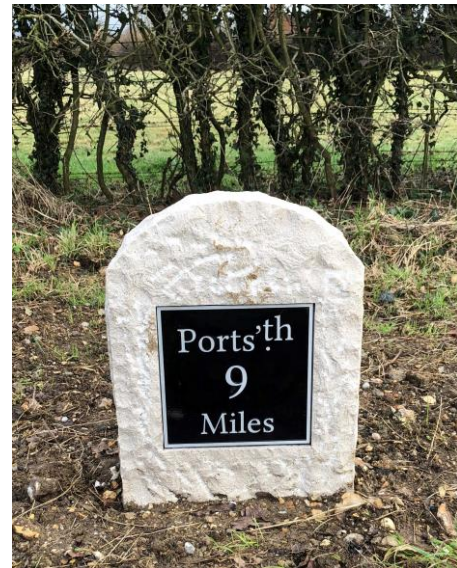


# DENMEAD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



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



## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Annual Report of Denmead Parish Council for the municipal year of 2017-18.

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 local services including cultivation plots, bridleways, the burial ground, 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, previously we received almost £30,000 per annum but this year will receive half of that sum. For 2019 the support stops altogether. 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, and we currently have 3 vacancies. The councillors all volunteer their time and energy to the Village to ensure that Denmead is a pleasant place to live. More information can be found at the back of this report.

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 2017-18 (as of 12 March 2018)

<b>Denmead Parish Councillors</b>	Contact details	Telephone number
<b>Cllr Paula LANGFORD-SMITH</b> <i>Chairman of the Council &amp; Chairman of Planning</i>	Hazelwood, Forest Road, Denmead. PO7 6UE	Tel : 9225 5979
<b>Cllr Kevin ANDREOLI</b> <i>Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of Amenities</i>	6 The Meadow, Denmead, PO7 6YJ	Tel: 9243 1429
<b>Cllr Ian BROWN</b> <i>Chairman of Highways &amp; General Purposes</i>	Hazelwood, Forest Road, Denmead. PO7 6UE	Tel: 9225 5979
<b>Cllr Neil H LANDER-BRINKLEY</b>	High Trees, Thompsons Lane, Denmead, PO7 6NB	Tel: 9225 1484
<b>Cllr Emily MARKS</b>	13 The Orchard, Denmead PO7 6YG	Tel: 02392 257446
<b>Cllr John MORPHETT</b>	6 Pond Piece, Denmead PO7 6UZ	Tel: 02392 439037
<b>Cllr Neil RUSBRIDGER</b>	44 Maple Drive Denmead, PO7 6QQ	Tel: 9226 4416
<b>Cllr Ken SCHOLEY</b>	65 Anmore Road, Denmead, PO7 6NT	Tel: 9225 2393
<b>Cllr Gary WEST</b>	St Elmo, Hambledon Road Denmead, PO7 6PS	Tel: 9225 3733
<b>Cllr Mark WILLOUGHBY</b>	21 Forest Mead Denmead PO7 6UU	Tel: 9236 8305
<b>Vacancy</b>		
<b>Vacancy</b>		
<b>Vacancy</b>		

Contact details for Councillors are also posted on the Parish Noticeboards and listed on the Parish Council website [www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://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 2017-18 – Paula Langford-Smith (Chairman), Kevin Andreoli, Ian Brown, Emily Marks, John Morphett, Neil Rusbridger, Mark Willoughby

**HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

Committee 2017-18 – Ian Brown (Chairman), Kevin Andreoli, Neil Lander-Brinkley, Paula Langford-Smith, John Morphett, Neil Rusbridger, Ken Scholey, Gary West

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Committee 2016-17 – Kevin Andreoli (Chairman), Ian Brown, Neil Lander-Brinkley, Paula Langford-Smith, Emily Marks, Ken Scholey, Gary West, Mark Willoughby,

**SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS 2017-18**

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Youth Club Management Committee	Mark Willoughby (Chairman), Kevin Andreoli Paula Langford-Smith,
Safer Neighbourhoods Panel	All Councillors

**All meeting 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

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Mr Tony Daniells (Parish Clerk)  
Mr Lydia Merriman (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 (Groundsman)  
Miss Kat Lemon (Youth Leader)  
Mrs Wendy House (Youth Worker)  
Mr Alan Norgate (Youth Worker)

## THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

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The Parish Council maintains a website at [www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://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, “Denmead Scene” are maintained on the site as a useful reference source. Local businesses and social and community groups are also represented.

