



West Wycombe Parish

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11



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 28th April 2011. Further reports from West Wycombe Community Association, The National Trust, West Wycombe Combined School, West Wycombe Community Library and The Parochial Church Council can be found on our website.

www.westwycombe.org.uk

QUALITY  COUNCIL

When we carried out a parish survey a few years ago there were two things that our residents thought would make a real difference to our Parish.

A children's playground and allotments.

We are pleased to say that over the past two years we have accomplished both these aims. However, this meant, that after consulting everyone in the parish, we have had to increase our precept (this is the money we receive from your council tax to run the Parish Council), we feel sure that we give good value for your money.

Playing Field

We opened our playground with a Fete on September the 11th 2010 in the Pedestal Playing Field at the junction with Bradenham Road and Cookshall Lane.

Planning the playground took a great deal of time. After consulting with the West Wycombe Baby & Toddler Group, Pre School and Combined School with the suggested ideas, and saving towards it for some years, we were able to place an order and have the equipment installed in time for the summer holidays.

Eventually there will be much more in the way of play equipment as it is a three phase project and it's very costly, but with careful planning we can get to stage two within the next year.

We have to check the playground equipment regularly, carry out risk assessments and insure it, but it's very pleasing to see children of all ages enjoying the facility.

Allotments

We have now developed 26 full and half size plots.

The allotments are in their second full season and most of the allotment holders work hard on their plots and are enjoying the fruits of their labours.

We plan to have an allotment competition at the Fete this year.

Quality Status

We regained our Parish Council Quality Status during the year.

The Quality Status awarded to a Parish Council lasts for four years. After that period you have to re-apply and go through rigorous tests to prove that you run the Parish Council in the correct way to deserve the honour again.

Very few parish councils in the High Wycombe area have Quality Status.

Fete

There hadn't been a Fete in West Wycombe for many years so we decided that, as we lease the Pedestal Playing Field from the West Wycombe Estate, we should use it to promote the new playground and also try and get our community together so that they can appreciate the benefit the area is to our Parish.

It was a huge success with the stalls making money for their causes and donating half of their takings to the playground fund.

There was a lovely atmosphere and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves as well as the rivalry between the opposing tug o war teams!

We were lucky not only with the weather but that Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown, The Chairman of Wycombe District Council, opened the Fete for us.

He had been to our Parish Council meeting a couple of days earlier and was impressed by the amount of hard work we put into running the Parish and also organising the Fete.

He offered to open the Fete for us and stayed for a good few hours, talking to the stall holders and performers.

Street Lighting

We have just had three new lights placed in Church Lane, the road leading up to the school. This was a particularly dark area on winter mornings and evenings especially for the children going to and from school.

The lights don't look out of place in this attractive spot with the beams shining through the leaves of the trees at this time of the year.

We contributed £4000 and obtained further funds to help with the cost of the lights through The Local Area Forum, a group run by BCC to look at local issues, which we attend regularly. We persuaded them to let us have period lamps to match the ones in the High Street, on the triangle and Chorley Road.

Whilst other councils are turning off street lights we feel it important to keep our residents safe. We have looked into low energy bulbs and timers etc but they are prohibitively expensive.

Re-Cycling Area

The Parish Council and West Wycombe Estate paid to have bases created for the glass recycling area - everyone can now visit there without standing in mud!

**This years Fete will take place on
Saturday 10th September**

Road Safety / Parking

We have noticed that many parents insist on parking in the High Street when picking up or taking their children to West Wycombe School. This reduces the amount of parking for both residents and for local businesses.

The Garden Centre generously allows parents to use their car park and Bucks County Council provide a school crossing patroller to cross them over the road towards the school.

Whilst we are pleased with parents that use the Garden Centre car park we are concerned about the lack of consideration shown - potential customers must be able to park closer to the buildings and parents should be parking further into the area and also leaving big enough space for the delivery and recycling lorries.

Many schools would love to have the facilities we have here but unfortunately we feel the parents don't appreciate this making the High Street and the Garden Centre Car Park quite dangerous at times.

You can find out about local planning applications by visiting our website at www.westwycombe.org.uk

Speeding

We have had discussions with Bucks County Council concerning the speed of traffic on our roads and the two serious accidents that happened entering the Village from Piddington / A40.

We put in a bid, through our Local Area Forum, for a vehicle activated speed sign (VAS) for this area and are pleased to say our bid was successful. The sign should be in place very soon. These jobs always take much longer than we would like to come to fruition.

We are negotiating with Chiltern Rail to put VAS signs either side of the Bradenham Road railway bridge to make motorists more aware of their speed when travelling through the Parish.

Public Transport

We have done our best to ensure we have buses serving our community. Perhaps not as many as we or you would like but with other villages having no buses at all we feel lucky to have retained the ones we have.

