefer it be changed back to Church Lane, so we have been working with Wycombe District Council to change the name and to line it up with the postcode, and to make sure all the relevant bodies know about it. We should see the final results of this work during the coming year.

We are one of a very few Parish Councils who have met there statutory obligation to provide a burial ground if land is available and the churchyard is closed. We spend a lot of money keeping the Burial Ground maintained, because we know how important it is to people who have loved ones there.

We have worked with the conservation dept of Wycombe District Council who are writing a Conservation Area Character Study of West Wycombe. This is a very important document as it will become supplementary planning guidance for planning applications.

Most of the every day work of the Parish Council is reporting things that need to be repaired, cut back or removed, and I have to say the powers that be mostly react quite quickly when we call.

To support our community we paid for The Church Room Roof to be repaired and gave a large donation to West Wycombe Cricket Club for the construction of practice nets.

We have to give our comments on planning applications to Wycombe District Council, and we have continued to support the residents of Copperfields by opposing the proposed development of 45 units.

The Parish Council have worked with our residents, The National Trust and the police to combat the anti-social behaviour, which was very unpleasant at times this year.

At last years Annual Parish Meeting we launched The Parish Plan, and the committee, under Cllr Danny Callaghan's Chairmanship has produced an excellent questionnaire, which has gone to every house, business and the School in the Parish, and we await the findings.

The Parish Council were dismayed when two of the bus services serving West Wycombe were taken off this year. We are poorly served by buses in West Wycombe and are very pleased that Bucks County Council are funding the Rider On Call bus through our Parish as well as Bledlow-cum-Saunderton and Bradenham, and we have been to every meeting about Rider on Call to make sure that our residents are represented in the decisions made about this important and valuable service.

There have been lots of changes in Parish Council rules and regulations over the last few years, and our clerk and we councillors regularly attend training events, to keep ourselves up to date. These have been arranged by The Wycombe District Association of Local Councils, and also the Bucks Association of Local Councils. We are members of both these associations. Some of the topics this year have included planning, law, Quality Parish Councils, procedures and the Code of Conduct.

I am on the Executive Committee at the Bucks Association, and also on Wycombe District Council's Standards Committee as a Parish Council representative.

Sharon, our clerk, also belongs to The Society of Local Council Clerks. Cllr Frank Downes is on the governing body of West Wycombe School, and Cllr Carole Dakin is our representative on the Community Association. We regularly attend BCC Area Committee meetings and have found all these are a very useful way of learning, but also networking with other councils and exchanging views and ideas.

The Parish Council is regularly consulted on documents from Government, SEERA, WDC, BCC and Thames Valley Police. These can take up a lot of time, and at times we do wonder if anyone ever reads them!

To help keep our residents in touch and up to date we have five notice boards plus one in the Burial Ground and report on a monthly basis in Contact.

At our Annual Parish Meeting on May 5th 2005 we launched our own West Wycombe Parish Council website. The website address is:

www.westwycombe.org.uk

Our thanks to Mike Henson for creating such a great website. A website for everyone in West Wycombe to be proud of.

Because it is for everyone in the Parish to use for advertising their business, their activities, coffee mornings, art shows, walks, plays, any thing that is happening in the Parish of West Wycombe. We want your comments and your ideas to make this an up to the minute reflection of West Wycombe, so that when people log on to it they can find out everything they need to know about West Wycombe.

The other piece of news is that we are planning to apply to become A Quality Parish Council very soon.

If we get the status it means that there could be some extra funding, but most of all it means we are recognised as running a good and efficient Parish Council. It is a mark of excellence, and we believe this community deserves the best.

As our Annual Parish Meeting is on Election Day this year, you might like to know that West Wycombe Parish Council is completely non political. Parish Council and District Council elections will take place in 2007.

I have some people to thank for helping us through this last year with their active support.

PC Dave West, our Area Beat Officer was instrumental in helping reduce the anti-social behaviour.

As was Nick Phillips the National Trust Property Manager for West Wycombe.

Nick is a very useful addition to our team, being that we are surrounded with National Trust property and Land. We have much enjoyed his being with us. I should like to thank Jean Teesdale and Ann Snelling, our District Councillors, for attending our meetings and taking back our views to WDC.

Next I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support, and all the time and effort (and humour) they put into the Parish Council, it is a huge commitment and they all do it very willingly.

Parish Councillors are not paid.

A good parish council is known by how good their clerk is, and Sharon is certainly one of the best in this County.

She gained her AQA, a qualification in Local Council Administration this year, which was not an easy thing to do and because of this we can go forward with our application to become a Quality Council.

Nothing is too much trouble for her, her knowledge is incredible, and she is worth her weight in gold.

When she had to tot up our assets recently, I told her she should put herself at the top of the list!

My thanks too, to you the members of the public, who come regularly to our monthly Parish Council meetings, keep us on our toes, and support us in making this Parish a good and pleasant and safe place to live.

Vicki Smith,

Chairman of West Wycombe Parish Council.