## DENMEAD SCENE

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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.

**Schedule of meetings attended by parish councillors and membership of main committees during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

	Full Council	Amenities	Finance, Admin and Personnel	Highways and General Purposes	Planning	Total
<b>Numbers of meetings held</b>	8	7	9	8	16	48
Cllr Kevin ANDREOLI	8	6	8	7	16	
Cllr Ian BROWN	8	7	8	6	15	
Cllr Neil LANDER-BRINKLEY	6	3		3		
Cllr Paula LANGFORD-SMITH	8	7	8	7	15	
Cllr Emily MARKS	3	1			2	
Cllr John MORPHETT	7			3	12	
Cllr Neil RUSBRIDGER	3			5	6	
Cllr Ken SCHOLEY	8	7	5	6		
Cllr Gary WEST	7	5		4		
Cllr Mark WILLOUGHBY	6	6	6		12	

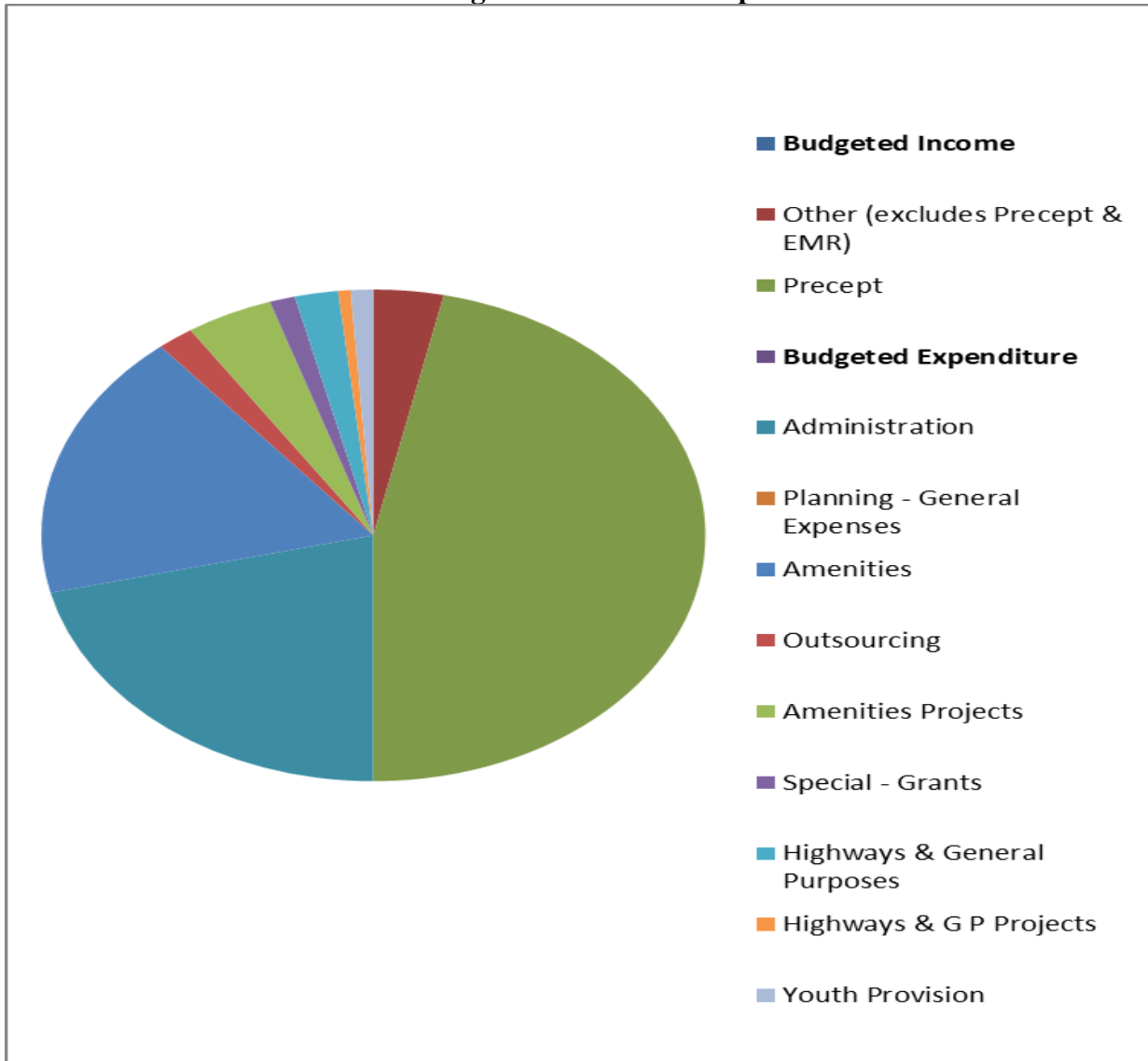
The shaded areas indicate that the parish councillor is NOT a full member of that Committee and does not attend meetings. Reasons for non-attendance are recorded when known and held in the Parish Council office.

