

## Financial Report for 2007/08

- **Grants**  
During the year grants have been made to many organisations involved with the village including the Youth Club and Citizens Advice Bureau. Local Groups are encouraged to apply for grants.
- **Finance**  
Below is a summary of the Council expenditure for the last year

### Administration

Grants Received	£3,019
Precept Received	£33,150
Interest Received	£1,991
Income	38,160

Staffing	£13,055
Clerks & Councillors Travel	£168
Consultancy & Training	£1,557
Chairman's expenditure	£400
Office Costs	£6,554
Insurance	£1,014
Subscriptions	£565
Website and Publicity	£281
Election Costs	£966
Audit	£325
Grants	£1,381
Train Passes	£68
Shopping Bus	£1,151
Office Equipment	£745
Expenditure	28,228

### Environmental Services

Street Lighting	£2,887
Garden & Properties Mtce.	£1,006
Dog Bins	£0
Bus Shelters	£0
Street Furniture	£1,675
Street Lighting	£50
Expenditure	5,618

### John Pears

John Pears Rural Management	£1,478
John Pears Cleaning Contract	£2,000
Marquee Hire	£35
Income	3,513
John Pears General	£44
John Pears Cleaning Mat'l	£178
Expenditure	222

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>41,673</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>34,069</b>

**Cllr Don Sinclair**

**Chairman of Ashurst Wood Parish Council May 2007—April 2008**

# Ashurst Wood



# Parish Council

Annual report  
No 4  
2008

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

May 2007– April 2008



### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The past year has largely been spent on the implementation of the actions that you told us you wanted following the consultation and the publication of the Village Action Plan. Those of you who came along to the Annual Village Meeting on 28th April will have had an insight to all the work that the Parish Council are carrying out on your behalf. ( Slides of the presentations are available on the website.)

One major item that was identified in the process was that communications between the Parish Council and the residents needed improving. This is an ongoing action and you can read more about it in the progress report on the Village Action Plan below.

We still have a long way to go to achieve the targets set out in the Action Plan and at times we find it very difficult and frustrating to make any headway.

At long last the Speed Watch campaign is up and running and details will be found elsewhere in this Report. Lastly, but most importantly, I would like to thank all the volunteers from the community, my fellow Parish Councillors, our Handyman, Dick Tyrrell and the Parish Clerk, Susan Wellerd for all their hard work during the year in helping Ashurst Wood to be the great place it is in which to live.

**Don Sinclair**

### VILLAGE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Through The Village Plan process, residents identified 18 Projects for the Parish Council to review and implement. These projects were presented, with timescales, at the Village Plan meeting in Spring 2007.

Since then good progress has been made. Of the 13 Projects due to have started by Spring 2008, all except one are underway. The exception is "Businesses in the Village" where no volunteer has yet been found to update the data base generated in 2006.

The most important of all the projects was the establishment of better communications methods to residents. As from November 2007 a monthly E-newsletter has been sent to all those residents who have registered their E-mail addresses. The information is also included in the Church's Parish Magazine. If you would like to receive the E-newsletter then send an E-mail to: [news@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:news@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Website continues to improve with more local organisations advertising events. A new "events diary" has been added and any village events can be included by contacting the Parish Clerk. It is hoped that this will help organisations planning events to avoid clashes of dates.

**Brian Phillips.**

### SHOPPING BUS

This service continues to receive support and thanks must go to the volunteers, once again anyone who can drive between the ages of 21 and 70 with a few hours to spare once a month on a Friday morning and willing to help with this worthwhile activity should contact the Clerk.

The service goes from the village into East Grinstead with various drop off and pick up points. Those using the service are dropped off at their homes and helped to their door with their shopping. Anyone who would like to use the service should contact the Parish Council for more details.

• **SPEED WATCH**

Following a number of delays due to circumstances beyond the Parish Councils control this initiative is to commence in June 2008. A number of volunteers have been trained by Sussex Police and they will be recording speeds of vehicles at the four sites identified as being speeding hot spots, namely: two locations in Hammerwood Road (between Woods Hill Lane and the War Memorial and opposite Leisure Pursuits); Woods Hill Lane (in the dip); Maypole Road (between The Maypole Inn and Box Farm).

Persistent offenders will be sent letters from the Police and the Traffic Division will occasionally accompany the Speed Watch volunteers to issue on the spot tickets.

• **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.**

The Parish Council successfully recruited a new area coordinator in 2007, Peter Melody. The Council continues to support this initiative and Ian Arnott has taken the lead on this. Thanks Peter for volunteering and also to Julie May who assists him in this role.

There has been progress with the recruitment of street coordinators. Approximately eighty per cent of the houses in the village are now covered by a coordinator.

Areas not covered are as follows:-

Maypole Road; from School Lane crossroads to Hammerwood Road. School Lane; west of Maypole Road to Woods Hill Lane. The small housing development adjoining Ashurst Wood House. Lewes Road, east side from Greensleeves to Hectors Lane.

The organisers would appreciate it if more volunteers could come forward to assist in filling the gaps and also to augment the existing coverage.