Cllr Neil Timberlake has a particular interest in public transport and keeps us abreast on all changes to bus companies and timetables in our area and also produced an excellent report on traffic issues affecting our Parish for consideration by Bucks County Council.

Training

We work closely with Bucks County Council and Wycombe District Council and attend meetings at both these council offices plus other venues to make sure any new initiatives or services are available for our parish.

Training is essential with all the proposed new changes that are coming from central government at this time and our councillors and clerk attend training sessions throughout the year.

We respond to numerous consultations from all tiers of government.

Planning

We take every planning application in our Parish seriously and give our views to WDC and follow through when we can see that plans have not been strictly adhered to.

Any new planning application that is applicable to our Parish is uploaded to our website every Monday.

Elections

On May 5th this year all parish and district councillors stood for re-election. There being no other candidates meant that as a Parish we did not have to have an election.

We hope this means people think we are doing a good job and are happy for us to carry on!

Affiliated Groups

The Parish Council is a member of the Wycombe Association of Local Councils and the Bucks Association of Local Councils where we meet with councillors and representatives from all over Buckinghamshire to exchange views, ideas and policy.

We attend Local Area Forums along with other Parish Councils in our group namely Stokenchurch, Lane End and Piddington & Wheeler End.

We also attend the Rural Forum meetings at WDC to keep up with news from the rural and farming community.

The Chairman sits on the Wycombe District Council Standards Committee and is also an Executive member of the Bucks Association of Local Councils and a member of our local Neighbourhood Action Group; a police led group consisting of representatives from other local community groups.

We make sure West Wycombe is always represented at every event put on by local authorities.

Don't fetch the local news,
have it delivered direct to your
computer.

www.westwycombe.org.uk/rss.html

Our Thanks...

go to our District Councillors **Jean Teesdale** and **Ian McEnnis**. They are a great support and keep us abreast of news from WDC.

Frank Downes is not only one of our Parish Councillors but is our County Councillor too. He is a cabinet member at BCC and keeps us informed of BCC news.

Roger Seymour for his work on the Burial Ground, Allotments and Pedestal Play Area,

Carole Dakin for maintaining links with West Wycombe School,

Danny Callaghan for his hard work on the Fete and all matters to do with community cohesion,

Neil Harris for his advice on all matters connected with trees and maintaining good communications with the National Trust.

Neil Timberlake for his advice on all matters connected with public transport, bus companies, timetable changes, roads and traffic management.

All your Parish Councillors bring their personal expertise and experience to serve the community and deserve your thanks.

Parish councillors do not get paid and put in many hours of their time on your behalf.

Huge thanks to Sharon Henson, our Clerk, who works part time for the Council.

We all acknowledge that it would be difficult to run the council without Sharon's hard work and dedication. Well beyond the call of duty at times.

Our thanks too, to the members of public who come to our Parish Council meetings each month. We very much appreciate their presence and support.

WDC Chairman's Awards

It would seem that Sharon's diligence and hard work has not gone un-noticed at Wycombe District Council.

On May 18th Sharon was one of twelve people chosen from across the whole district by the Chairman of Wycombe District Council, Cllr. Bill Bendyshe-Brown, to receive his Meritorious Award in recognition of her outstanding service to the community through West Wycombe, Piddington & Wheeler End and Hambleden Parish Councils.

**West Wycombe Fete
10th September 2011**

25 Years and Counting

On a personal note, the Parish Council was formed 24 years ago. We started our 25th year in May.

I am the only founder member still serving on the Council. 22 years ago I became Chairman and recently I was awarded a Long Service Certificate by the Wycombe District Association of Local Councils and have been given the honour of representing West Wycombe Parish Council at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party later this summer.

This invitation was as a result of a nomination by the Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils. It has been a huge privilege and honour to represent West Wycombe at meetings and events.

Over the years I have seen the council grow into the success it is today and that is completely down to the hard work put in by Councillors and Clerk whose unfailing commitment and good sense of humour make meetings so much easier and productive!

Your Parish Council has achieved much over the past few years because we work well as a team and respect each other's views and ideas. We don't always agree with one another but that leads to good debate.

Vicki Smith

Parish Council Meetings

We have a small number of people who attend our meetings but we would welcome more.

Although you can't participate in the meeting we do put aside a small amount of time for anyone who wishes to address the council on a subject which appears on the agenda. To raise matters that are not on the agenda please contact the Clerk or any councillor. Full details are provided on the inside back cover and on our website at www.westwycombe.org.uk

Agendas are published on the website at least three clear days before the meeting and minutes appear after the meeting following approval. The agenda can also be found on our notice boards throughout the parish.

The meetings dates for the remainder of the year are as follows.