**This list is not comprehensive. Parish Councillors also attend other meetings such as working groups and external meetings with other organisations regarding matters concerning the Parish of Denmead. Some Councillors have not been a member of a Committee throughout the full year.**





## 2017/2018 Budgeted Income and Expenditure



<b>Budgeted Income</b>	
Other (excludes Precept & EMR)	28675
Precept	391618
<b>Budgeted Expenditure</b>	
Administration	178595
Planning - General Expenses	0
Amenities	148729
Outsourcing	15000
Amenities Projects	35540
Special - Grants	10414
Highways & General Purposes	17766
Highways & G P Projects	5100
Youth Provision	9150

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



**Denmead Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly**  
**Chairman's report for 2017/2018**

In 2016, the Parish Councillors agreed a strategy for the following 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
- 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
- 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, 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, establish 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

As well as delivering the strategy, our Committees continue to ensure good governance by reviewing our policies. Due diligence also means ensuring that the services we provide are appropriate and efficient.

This year saw the delivery of a large piece of work in a review of the Parish Council's Youth Provision. This has resulted in the launch of a new club, with 'best practice' policies in place and the establishment of a Youth Club Management Committee with the longer term aim of trustees not being Parish Councillors. We already have two non-councillor trustees and if you are interested in finding out more, please contact Cllr Mark Willoughby.

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 – Kat, who organises the Easter 'Chicken Run', the Summer Party, the Apple Festival and the Christmas Fayre. In addition, we want to improve facilities and last year installed 'Friendly Wi-Fi' in the Pavilion. This year we have opened up Heath Field which was previously fenced off and access prevented by a locked gate. I was delighted to see on Social Media last month, the children having a fantastic time in the snow that had fallen on the field.

Cllr Neil Lander-Brinkley has been leading on establishing a new Parish at the West of Waterlooville Major Development Area (MDA). Having gained the required number of signatures from residents, the petition was delivered to Winchester and the official process commenced. On Saturday and yesterday evening Winchester officers held public consultations to engage with residents to explain how they can be involved in the new Council. Public comments will be welcome until April 20th 2018. After this time, final proposals within a formal 'Reorganisation Order' will be presented for approval by Winchester City Council (June 2018) so the new Council can be elected and operating from May 2019. My thanks go to Cllr Lander-Brinkley for spearheading this project which has required dedication and taken a significant amount of time.

As well as supporting local clubs and charities, 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.

