

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AS FROM 3RD MAY 2006

Chairman: Cllr. Don Sinclair. 01342 824317
Vice Chairman: Cllr. Jenny Forbes. 01342 822769
Councillors: Cllr. Andrew Bass. 07970 841819
Cllr. Alan Del Mar. 01342 823196
Cllr. Ann Duncan. 01342 822337
Cllr. Annie Pearce. 01342 823825
Cllr. Jan Pollard 01342 823220
Cllr. Gwen Shuttleworth. 01342 823401
Cllr Karel Stockley. 01342 822606
Clerk :Susan Wellerd. 01342 823770
Email: parishof@supanet.com Mon. Wed. Thurs. 9am- 12.30pm. (most weeks)
WEB SITE: www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

MAY 2005-APRIL 2006

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The last year has been quite an eventful one for your Parish Council with quite a few long-term projects well underway as well as the day-to-day matters that we have had to deal with.

One or two people have been telling us about the disparity of styles of the village lamp posts, and this brought to our attention the quality of street lighting throughout Ashurst Wood. As with all our dealings with various local government departments progress has been slow, but we are getting their and hopefully, in time, the lamps will be of a decent quality and environmentally less intrusive.

Road and street signs are also being looked at and replaced with the rural green ones as and when the original ones are damaged, and a survey of all our street and road signs is underway to look at potential sites for such replacement.

On-going (and much bigger) projects include the setting up of a Parish Council Web Site, the preparation of The Parish Plan and our hopes to achieve Quality Parish Council status. The latter should ensure that the Parish Council is much more involved in all dealings at both District and County Council level and consequently enhance our independence.

The matter of the East Grinstead Relief Road (and the associated Area Structure Plan is being *very* closely monitored and there will be a road show in the Village School on 5th June 2006 where you will all be able to come and see the plans and make your views known. It is *very* important that you do so.

I have now resigned my Chairmanship of the Parish Council and would like to take this chance to give my very best wishes to my successor, Don Sinclair.

- **Village Plan**

The year began with a successful Annual Parish Meeting at which the Village Plan Process was launched, it was attended by 52 residents. A Steering Committee was formed and has continued to meet regularly. Presentations have been made to representatives of village groups, culminating in a stand at the Ashurst Historians exhibition in March. The public consultation will continue this coming year through a questionnaire. The Steering Committee has attracted additional volunteers enabling the Parish Council to reduce its role, as is appropriate for this independent process.

- **John Pears Field**

A Rural Management Agreement with Mid Sussex District Council was signed by the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May. This has meant that the local community, through the Parish Council, has day to day management of the facility, including taking bookings. The rebuilt Pavilion was opened in July by the Vice Chairman of Mid Sussex District Cllr Margaret Hersey and was followed by a "Wild West" themed fun day with village groups attending.

- **Web site**

The web site was launched in March, using the services of Vision Websites. This is still a work in progress, but so far the site contains information about the Village (provided by the historians) and the Council and its activities. The most recent Newsletter is available to view and there is a section containing details about the Village Plan. We have started adding Agendas and Minutes of meetings. Local groups will be encouraged to use the site to promote their activities.

- **Street Lighting upgrade**

Working with West Sussex County Council a programme of upgrading the street lights belonging to the Parish Council was undertaken. Pressure will be put on the County Council to upgrade the lamps owned by them to an equal standard.

- **Recreation Ground Play area**

The Parish Council contributed to an upgrade of this area and liaised on behalf of the community with the District Council to ensure monies that had been allocated for this project were spent in the most appropriate way.

- **Village Centre**

Support was given to the Village Centre Management committee in their application to the Charity Commission to change the name of their charity. Congratulations must go to those involved in their success. The Parish Council will continue its support in 2006.

- **Shopping Bus and Tea Club**

The weekly service has continued and grown in popularity. From meetings to discuss the future of the service the Tea Club evolved. This is now a monthly fixture, with either Tea Parties in the Church Hall or outings to local garden centres, beauty spots etc. A post Christmas and spring lunch were also held attracting at least 17 residents. Anyone is welcome to come along and transport can be arranged for those who need it.

- **Newsletter**

Four issues of the Parish Council Newsletter have been circulated to every house in the village, including one to alert residents to the consultation about the East Grinstead Strategic Area Action Plan. Local Groups are welcome to publicise events through this publication.

- **East Grinstead Strategic Development Area Action Plan**

Liaison with the District and County Councils is ongoing regarding this important plan. Liaison with other Parish and Town Councils is an important part of the process and members of the Parish have been working to ensure the interests of the village are represented at every stage.

- **Grants**

Grants have been made to many Village organisations including the Village Centre, Community Pre-School, Youth Club and Junior Football Club. The Council welcomes applications for grants from any charity which has a direct benefit to members of the Parish for details of how to apply please contact the Parish Clerk.

- **Handyman**

John Crowhurst fulfilled this role for the last two years, unfortunately he had to give up due to health reasons and the Council will be recruiting his successor. The Forge Twitten has benefited from his hard work and now is an attractive part of the village.

- **Speed Watch**

This initiative is still being investigated, volunteers have been recruited and sites identified. There will be a report to the Council of the speeds being recorded at these sites in the near future. A decision will then be taken about whether to take this a stage further.

- **Finance**

Below is a summary of the Council expenditure and income for the last year.

INCOME	
PRECEPT	33000
INTEREST	1786
Train & Bus Passes	190
John Pears	2873
Vat refunded	458
other monies	509
Parish Plan grant	1402
Total	40218

EXPENDITURE	
STAFFING	10057.44
OFFICE COSTS	5574.9
AUDIT	250
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	0
INSURANCE	914.51
GRANTS & DONATIONS	1300
AWCA REV.GRANT	1650
STREET LIGHTING	459.51
GARDEN & PROP MNTCE	1044.65
BUS SHELTERS	148.58
STREET FURNITURE	24.88
PUBLICITY & website	232
CONSULTANCY & TRAINING	429
ELECTION COSTS	0
BUS/ TRAIN PASSES	369
SHOPPING BUS	1015.1
MISC inc. Chairs allowance	65.26
SUBSCRIPTIONS	394.7
CLLRS + CLERK TRAVEL	131.48
GREEN SACKS	198.1
INTEREST	0
Parish Plan Sect.111	253.92
John Pears	2115.57
VAT	290.77
TOTAL	26919.37

Cllr. Alan Del Mar
Chairman of Ashurst Wood Parish Council May 2003-April 2006