July 21st
September 8th
October 13th
November 10th
December 8th

Maybe if you come along to a couple of meetings it might stimulate your interest sufficiently for you to want to participate.

None of us are getting any younger, new, young blood will be welcomed.

Receipts and Payments

Year Ending 31st March 2011

RECEIPTS - year ending	31.3.2010	31.3.2011
Precept	30,000.00	30,000.00
Interest	1.16	1.55
HM Customs 2009/2010	-	2,462.96
HM Customs 2010/2011	-	4,867.91
Burials/Memorials	100.00	1,166.00
Refund towards telephone line	605.03	443.79
WDC Refund - air quality elect	1,180.79	-
BCC Crossing refund	387.18	-
Allotments	204.00	216.00
BCC grant for allotment car park	1,500.00	-
WDC Community Leaders Fund	260.00	260.00
BCC Community Leaders Fund	1,500.00	-
Insurance claim - lighting column	-	865.66
West Wycombe Caves - Play equip	-	2,000.00
Mike Henson Pres. - Play equip	-	500.00
Mike Beatty - fete	-	50.00
Anoymous donation - fete	-	100.00
WW Comm Assoc - fete	-	100.00
West Wycombe Est - recycling base	-	250.00
Mrs V. Smith - New Years Day Walk	-	50.00
Fete	-	1,200.50
Southern Electric refund	-	20.83
Total	35,738.16	44,555.20

www.westwycombe.org.uk/Traffic-Calming-Report.pdf

Receipts and Payments

Year Ending 31st March 2011

PAYMENTS - year ending	31.3.2010	31.3.2011
Administration	14,377.55	14,052.66
S137 Payments	100.00	288.66
Street lighting & air quality	6,313.38	6,205.40
Burial Ground	3,023.81	2,885.43
Street Crossing Patrol	774.36	-
Training	108.00	50.00
Subscription	307.78	381.40
Room Hire	120.00	-
Allotments	1,121.30	2,511.11
Pedestal Playing Field	4,303.00	4,268.37
Park Farm Road trees	500.00	-
Highways - cleaning/salt	449.29	233.20
Play Equipment	-	18,000.00
Bradenham Rd bus shelter	35.00	-
Fete costs	-	869.60
Allotment Car park	-	503.61
VAT on purchases	2,462.96	4,867.91
Total	33,996.43	55,117.35

Cumulative Balance

Opening Balance	16,166.87	17,908.60
Income	35,738.16	44,555.20
Total	51,905.03	62,463.80
Expenditure	33,996.43	55,117.35
Balance	17,908.60	7,346.45

West Wycombe Fete - 10th September 2011

Our first fete last year was a great success and we intend that this year's will be even bigger and better.

To make it work we need your help. There are lots of jobs that need to be done, some in advance, some during the build-up, and some during the event and some after the event.

Tug of War Teams - adults and children. Why not make a team up of 8 people from your neighbours and book your team in for the competition which will run throughout the afternoon. See if you can win the cup!!!

People to take a stall at the Fete - 50% of your profit or an agreed set fee to go to the play equipment fund.

People to run stalls for the Parish Council - all profits go to the play equipment fund.

People to man the gates and control car parking.

Ideas for games and competitions to raise money.

Offers of prizes or items to be used within games e.g. large jar of sweets for Guess the Number.

Loan of a tent with people to put it up and take it down - big enough for the First Aid people to be based in.

Loan of straw bales for seating around the arena.

Interesting vehicles for a static display.

Any ideas for the main arena or for information displays.

Loan of a generator for the tea tent or the sound system.

The more prizes and games we get donated the higher the income, the lower the cost and the greater the profit.

Contact Sharon Henson, Clerk to the Parish Council
01494 448048 or eMail: clerk@westwycombe.org.uk

Parish Council Officials - 2011/2012

Chairman:

Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, 2 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AE
Tel: 01494 532239

Vice Chairman:

Cllr. Roger Seymour, 78 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR
Tel: 01494 439081

Clerk:

Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 448048

Members:

Cllr. Frank Downes, High Barn, Flint Hall Farm, West Wycombe, HP14 4ES
Tel: 01494 440860

Cllr Mrs Carole Dakin, 18 Copperfields, High Wycombe, HP12 4AN
Tel: 01494 437670 (School Governor)

Cllr Danny Callaghan, 33 Bradenham Road, West Wycombe, HP14 4EY
Tel: 01494 562346

Cllr Neil Timberlake, 8 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 459004

Cllr Neil Harris, 49 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AG
Tel: 01494 524787

District Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks HP14 6DJ
Tel: 01494 483298

Cllr Mr Ian McEnnis, 49 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BN
Tel: 01494 462834

County Councillor:

Cllr. Frank Downes, High Barn, Flint Hall Farm, West Wycombe, HP14 4ES
Tel: 01494 440860