November 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 saw an extraordinary number of people join us for The Act of Remembrance on the Village Green. The Police estimated that there was approximately 750 people in attendance. Hampshire Highways have now agreed that we can officially close roads so that people can gather in Heath Field and Car Park and then process from the War Memorial Hall to the Village Green in safety. Looking forward to plans for this year, we plan to commemorate the end of the Great War with a War Memorial to be placed on the Village Green. The Scouts have been busy drafting designs which have been a delight to see.

Each of the 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 Andreoli, who has been an excellent Vice Chairman, his knowledge, his counsel and his support have been indispensable.

I would like to thank our staff. In the office - Tony (Parish Clerk), Lydia (Deputy Clerk), and Jennie (Responsible Financial Officer) and our Ground Staff – Phil, Ken, Ron and 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.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Kelvin Andrews who leaves the Parish Council to retire at the end of this month. Kelvin has been our Deputy Clerk (and on occasions our Clerk) for 17 years and has been the fount of knowledge and provided humour and empathy in equal measures. His support to the Village, and to me personally for the last 5 years, has been immeasurable and I will miss him enormously. We wish him, and his wife Sheila, a very happy retirement.

Paula Langford-Smith

Chairman – Denmead Parish Council  
March 2018



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Prepared by Councillor Paula Langford-Smith

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The Planning Committee of Denmead Parish Council is a 'statutory consultee' within the National Planning Policy and assesses and comments upon every application received by Winchester that falls within our parish boundary.

This year that meant that the committee considered 92 applications compared to 93 last year and each was visited by at least two parish councillors.

With the significant changes in planning legislation, more and more home owner developments are not requiring permission but are allowed under 'permitted development', although much of the development in Denmead from the 80's and 90's had 'permitted development' rights removed and thus still require planning permission for conservatories, extensions etc.

Our statistics show that on 6 occasions the Parish Council objected to the application. On 4 of these, Winchester City Council approved the application. Our reasons for objecting include issues such as

- insufficient parking, for example: where a garage conversion means that the only parking for a 4 bedroom house is one space on the drive and then all other vehicles have to park in the road which causes inconvenience for other residents and visitors.

There were 2 occasions, where we objected to an application, and Winchester upheld our objection and refused permission. For example:

- felling a tree with a 'tree preservation order' on it. The application was made as the tree blocked light to the property but was a significant tree in the street scene which adds to the pleasant environment of the village

There are currently 5 additional applications which we have objected to which are awaiting a decision.

Members of The Planning Committee understand that Winchester's decision making process is that they start with a 'presumption in favour of development' and then consider what harm the development could cause.

Unfortunately, Winchester do not always consider the made Denmead Neighbourhood Plan, and the recent Government proposals to reform the National Planning Policy Framework will be directly in conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposals advise:

### Maximising use of land

*More freedom will be given to local authorities to make the most of existing brownfield land to build homes that maximise density. Redundant land will be encouraged such as under-utilised retail or industrial space for homes, with more flexibilities given to extend upwards on existing blocks of flats and houses as well as shops and offices. This will mean we can build the homes the country needs while maintaining strong protection for the Green Belt.*

The Neighbourhood Plan is current planning law and states that 'a building height of no more than two storeys should be used, as taller buildings are not in keeping with the village character'. However, National Planning Policy takes precedence over Local Planning Policy.

We may see our village change irrevocably in the coming years!

The village will be aware that the application 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 was refused. 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.

Reasons for refusal were that:

The housing numbers were an over development

The buildings were too similar in design

There was insufficient green space

The existing sewage system had insufficient capacity etc.

Subsequently, the Parish Council Planning Committee met with both the Developer and The Case Officer in Winchester and were shown new plans which included fewer dwellings (91). Following discussion, the Parish Council provided feedback to the developer regarding many issues including the style of houses and boundary treatments, type and location of trees, these were included in the new application to Winchester and the application was approved.

