

- **Grants**
During the year grants have been made to many organisations involved with the village including the Village Centre and Conservation Group

- **Finance**
Below is a summary of the Council expenditure for the last year

INCOME	
Precept	33000.00
Interest	1956.64
other monies received	1000.00
Tea Club	138.25
John Pears	2038.81
Green Sacks	327.60
Rail passes	210.00
Parish plan	181.60
TOTAL	38852.90
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing	9949.37
Office	5903.74
Audit	260.00
Office equipment	725.00
Insurance	966.13
Grants and donations	3040.00
Street lighting	3055.43
Garden and property maintenance	2194.74
Publicity and advertising	24.00
Consultancy and training	128.25
Train passes	453.30
Misc inc. Chairs allowance	88.07
Subscriptions	425.37
Cllrs & Clerk's travel	193.80
Shopping Bus	744.42
Tea Club	135.00
Parish Plan Sect. 111	2391.06
John Pears	792.70
WebSite	137.50
Green Sacks	327.60
TOTAL	31935.48

Cllr Don Sinclair
Chairman of Ashurst Wood Parish Council May 2006—April 2007

Ashurst Wood Parish Council

Annual report
No 3
2007

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

May 2006– April 2007



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The last year has been a busy one for your Parish Council and two notable milestones have been passed :

- Becoming a Quality Parish Council
- The completion of the Village Action Plan

We had an election in May and I was pleased to be elected once again to the Parish Council and honoured that the Parish Councillors have again re-elected me as Chairman for the second year. I would like to thank the six Parish Councillors, who did not stand for re-election, for all their hard work and dedication to the community, some of whom were founder members of the Council in 2000.

I am pleased to welcome the six new Parish Councillors who join the three re-elected Councillors and I look forward to working with all of them in delivering the actions, you the villagers of Ashurst Wood want for the community as set out in the Village Action Plan, in addition to the day to day business of the Council. **Contact details of all the Parish Councillors can be found below.**

Finally, I must take this opportunity to thank our Parish Clerk, Susan Wellerd without whose hard work we would not have achieved Quality status.

Don Sinclair

Quality Parish Council

On 19 April 2007 the Right Honourable Earl of Lytton, President of the National Association of Local Councils, presented a certificate to the Parish Council to confirm its status as a Quality Parish Council. We are very proud to have achieved this accolade as it is not awarded lightly. In order to attain Quality Parish Status the parish council had to demonstrate that it had the attributes expected of a Quality Parish Council and has the ability and capacity to take on the enhanced role and responsibility that Quality Status will bring. A number of tests had to be passed covering the following:

- Electoral Mandate
- Qualifications of the Clerk
- Council Meetings
- Communications
- Annual Report
- Accounts
- Code of Conduct

The benefits of being a Quality Parish Council will enable your Parish Council to play an enhanced role in the community and in partnership with the County and District Councils. It will mean that we may be able to take over some of the duties that are currently undertaken by the principal authorities. An example of this would be street cleaning, an area that historically has not been done very efficiently in the village.

- **Village Action Plan**

The Village Action Plan was launched on 23rd April 2007 at the very well attended Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Centre and adopted by the Parish Council at their meeting on 15th May. This excellent document, that has been sent to every house in the village, was produced by the Village Plan Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Brian Phillips with support from Keith Stacey.

The Plan has a fair number of actions which the Parish Council will endeavour to progress in accordance with the timescales set out for each project heading. Some of the projects can be got underway immediately but some will be for the much longer term. The main thing is that the Parish Council know from this exercise what the residents of Ashurst Wood want it to do for you.

A copy of the plan has been delivered to every house in the village.

- **Web Site**

The website has been continually kept under review and updated as necessary although it is hoped to add to the information it contains further details about services available in the Village. Remember that you can log on to the Parish Council website to get Agendas and read Minutes of the Council's meetings.

www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

- **East Grinstead Area Action Plan and Relief Road**

During the year a number of public meetings were held which were very well attended demonstrating the very real concerns that residents have about the Mid Sussex District Council's plan to allow some 2500 houses to be built to the south west of East Grinstead together with an associated 'relief' road. The Parish Council made representations in no uncertain terms during the consultation period particularly with regard to the inevitable 'rat running' that will occur through the Village caused by the 'relief' road joining the A22 Lewes Road at Brambletye Bends. The revised plan is due out for further consultation in August 2007 and we will need to peruse the revisions very carefully to see if they have taken account of our concerns. The Parish Council will keep you fully informed of this matter and if necessary, will arrange further public meetings to get your views once the revised plan is available.

- **Conservation Group**

The Parish Council is pleased to support the fledgling Ashurst Wood Conservation Group which was set up at the end of last year. It meets on the first Sunday of every month and for the first few months have been undertaking scrub clearance down at the 'Old Cellars' (at the far end of Dirty Lane) in order to return this ancient beech wood to something near the condition it was before the hurricane of 1987. The Conservation Group is chaired by Tanya Hayman and you will have received a leaflet giving details of the Group with the Village Action Plan.

- **Speed Watch**

Due to the sad and untimely death of the officer we were dealing with at West Sussex County Council highways department this initiative has suffered a severe delay. However we have now received the data following speed checks that were carried out in Hammerwood Road, Woods Hill Lane and Maypole Road and it is clear that a significant minority of vehicles are exceeding the speed limit at certain times of the day. The Council are undertaking a further speed check in Hammerwood Road (between Maypole Road and School Lane) as this has been brought to our attention that this is another site where speeding is a problem. Working with Sussex Police the Parish Council will shortly be calling forward volunteers to be trained for Speed Watch duties.

- **Handyman**

Tony Hayman was the Parish Council Handyman during this period, unfortunately due to pressure of work else where he has had to resign. Dick Tyrell has been successfully appointed to the post and he will be starting work in June 2007.

- **Street Lighting upgrade**

Following the Parish Council upgrade in 2005—06 we have continued to urge West Sussex County Council to upgrade the lighting they own in the Parish.

- **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 has been bought for the site by the Pears Pork fundraisers and is available for hire. The Council now employs directly a cleaner for the facility and this has resulted in a much more efficient service.

With funding from the District & Parish Council lighting is being installed along the footpath to the pavilion, which should make evening bookings safer.

- **Shopping Bus and Tea Club**

The Council agreed to continue to support this initiative. The bus continues to run every Friday (except bank holidays and Christmas week) and has a regular group of users. Anyone wishing to use the service can do so and can contact the Clerk for more details. The service is provided using the excellent EGBUS service and a group of volunteers from the village. We are pleased that Keith Stacey has joined the group of volunteers and anyone with 3 hours to spare on one Friday a month would be welcomed as a driver. The Tea Club continues to meet and during the last year has helped co-ordinate visits to Brambletye and Stoke Brunswick Schools. They also had two lunches in St Dunstan's Hall which were well attended. Anyone is welcome to come along and transport can be arranged for those who need it.

- **Newsletter**

Parish Council newsletters were circulated to every house in the village, items of local interest or events in the village can be advertised in this quarterly publication.

**AS FROM 3rd MAY 2007 YOUR
COUNCILLORS ARE:**

Chairman:	
Don Sinclair,	824317
Vice Chair:	
Jenny Forbes,	822769
Councillors:	
Ian Arnott,	
Michael Box,	822664
Paul Bridgland,	822068
Alan Del Mar,	823196
Malcolm Elliott,	324474
Brian Phillips,	824154
Jonathan Samways,	322226

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; parishof@supanet.com

Office hours; Monday Wednesday and Thursday mornings (except on the Thursday when the Parish News is printed)

WEB www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk