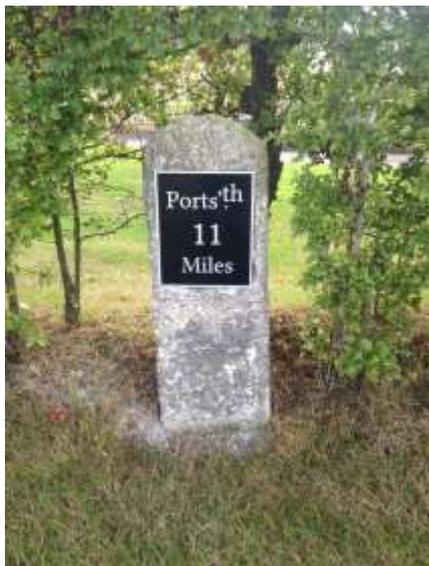


DENMEAD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



Denmead Parish Council
The Old School
School Lane
Denmead
Hampshire PO7 6LU

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Annual Report of Denmead Parish Council for the municipal year of 2016-17.

Each of the Committee reports details some of the projects delivered and the work undertaken by that committee, and, as you will see from these reports and the report from the Chairman, it has been a busy year.

Working closely with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council, the Parish Council represents the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well-being. We provide and maintain a variety of important and local services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, open spaces, village events, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, public toilets, planning, street cleaning and lighting, village greens and youth projects.

Denmead is one of the larger Parishes within the Winchester district, with almost 7000 residents currently. Budgets are under increasing pressure with the Council Tax Support Grant from Winchester City Council being cut significantly in 2018 and stopped altogether in the year after. Thus, now more than ever, we need to focus on expenditure to ensure support for vital services to the Parish, and delivery of the improvements we wish to make.

The Parish Council consists of 13 Councillors, all of whom volunteer their time and energy to the Village to ensure that Denmead is a pleasant place to live. With comments and feedback from residents, and with the help of the army of people that volunteer around the village, we will continue to make Denmead such a nice place to live.



Paula Langford-Smith

Chairman
Denmead Parish Council

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 2016-17 (as of 11 March 2016)

Denmead Parish Councillors	Contact details	Telephone number
Cllr Paula LANGFORD-SMITH <i>Chairman of the Council & Chairman of Planning</i>	Hazelwood, Forest Road, Denmead. PO7 6UE	Tel : 9225 5979
Cllr Anne HUNTINGTON <i>Vice Chairman of the Council</i>	St Christophers, Lower Crabbick Lane, Denmead, PO7 6UQ	Tel: 9225 4306
Cllr Kevin ANDREOLI	6 The Meadow, Denmead, PO7 6YJ	Tel: 9243 1429
Cllr Ian BROWN <i>Chairman of Highways & General Purposes</i>	Hazelwood, Forest Road, Denmead. PO7 6UE	Tel: 9225 5979
Cllr Carolyn HARGREAVES	Meadow Farm Cottage Worlds End, Hambledon, PO7 4QU	Tel: 9225 4459
Cllr Felicity HULL	Seymour Cottage, Forest Road, Denmead, PO7 6UA	Tel: 9226 1977
Cllr Neil H LANDER-BRINKLEY	High Trees, Thompsons Lane, Denmead, PO7 6NB	Tel: 9225 1484
Cllr Neil RUSBRIDGER	44 Maple Drive Denmead, PO7 6QQ	Tel: 9226 4416
Cllr Ken SCHOLEY	65 Anmore Road, Denmead, PO7 6NT	Tel: 9225 2393
Cllr Gary WEST	St Elmo, Hambledon Road Denmead, PO7 6PS	Tel: 9225 3733
Cllr Mark WILLOUGHBY	21 Forest Mead Denmead PO7 6UU	Tel: 9236 8305
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

Contact details for Councillors are also posted on the Parish Noticeboards and listed on the Parish Council website www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk and in the Denmead Scene

**All Councillors sit on the Parish Council
Chairman and Vice Chairman are voting members of every Committee**

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairman of Planning

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee 2016-17 – Paula Langford-Smith (Chairman), Kevin Andreoli, Ian Brown, Carolyn Hargreaves, Felicity Hull, Anne Huntington, Neil Rusbridger, Mark Willoughby

HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Committee 2016-17 – Ian Brown (Chairman), Kevin Andreoli, Carolyn Hargreaves, Anne Huntington, Neil Lander-Brinkley Neil Rusbridger, Ken Scholey, Gary West

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Committee 2016-17 – Vacancy (Chairman), Kevin Andreoli, Ian Brown, Felicity Hull, Anne Huntington, Neil Lander-Brinkley, Paula Langford-Smith, Ken Scholey, Gary West, Mark Willoughby,

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS 2016-17

Footpaths Sub-Committee	Carolyn Hargreaves (Chairman) plus Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council, Mark Willoughby co-opted members [non councillors] G Crooks, R Dawe, B Gibbs and P Stallard
Youth Provision Working Party	Felicity Hull (Chairman) Neil Lander-Brinkley, Paula Langford-Smith, Neil Rusbridger, Mark Willoughby,
Landscape Working Party	Jerry Harrison (Chairman) Felicity Hull, Paula Langford – Smith, Neil Lander-Brinkley, Ken Scholey

All meetings agendas are posted on the Village Centre Noticeboard.

All meetings are open to members of the public.

All minutes of meetings are posted on the Parish Council website

THE COUNCIL STAFF

Mr Brendan Gibbs (Parish Clerk)
Mr Kelvin Andrews (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs Jennie Hanman (Responsible Financial Officer)
Mr Tony Daniells (Committee Clerk)
Mr Phil King (Head Groundsman)
Mr Ron Plant (Groundsman)
Mr Ken Hazlehurst (Groundsman)
Mr Darren Jervis (Ranger/Groundsman)
Mr Steve Hoy (Ranger/Groundsman)
Mr Tim Rogers (Senior Youth Worker)
Mrs Wendy House (Youth Worker)
Miss Coral Bush (Youth Worker)

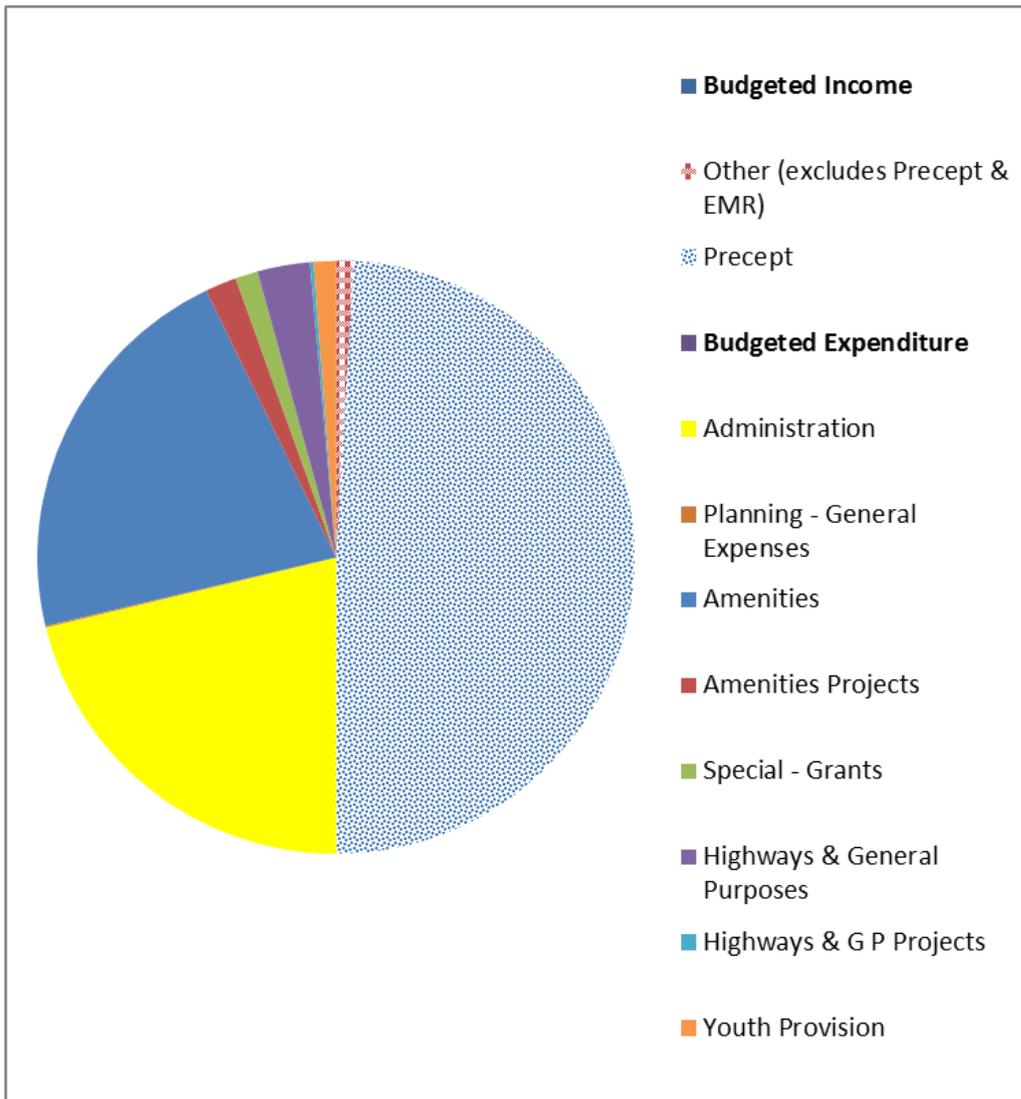
THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council maintains a website at www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk the website lists contact details for members of the Council, District Councillors and the local County Councillor. Editions of the Parish newsletter, the Denmead Scene are maintained on the site as a useful reference source. Local businesses and social and community groups are also represented.

DENMEAD SCENE

The Denmead Scene is circulated to all households in Denmead four times a year, in March, June, September and December. For information about items in the newsletter or to submit articles for publication please contact the Parish Clerk on 02392 247947.

2016/2017 Budgeted Income and Expenditure



Budgeted Income	
Other (excludes Precept & EMR)	7243
Precept	370850
Budgeted Expenditure	
Administration	160375
Planning - General Expenses	600
Amenities	162950
Amenities Projects	12850
Special - Grants	9222
Highways & General Purposes	21446
Highways & G P Projects	1500
Youth Provision	9150
Total	378093

For further information and breakdown of the Council's accounts, please view the detail on the Parish Council's website under the heading of Finance

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Prepared by Councillor Paula Langford-Smith

During this year, the Parish Councillors got together and decided on a strategy for the next four years.

In summary, that strategy consists of four goals under which all projects to be delivered will fall.

1 Improve and develop

Improve and develop facilities in the Parish

- Provision of a Multi-Use Games Area at Ashling Park
- Increase use of the Pavilion (now implemented with Denmead Day Care using the Pavilion every day)
- Increase use of recreational areas e.g. Goodman Fields to provide dog area, picnic area
- Protect community assets e.g. toilets
- Improve Parish environment e.g. clean street signs, more flowers

Work with other authorities to develop the village

- Implement the Neighbourhood Plan e.g. liaise with Winchester to ensure adherence
- Infrastructure improvement e.g. extend the Burial Ground, develop a new Parish West of Waterlooville

2 Communicate

Communicate effectively to the community

- Improve communications to Parishioners e.g. make noticeboards more prominent, increase circulation of Denmead Scene, create a Welcome Pack for new residents
- Strengthen links to village events and organisations e.g. identify key organisations, sports user groups

3 Protect and enhance

Protect village heritage

- Recognise and record things of historic importance to the village e.g. develop a local list to record important buildings
- Restore and maintain heritage assets e.g. develop a restoration and maintenance programme for milestones and finial rings

Enhance visual amenity

- Improve the look of the village e.g. more flowers, identify areas of Council owned land that could be planted by residents, plant a community orchard, encourage people to maintain their hedges

4 Support

Recognise the importance of business in the village

- Support and encourage business e.g. encourage businesses to join the Village Card scheme, improve knowledge of businesses in Denmead via Denmead Scene, host an ‘Open Day’ for local businesses to promote themselves

As well as delivering the strategy, our Committees continue to ensure good governance by reviewing our policies with both the complaints policy and media policy being revised this year. Due diligence also means ensuring that the services we provide are appropriate and efficient with a review of Youth Provision currently underway being led by Cllr Hargreaves.

We endeavour to provide facilities for the village and include provision in our budgeting for funding for the toilets in Kidmore Car Park, participation in the Village Lengthsmen scheme (a shared service with other Parish Councils) which provides additional help with minor works around the village, and for our Village Manager – Heidi, who organises the Easter Egg Trail, the Summer Party, the Apple Festival and the Victorian Christmas. In addition, we want to improve facilities and have recently installed ‘Friendly Wi-Fi’ in the Pavilion which is available to all.

Work continues to establish a new Parish at the West of Waterloo Major Development Area (MDA) and Cllr Lander-Brinkley has been working with Southwick & Widley Parish Council to liaise with residents and gain the required number of signatures to present to Winchester to commence the official process.

The Parish Council also continues to support a number of voluntary organisations that provide invaluable services to the village, from Citizens Advice, Denmead in Bloom to Victim Support. On behalf of the village, we would like to thank them for the services they provide.

Each of the individual Committee Chairman Reports detail the work of the individual Committees, but none of this work would be achieved without the altruism and dedication of the members of the Parish Council. As Chairman, I would like to thank each of them; I am privileged to work alongside them. I’d also like to mention Cllr Huntingdon, who has been an excellent Vice Chairman, her counsel and support has been indispensable.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff. In the office - Brendan (Parish Clerk), Kelvin (Deputy Clerk), Tony (Committee Clerk) and Jennie (Responsible Financial Officer) and our Ground Staff – Phil, Ken, Ron, Steve & Darren.

Their professionalism, dedication and valued advice are very much appreciated by everyone serving on Denmead Parish Council and I’d like to thank them, both on behalf of Council, and the village.

Paula Langford-Smith
Chairman – Denmead Parish Council
March 2017

PLANNING

Prepared by Councillor Paula Langford-Smith

Planning Committee Chairman's report for 2016/2017

The Planning Committee of Denmead Parish Council assesses and comments upon every application received by Winchester that falls within our parish boundary.

This year that meant that the committee considered 93 applications and each was visited by at least two parish councillors.

Our statistics show that on more than 20 occasions, the Parish Council objected but Winchester City Council approved the application. On at least 4 occasions, we made representations to Winchesters Planning Development Control Committee and have been supported by our District Councillors. On 4 occasions, we objected to a development, and Winchester upheld our objection and refused planning permission and there are several applications which we have objected to which are awaiting a decision. Members of The Planning Committee met with Head of Development Management at Winchester to better understand their decision making process. Discussions were productive and we now have a better mutual understanding, we found that they start with a 'presumption in favour of development' and then consider harm, and that they were not always considering the made Denmead Neighbourhood Plan. The result is that we hope the improved working relationship will show in our statistics.

The West of Waterlooville development is partly in our Parish and the main planning issue is that the bridge linking the two sites is still awaiting completion. The link will enable children in Denmead Parish to walk to the new school, and for residents to access the soon to be established Community Centre. We are advised by Winchester that they are considering options open to them at this point.

The biggest application that The Planning Committee received was in October. The application was from Charles Church for the erection of 99 residential units, associated public open space, residents' car park, and partial realignment of the Hambledon Road/Anmore Road junction.

Many residents made their objections clear to the Parish Council both at the Consultation meetings we held and also at Planning Committee Meetings. In summary these were:

- The housing numbers were an over development
- There would be an increase in traffic
- The buildings were too similar in design
- Insufficient green space
- The existing sewage system had insufficient capacity
- Impact of lighting on wildlife
- Impact on amenities of neighbours
- Concern that drainage will be inadequate

Winchester received 2169 representations from residents; however, 2089 of these representations were a duplicated letter. This meant that they were counted as one objection thus Winchester considered there were just 78 objections.

The committee received a presentation from Winchester's Case Officer which concluded with 'recommended approve'.

The Chairman of Denmead's Planning Committee presented raising an issue with the size of the affordable housing. The small houses meant a significant impact on the number of units i.e. they could cram more in.

The 'New Homes Delivery Team' was questioned about the size of the houses, and advised the Committee that Policy was currently being developed and would be implemented before Christmas which will provide standards for room sizes. The developer was asked about the house sizes for the affordable homes and advised that the style and size of house was sold elsewhere on Charles Church developments and people were 'very happy in them'. They also submitted that, as there is no current policy, the size of the affordable houses were 'not a material planning consideration'.

After much deliberation, the Committee decided against their Officer's Recommendation and refused the application for the following reasons: (summarised) the development

- 1) Would be contrary to The Denmead Neighbourhood Plan, the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1, the emerging policies in the Winchester District Local Plan part 2, the design guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Council's Supplementary Planning Document 'High Quality Design' in that the provision of 99 dwellings on this site results in a cramped layout harmful to the character of the area.
- 2) Would be contrary to policy and emerging policy in that the size of the two and three bedroom dwellings proposed for the affordable housing falls below the 'Nationally Described Space Standards' and thus does not provide appropriate house sizes to reflect need
- 3) Fails to make provision for affordable housing as required to the standard in the Local Plan
- 4) Fails to make provision and manage a multi-use games area and open space to the required standards and thus is in conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan
- 5) Fails to make provision for highway access onto Tanners Lane and the downgrading and extinguishment of part of Anmore Road

The developer had the option of appealing Winchester's decision, or submitting a new application. The Parish Council Planning Committee met with both the Developer and The Case Officer in Winchester and was shown some draft new plans. We have, this week, received some of the new plans and hope to share these with you at the earliest opportunity.

AMENITIES

Prepared by Councillor Anne Huntington

Amenities Committee Chairman's report for 2016/2017

The Amenities Committee – What we do.

Of the four committees that make up Denmead Parish Council, The Amenities committee has the largest budget and widest remit simply because of the diversity of the activities for which it has responsibility. It is made up of ten councillors all of whom spend a lot of time involved in its smooth running. For ease of administration the Committee delegates some of its responsibilities to working parties who report back to the parent committee for agreement.

Some information about each of these follows.

The Landscape Working Party. Led by Mr Jerry Harrison it is responsible for overseeing the general upkeep and maintenance of over ten miles of hedgerows, over eight hectares of grassland, 1500 trees, the preparation and care of the football and cricket pitches in Ashling Park, and the regular inspection of play areas and other open spaces within the Parish. Apart from the seasonal routine maintenance, the ground staff complete project work as time allows.

The Parish Council fully recognises that none of this would be achievable without the commitment of our hard working ground staff. They do an excellent job in preserving the amenity value of the village throughout the year and in all weathers. Special thanks should go to them for their continued efforts in keeping the drainage ditches owned by DPC clear and running.

The Sports User Group provides a forum allowing representatives from all the sporting groups in the village to meet. Sports users include Denmead Bowls Club, Denmead Cricket Club, Denmead Youth Football Club, Denmead Striders, Denmead Tennis Club and Ville Bowmen. The clubs all continue to flourish and we strive to provide the best possible facilities with what we have available.

The MUGA Working Party - Has just been set up to manage the provision of the new MUGA (Multi User Games area) in Ashling Park which we envisage will incorporate 2 extra tennis courts to enhance the well-used tennis facilities already present at Denmead Tennis Club. This is a large and expensive project which will need careful planning. As well as contributions from development in the village, grants will be applied for and currently the design and specified size / usage elements are being planned by the working party together with any parking / disabled access which hopefully will also enhance the Pavilions use as a venue / facility.

There is also a regular **Liaison Meeting** held with the **Forestry Commission** in order to secure the future long term use and enjoyment of Creech Wood as a public leisure facility.

What we did this year.

- The new allotments at River End are all currently allocated to local residents. This is the first year of use and all producing crops of one kind or another.
- All of the trees on Council owned land were surveyed and mapped into a GIS mapping system. An inspection schedule will now be completed annually and any identified works fed into the annual budget.
- New fencing installed at Harvest Field and Kidmore Field, and a new hedge planted at the Kidmore Lane car park.
- Dog bags are being dispensed at Goodman Fields and Harvest Field on a trial basis for those that forget to bring one with them when exercising their dogs
- The Ashling Pavilion is now used each weekday by a nursery and pre-school

Plans for next year and beyond.

- The Council is looking at a request to provide a Boules Terrain in Denmead
- It will continue to examine ways to provide a multi-use games area in the Ashling Park
- Promote and develop use of its open spaces as informal recreation areas
- Plant more trees and hedges and identify a site suitable for a community orchard

HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE

Prepared by Councillor Ian Brown

Highways and General Purposes Committee Chairman's report for 2016/2017

Introduction The Highways and General Purposes Committee (H&GP) of Denmead Parish Council deals with all aspects of the local roads, greenways, drainage and footpaths within the parish boundary.

All repairs to the roads, road drains and footpaths are carried out by the Highways Department of Hampshire County Council and the role of the H&GP committee of the Parish Council is to work closely with them to ensure that our village gets the best possible service.

Other responsibilities of the committee include the provision and maintenance of the following services:

- * Village street lighting (through the Private Finance Initiative)
- * Christmas trees & lights in the village centre
- * Village bus shelters
- * Village dog-waste bins
- * Financial support for the public toilets in the village centre
- * Speed limit reminder signs
- * Greenway name signs
- * Maintenance of trees, seats and bollards in the village centre
- * The village burial ground

Projects this municipal year The H&GP committee has delivered many projects during the last year including:

- * The stripping out of the sparse hedge at the Hambledon Road side of Kidmore Lane car park and replacing it with new hedging and repairs to the foot path which puddled and collected tree debris
- * Speed limit reminder signs have now been brought in house so that we can move them and refresh the batteries as and when needed reducing costs

* Preserving our Village Heritage through the refurbishment of Finial Rings and Finger Posts. The first two being restored/renewed are Mayswell and Anthill, with signs having been refurbished and reinstated or completely rebuilt.

*We have a flood working party to look at flooding around the village with an emphasis on the flow of the water through the network of ditches, some of which need to be cleared out by land owners. The Parish Council organised a meeting with over 20 people including The Environment Agency, The Police, Lead Local Flood Authority, Hants County Council, Winchester City Council, Scottish and Southern Energy, Portsmouth Water Partnership, and Fire and Rescue Services to identify the areas of concern and to pursue mitigating options.

* Completion of work on Footpath 26

* Established Community Speedwatch. The team of volunteers is now up to ten people but still looking for more. Over 100 letters have been sent to people speeding (at over 35 in a 30 limit) on Hambledon Road, Forest Road and Bunkers Hill.

* Working with Hampshire County Council on their Operation Resilience programme to make significant improvements to the village including

- Completion of the works at Forest Road, Bunkers Hill roundabouts including planting of roundabouts and trees and bulbs in surrounding area.

- Hampshire County Council has picked Bere Road to ‘turn green’ as it’s one of five around the county where a new resurfacing material will be trialled.

Bere Road will be a test site for a new “warm mix asphalt” that is more environmentally friendly than conventional asphalt.

Highway chiefs believe the mix offers greater value for money as it contains more recycled materials and is laid a much lower temperature than conventional road repair materials.

“The council is committed to ensuring recycled materials are used whether possible when maintaining Hampshire’s roads – making it kinder to the environment,” said Cllr Rob Humby, HCC Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Burial Ground The management of the burial ground includes the annual trimming of hedges and the pruning and removal of trees where necessary.

The Burial Ground is entirely self-funded and fees are not used to supplement other Parish activities and projects. The council does not seek to profit on fees charged and despite a small increase this year; fees remain significantly lower than Winchester, Havant and Fareham.

Projects for the coming year

As well as continuing to undertake our allocated responsibilities in the coming year there are additional projects we are currently working on:

- * Working with the Hampshire Rights of Way Officer to improve footpaths and finger posts
- * Rolling programme of refurbishment of Finial Rings and Fingerposts to preserve our village heritage, reinstatement of Milestone on Hambledon Road
- * Visual improvements to the village centre through the installation of further planters and a bench
- * A programme of Highway improvements with Hampshire County Council for infrastructure improvements in the village

Acknowledgement I extend my thanks to Carolyn Hargreaves, who has been my vice chair for this municipal year, for her invaluable work and also as Chair of the Footpaths Committee. I would also like to formally thank my fellow H&GP committee members for their support and contribution over the last year, the Denmead Parish Council ground staff for the high standard of general maintenance and finally to the Deputy Clerk of the council for his invaluable advice and assistance.

FOOTPATHS

Prepared by Councillor Carolyn Hargreaves

I now present the annual report of the activities of Denmead Parish Council's Footpaths Sub-Committee.

The sub-committee meets every six weeks or so to discuss matters relating to the parish's network of footpaths. At each meeting councillors and walkers compare notes on how the footpaths appear throughout the year.

I would like to thank our volunteers for all their efforts in monitoring our footpaths and the detailed way in which they comment on what they see.

Owing to the weather and footpaths conditions at this time of year this can be a somewhat thankless task.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors who sit on the sub-committee for all their help, support and advice throughout the year.

Most of you will know the Wayfarers Walk that follows a route to the north of the village towards Hambledon.

We are grateful to the tenant farmer who maintains this footpath on our behalf.

Please help him by clearing up after your dog on this and all other permissive footpaths on his tenancy and beyond.

We are continuing the task of monitoring the footpath network in the area to the south of Denmead.

Our role is primarily to ensure that none of the public rights of way in this area are lost due to the development currently taking place there.

This role is now more important than ever as there are currently two strategic routes closed whilst construction takes place.

If you feel you want to join us or are keen to gain more information please contact us at the Parish Council office in School Lane on 02392 247947 or by sending an email to dclerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk.

I once again look forward to working with my colleagues over the coming year in making our rights of way more accessible for those of us who like to enjoy the peace and beauty of our local countryside.

Cllr Carolyn Hargreaves.

VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies and are actively looking to fill these vacancies.

Some background:

The Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own. It consists of a Chairman and Councillors. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body. The council has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend public money. Whilst Parish councils have the legal power to take action, they have fewer duties and greater freedom to choose what action to take. This allows them to play a vital part in representing the interests of the communities they serve and improve the quality of life and the local environment. Furthermore they influence other decision makers and can, in many cases, deliver services to meet local needs. The Parish Council is in control of many of the basic services that are often taken for granted. Some of its main powers have been detailed in this Annual Report. Denmead Parish Council operates through Committees and membership of the committees and sub-committees is reviewed at the Annual Council Meeting held in May when members have an opportunity to express their preferences. It is normal for members to sit on two committees. Members attend meetings of the committees on which they serve and full council. Council and Committees meet every six weeks on a Wednesday evening apart from Planning, who due to time deadlines from Winchester City Council, meet every three weeks.

Are you eligible?

Electors aged 21 or over, and resident in the Parish and who meet certain other criteria are eligible to become Councillors. They must attend meetings when summoned to do so.

The Councillor's task is to bring local issues to the attention of the council, and help it make decisions on behalf of the local community. Each individual will interpret their role in different ways. Each will have different enthusiasms and interests, skills and attitudes. For example, some work with ideas while others are very practical; some like accounts while others prefer reports. The parish council needs a range of skills to work as a team.

In general, councillors contribute to the work of the whole council by

- suggesting ideas;
- engaging in constructive debate;
- responding to the needs and views of the community;
- representing their constituents;
- behaving in an ethical way and being open about interests;
- commenting on proposals to ensure the best outcome;
- voting – to enable the council to make decisions.

An individual councillor (including the chairman) cannot make a decision on behalf of the council.

The Process:

Before taking office, a Councillor must

- Sign a declaration of acceptance of office
- Declare any interests
- Agree to abide by the Code of Conduct
- Declare any interests at meetings

If you are interested to find out more about joining the team, please contact the Clerk by email, telephone or in person at the Parish Office.

All meetings are open to members of the public so if you wanted to attend one to see for yourself, you would be most welcome.