

## Financial Report for 2008/09

### Grants

During the year grants have been made to many organisations involved with the village including the Community Pre-School, Village Centre Trustees, and local Mental Health Charity, Local Groups are encouraged to apply for grants. Application forms can be obtained from the website or Parish office.

Tea Club Income	£75
Grants Received	£1,186
Precept Received	£35,000
Interest Received	£2,074
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38,335</b>

Staffing	£15,630
Clerks & Councillors Travel	£232
Consultancy & Training	£662
Chairman's Allowance	£33
Civic Entertainment	£49
Office Costs	£6,366
Insurance	£854
Subscriptions	£650
Website and Publicity	£379
Audit	£325
Grants	£1,546
VC Revenue Grant	£500
Train Passes	£567
Tea Club	£39
Shopping Bus	£1,461
Office Equipment	£110
Accommodation Fund	£1,090
Street Lighting Maintenance	£3,063
Garden & Properties Maintenance.	£1,131
Dog Bins	£815
Bus Shelters	£2,000
Street Furniture	£305
Road Safety	£6,000

### John Pears income

John Pears Rural Management agreement	£2,884
John Pears Cleaning Contract	£2,000

Marquee Hire	£92
--------------	-----

### John Pears expenditure

John Pears General	£43
John Pears Cleaning Mat'l	£126
Staffing John Pears	£892

**Total Expenditure** 44,868  
**Total Income** 43,311

**Net Expenditure** 1,557 \* expenditure funded from reserves.  
**Over Income**

**Cllr Don Sinclair**  
**Chairman of Ashurst Wood Parish Council May 2008—April 2009**

# Ashurst Wood



# Parish Council

Annual report

No 5

2009

## ANNUAL REPORT 2009

May 2008– April 2009



### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Another very busy year for the Parish Council and I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on a number of projects.

The main one being that we are close to exchanging contracts on the purchase of the Village Centre. The Diocese of Chichester has owned the land since 1929 and the Centre was built in the early 1930's paid for by the villagers. It was originally used as St Dunstan's Church Hall but since the current church in Hammerwood Road was acquired in 1979 it has been surplus to requirements for their use.

The Parish Council recognised the importance of the Village Centre as being in the heart of the community and the sterling work undertaken by the Trustees in the management of this great asset. It was decided to acquire the Village Centre in order to protect this facility for future generations. It is not intended to alter the excellent management organisation and the relationship of the Parish Council to the Trustees will be one of providing support. Our motto for the Village Centre being "*More of the same, only better*".

Progress on the many other projects the Parish Council have been working on are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Karen Lindsay was co-opted onto the Council following the resignation of Malcolm Elliott and she is already working hard on behalf of the community.

I would like to thank all the volunteers from the community, the Trustees of the Village Centre, the organisers of the Summer Fair, my fellow Parish Councillors, our handyman, Dick Tyrrell, our cleaner, Sue Pollard and the Parish Clerk, Susan Wellerd for all the hard work during the year in helping to keep Ashurst Wood the great place it is in which to live.

*Don Sinclair*

### VILLAGE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The Annual Parish Meeting in April 2009 was well attended and a report was given summarising the progress on the Village Action Plan:

Communication, the monthly enews letter, which started in November 2007 continues and the numbers of people receiving it has increased. For those not on email the topics are reported in the Church Newsletter and local press. The Projects identified in the plan have diversified with the Parish Council also being supported by key organisations. The list of businesses will hopefully be produced during 2009 and will be available on the website and as a handout.

Other projects are reported elsewhere in this report.

*Brian Phillips*

### SUMMER FAIR

One of the projects to come from the Village Plan was a Summer Fair for Ashurst Wood, an opportunity for the community to all come together. The steering group for this have met during 2008/09 and plans are well underway for 20th June 2009. Part of the event is to be a consultation with the younger members of the community to find out more about improvements they would like for Ashurst Wood. To enable this to take place the Council applied to the Lottery Awards for all and were successful in obtaining a grant. This consultation will continue and be part of the sports event planned for 27th August 2009.

• **JOHN PEARS FIELD AND PAVILION**

The Pavilion continues to be well used, the pre-school group and tennis club being most regular hirers, with children's parties also being popular. Bookings can be made via the Parish Council office or website.

• **CONSERVATION GROUP.**

The Conservation Group have continued to meet monthly and are restoring the beech woods in the Old Cellars area. They have planted whips on John Pears Field and improved the existing trees there. Tanya Hayman, as the Parish Council tree warden has planted trees in the Primary School and on the A22. This was through the "trees for shade" grant scheme"

• **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**

In 2008 Ashurst Wood entered this competition for the first time and were very please to receive the award for runner up in Category 2 of the West Sussex Calor Village of the Year Competition. This is a joint initiative between village organisations, the Church and Parish Council and judging is on what happens in the community, not on the appearance of the village.

• **VILLAGE CENTRE HALLMARK AWARD**

The Council congratulates the Village Centre Trustees on achieving the Hallmark award level one and on the fantastic report they received as part of this. Full details are available on the Parish Council website.

• **WEBSITE**

The website continues to grow with pages for local organisations or links to their own sites. A photo gallery has now been added and anyone is welcome to send pictures of village scenes or events to be included there. Parish Council Newsletters, Annual Reports and Minutes from 2006 onwards as well as other information about the Council and the village can be viewed at [www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

• **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Recent research has shown that there is a significant need for Affordable Housing in rural areas. The District Housing Register and the Housing Needs survey undertaken in the village in 2007 indicate a demand for such housing in Ashurst Wood. The Parish Council has therefore been working with Mid Sussex District Council, English Rural Housing Association and Action in Rural Sussex to try and find a suitable site on which to provide homes that would be reserved for people with a local connection. Suitable land must be outside the area of the village in which development is normally allowed but reasonably close to local facilities.

Plans for a proposed development of eight homes at Box Farm in Maypole Road were displayed at a public consultation on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Many comments were received, both in favour of and against the proposal, with a number of people expressing concern about traffic problems. Some residents have registered an interest in the proposed homes. The draft plans can be viewed by prior arrangement at the Parish Council's office. Councillors will be meeting with representatives from the other bodies involved to discuss feedback and consider the next steps.

**YOUR COUNCILLORS ARE:**

<b>Chairman:</b>	Don Sinclair, <b>824317</b>	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Jenny Forbes, <b>822769</b>		
<b>Councillors:</b>	Ian Arnott, <b>822555</b>	Alan Del Mar, <b>823196</b>	Michael Box, <b>822664</b>		
	Paul Bridgland, <b>822068</b>	Karen Lindsay, <b>824831</b>	Brian Phillips, <b>824154</b>		
	Jonathan Samways, <b>322226</b>				

• **MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY**

The South East Plan was published on 6<sup>th</sup> May. This now replaces the West Sussex Structure Plan and covers all development in Mid Sussex. The housing requirement for the district until 2026 is confirmed as 17100. The Plan includes the allocation of 2500 houses at East Grinstead and states that neighbouring authorities must help ensure that essential infrastructure is provided (but a relief road is not specifically required). Locations for the new homes will be set out in the District Council's Core Strategy. The final draft of this will be published for public consultation in November and December 2009. Although the bulk of the development will be based around the three towns of the District, the villages will be expected to take around 1000 houses between them. The South East Plan does not include a policy on Strategic or Local Gaps, but we have been advised that the Core Strategy will contain policies to ensure that settlements are kept separate from each other.

*Jenny Forbes*

• **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

The Public Services Committee met 6 times in the past year, during which time it has been managing a number of issues. Significant matters have been the improvement of the street lighting in Maypole Road and, with the success of the speed campaign on the A 22, the provision of a pedestrian refuge on this busy main road just North of the junction with Hammerwood Road.

Dick Tyrrell has very kindly volunteered to be the Speedwatch Co-ordinator, so if anyone feels they would like to be involved in this worthwhile project, please get in touch with Dick on 824359.

Some of you will have noticed that there are new planters at the War Memorial, and that new litter and dog-waste bins are appearing at strategic points about the village. The War Memorial Bus Shelter is about to be repainted, and it is hoped that the Parish council will be installing bicycle racks at sites that have yet to be finalised so as to encourage use of "pedal-power". Hopefully resurfacing Wall Hill Road will take place soon and a bus-shelter will be provided at the stop on the A.22 northbound.

The committee is looking into the feasibility of providing a footpath from John Pears Field through to the top of Wall Hill, but as this involves crossing county boundaries it is going to be dependant on help from East Sussex Highways and Forest Row Parish Council.

The Committee acknowledge that the parking in Hammerwood Road is still a serious problem on the days when there is an exceptionally large football presence on the Recreation Ground, and is still trying to find a means to alleviate the matter. The search for a suitable site for allotments is still ongoing.

*Alan Del Mar.*

• **SPEED WATCH**

A new co-ordinator has been appointed and training will take place by mid 2009.

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

<b>Public Services</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Finance and Administration</b>
Chairman: Alan Del Mar	Chair: Jenny Forbes	Chairman : to be announced

**PARISH CLERK** Susan Wellerd St Dunstan's Church Chapel Lane Ashurst Wood RH19 3QT  
 01342 823770 Email; Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk  
 Office hours; Monday Wednesday and Thursday mornings (except on the Thursday when the Parish News is printed) **WEB** [www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)