PCSO George Lock is already a familiar face around the village and everyone is encouraged to make themselves known to him. If you wish to help please contact Peter Melody on 01342-322921 or by e-mail to [peter.melody@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.melody@btinternet.com).

• **JOHN PEARS FIELD AND PAVILION**

The Parish Council continues to manage this site on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council and bookings for use of the Pavilion can be made through the Clerk. A marquee is available through the Council. Mrs Sue Pollard continues as the cleaner for the Pavilion and those of you who have used it will appreciate the work she has done.

With funding from the District & Parish Council lighting has been installed along the footpath to the Pavilion to make it safer for use on winter evenings.

• **CONSERVATION GROUP.**

The group received a grant from the District Council for the Wild meadow area for John Pears field. The seeds have now been sown so the meadow is on its first stage of development.

In April in conjunction with the Parish Council there was a Village Spring Clean. This was the first of what is planned to be an annual event.

There has been a Bird walk around the village– with 33 birds spotted– 27 of which were heard. Including a Kestrel, a buzzard and a Red Kite .

The group would like to thank everyone who has helped them achieve what they have done so far.

They are looking for additional members and meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (not August)

If you would like to know more please phone Tanya on 824431 or Catherine on 822311

**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>	Malcolm Elliott,	<b>324474</b>	Brian Phillips,	<b>824154</b>
	Jonathan Samways,	<b>322226</b>				

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**Public Services**

Chairman: Alan Del Mar

**Planning**

Chair: Jenny Forbes

**John Pears Management**

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](mailto:Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

• **MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY**

At the annual village meeting, a report was given on the current position with the Core Strategy. This important document will set out a vision for the District from now until 2026. It will include core policies on several issues including the environment, affordable housing, employment, rural issues and infrastructure. It must also set out broad locations for development of the 15000 homes allocated to the District by the South East Plan.

Although no final decisions have been made as to where new houses will go, there is a proposed strategic development of 2500 homes plus a relief road at East Grinstead: initial plans for this have already been published in the East Grinstead Area Action Plan. There is also a contingency plan for a reduced development of 1500 homes with an access road if the relief road cannot be delivered. The draft document also proposes that 1000 homes should be divided between the 34 villages of the District. A future Document will identify specific sites for development.

The first public consultation took place during February and March. The Parish Council’s response can be viewed on our website. We expressed concerns about the size of the planned development at East Grinstead and the possible impact of a relief road on the village and Forest Row. It emphasised that any new development in Ashurst Wood must be small scale and in proportion to the size of the village and must help meet the need for affordable housing for local people.

There will be further opportunities to comment on the Core Strategy as well as the East Grinstead Area Action Plan and other documents as they come out. The Parish Council will keep residents informed and will respond on behalf of the village. Individuals can also make their own responses. Further information is available on the District Council’s website.

**Jenny Forbes**

• **BUS SERVICE**

In the last year the Parish Council has established useful liaison with Metrobus, and made contacts with West Sussex and Kent County Councils. These have resulted in improvements to information about the buses that operate through the village, and the Parish Council has made input to consultations about future services.

Metrobus – who operate the 270, 291 and 391 routes - have proved responsive to requests to improve signage and information at bus stops, and now provide us with advance details of timetable changes including a supply of their new timetable booklets (delivered by bus, of course!). The booklets show the changes to all Metrobus routes that have recently taken place, and are available from the Parish Office.

Following favourable comments at the Village Meeting, we have enhanced our own combined bus/train timetable to give extra information about weekend services, and it now covers the Forest Row – Ashurst Wood – East Grinstead ‘corridor’ and lists all trains between East Grinstead and East Croydon/London. It is available on the Parish Council website, and a copy is included in this Annual Report.

Please contact me via the Parish Office if you have any points to make or would like any further information.

**Jonathan Samways.**

• **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

It has been quite a busy year starting with the inspired appointment of Richard Tyrell as the Parish Council Handyman. By now I expect you will all be familiar with the sight of Richard as he beavers away around the village and he received a fully justified write-up in the Courier recently. He richly deserves a vote of thanks.

It is through Richard’s observations the committee has been dealing with problems at the John Pears bottle banks, an inventory of street signs which need replacing with the green bordered signs, attempting to keep all the hedges that obstruct pathways under control, cleaning and maintaining the War Memorial and many other details which only a trained observer seems to be able to spot.

A Memorial Bench to the late John Stapleton ( a founder member of the Ashurst Wood Community Association ) has been set up on the John Pears Field. A Service Tree has been planted at the side of the A22, and a Cherry Tree in the Primary School Field.

A meeting with West Sussex County Council Highways Dept. was arranged last year and various issues were discussed, amongst which were the road junctions between Wall Hill Road and Hammerwood Road, and the very dangerous crossing of School Lane and Maypole Road. We are awaiting their advice. Whilst commenting on our roads, the street lighting is continuing to be up-graded and soon there will be two further street lamps at the Southern End of Maypole Road.

The issues of Allotments and Street Parking continue to be problematic, but nevertheless we are still trying to seek solutions.

**Alan Del Mar.**