YOUR COUNCILLORS FOR 2005/2006

For Local Authorities May is the beginning of their year and as you all know there are elections this year – this time it is for County Councillors and Members of Parliament. This means that there are no changes to our Parish Councillors or District Councillors. For the coming year we will 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 Mike Gerrard, 42 Church Lane, West Wycombe, HP14 3AH

Tel: 01494 449732 email: mikegerrard@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

District Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks, HP14 6DJ

Tel: 01494 483298 email: NTeesdale@aol.com

District Cllr Mrs Ann Snelling, 29 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, HP13 7NL

Tel: 01494 442278 email: annsnelling@aol.com

County Cllr Mr Frank. Downes – as above

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer:

Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU

Tel: 01494 448048 email: clerk@westwycombe.org.uk

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.westwycombe.org.uk

Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31st March 2005

Receipts	Year Ended 31.3.2005	Year ended 31.3.2004
Opening balance	25173.24	13100.16
Precept _	25000.00	24000.00
Interest	834.31	590.49
HM Customs	4050.50	921.80
Burials	760.00	595.00
AQA Refund	----	30.00
Bucks County Council	7000.00	----
Filming – Foyles War	150.00	----
Total income	62968.05	26137.29
Payments		
Administration	5358.23	5522.18
S137 payments	1570.84	50.00
Operational costs:		
Street lighting	19730.95	1713.79
Burial ground	3244.58	3743.98
School crossing	1548.72	1548.72
Training	20.00	198.12
Pelican crossing	20000.00	----
Notice board maint	---	100.00
Subs/misc	804.25	265.62
VAT on purchases	4050.50	921.80
Total Expenditure	56328.07	14064.21
Cumulative Fund		
Opening Balance	25173.24	13100.16
Income	37794.81	26137.29
	62968.05	39237.45
Expenditure	56328.07	14064.21
Balance	6639.98	25173.24

Chairman
Officer
13th April 2005

Responsible Financial
13th April 2005

Report from the Responsible Financial Officer for the Year ended March 2005

We started the year with a high balance as we had the money reserved to pay for the Pelican Crossing in the West Wycombe Road.

Our income from the burial ground is, for obvious reasons, going to be variable, and at no time will the burial ground ever pay for itself on an annual basis. We therefore asked the film company making Foyles War for a contribution for using the burial ground car park. We pay a subscription to the Confederation of Burial Authorities and have recently had to purchase special ledger for the register of memorials.

We set a Precept of £25,000. This had an allowance for the youth shelter, however, as we were unable to find a suitable site and members of the community did not show any real interest in the idea, we used the money on another project. We had, over the years had requests for continuous lighting in Chorley Road as many people walk into the village, we therefore decided to use the youth shelter money and a contribution of £6000 from Bucks County Council Highways Department and £1000 from the County Councillors Leaders Fund to pay for this project. We earned a good amount of interest until we paid £20,000 towards the crossing in July. We paid £355 for a salt bin at the bottom of Beechwood Road. We also have to pay auditors fees and nearly £700 for insurance.

We gave the Parochial Church Council £1000 to pay for the repair of The Church Room Roof under Section 137, Class 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 and £500 to West Wycombe Cricket Club for the construction of practice nets. We still pay £1548 per year for the school crossing patrol by Plant & Harvest. We had to pay for several repairs to our notice boards for damage caused by vandalism.

For the coming year we Precepted for £27,000. We will be meeting the requests of Bradenham Road residents with the start of a lighting project. The Wycombe side of the bridge has already had three extra lights installed in April at a cost of £3551 and the other side of the bridge, which will be a much bigger project, will be tackled in the next financial year. We will also be making a contribution of £5000 towards the replacement lights in the High Street. We plan to repair the bus shelter in Bradenham Road. We expect our total lighting bill to be in the region of £12,000 and our Burial Ground grass cutting and maintenance in the region of £5000. This figure is quite high as we have to start building up a fund to have the car park resurfaced and we have had a small oak gate put into the hedge between the car park and the burials area as mourners and the gravedigger were continually breaking the hedge by walking through it. We have also had a pair of gates erected at the entrance to the car park in an attempt to stop unauthorised parking which has caused the heavy wear on the car park surface. The surface specified by the planning authority was based on occasional usage only.



PC 1115 West

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dave.west@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Date 26th April 2005

Report for the West Wycombe Annual Parish Meeting

When I began working on the Marlow Sector at the end of December 2004, the West Wycombe Area had been without its own Beat Manager for some six months.

Since I have started work in the West Wycombe area the crime levels have reduced. Between April 2004 and March 2005 there has been a 33.3% reduction in burglary of homes and a 58.8% reduction in auto crime.

Incidents of an anti-social nature have also reduced. Following high visibility patrols and an operation dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour, which was run at the beginning of March, the amount of incidents reported to both the Police and Wycombe District Council have significantly reduced.

I am aware that there are still a few issues regarding anti-social behaviour in the area and I urge all residents to report any incident no matter how small to me. This will enable me to create an accurate record of what is happening and when it is happening enabling me to deal with any problem promptly.

If anyone has any issues they wish to speak to me about then I can be contacted at Marlow Police Station. Phone number and e-mail address at the top of the page.

Many thanks

Dave West
PC 1115 West