It is then usual for the Parish Council to be included in what are called S106 discussions. These are the conversations with regards to what contribution the developer will make to the community to make provision for facilities (normally play & sport). Our Neighbourhood Plan asks for a contribution to a Multi-Use Games Area. The Parish Council have costings of £220 000 to build such a facility. The developer has declined the opportunity to build it for us, and 'contribute' instead. The Neighbourhood Plan provides for 250 new houses within Denmead from 2011 – 2031 but as the new development on Little Frenchies Field was already built, we were not able to ask for a retrospective contribution. The rest of the developments are 'small pockets' such as The Baptist Church site on Anmore Road and Evergreen on Forest Road. Such developments are deemed incapable of sustaining an S106 contribution. So, the Neighbourhood Plan relies on the developer contribution from Carpenters Field to make the main provision for the sports facilities. However, despite Wickham having a development of 82 houses and receiving a £150,000 contribution from the developer toward their pavilion, Winchester have agreed a contribution of just £54,600 for Denmead. The developer divided the requested contribution of £150,000 across the 250 houses that Denmead has to have built and then multiplied it by the number they are building.

We would already have been £70,000 short but felt that the village would agree to fund that from Council Tax and reserves. We are now more than £165,000 short.

Winchester have agreed the S106 contribution with no consultation with the Parish Council. Despite letters to all appropriate ears, the decision stands.

We are currently waiting for the development work to start and are advised by Winchester that 'everything has been agreed, it's with the solicitors'.

So, in summary, it's an uphill struggle for The Planning Committee. We are accused of 'destroying the village' but, whilst we do our best, it's largely in the hands of homeowners who put in the applications, people that live in the village to write personally to Winchester to make their views known to help influence decision, Winchester City Council who make the decisions and National Planning Policy which is to build build build!



## AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Prepared by Councillor Kevin Andreoli

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### **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 currently made up of eight councillors. When thought necessary the Committee delegates some of its responsibilities to working parties who report back to the parent committee for agreement.

At last year's Annual Council Meeting held in May it was decided to reduce the number of working parties across the whole Council. The only current Amenities working party is The MUSA Working Party.

**The MUSA Working Party** – This was set up originally as The MUGA Working Party to manage the provision of a new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) in Ashling Park. It is now working to manage the provision of a MUSA (Multi Use Sports Area) which we still hope will incorporate 2 extra tennis courts to enhance the well-used tennis facilities already present at Denmead Tennis Club. As well as contributions from development in the village, grants will be applied for and the costs for the facility are being obtained by the working party. The contribution from the biggest development planned for the village has been set disappointingly low by Winchester City Council Planning Department, so the working party will have to seek further sources of funding.

The regular **Liaison Meeting** held with the **Forestry Commission** over Creech Woods has been discontinued by them, and we are disappointed that, due to a lack of funding, they are not in a position to replace the play area in the woods.

### **What we did this year.**

- Following the survey of all Council owned trees carried out last year, all the urgent and medium term work to your trees has been carried out either by our staff or by contractors. We now have an ongoing plan of monitoring and maintenance for the trees.
- A significant cut of the shrub belt along Forest Road has been undertaken and our Ground staff has been working hard on the large areas of shrubs and hedges we are responsible for.
- As usual our Ground staff has been very busy around the village keeping the grass areas under control as well as preparing Ashling Park for the extensive football usage we see every year.
- New hedging has been planted in Harvest Field along the Southwick Road boundary and also in other places where our hedges need reinforcing. The Parish Council has adopted a policy of using hedging in the future rather than fencing where possible, the exception being for the fencing around playgrounds. The new hedge planted last year at the Kidmore Lane car park has been enhanced with the planting of flowering bulbs to add colour.
- The dog bag dispensers at Goodman Fields and Harvest Field have been supplemented by one in the village centre near the Vets, and one at Mill Cross. These are very well

utilised and it would seem that a lot of dog walkers forget their own bags when exercising their dogs

- The Ashling Pavilion is still used each weekday by a nursery and pre-school

**Plans for next year and beyond.**

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

## HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE

Prepared by Councillor Ian Brown

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### 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, now in house to reduce costs
- 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
- Agreeing to the closing of the entrance from Hambledon road into Kidmore lane car park as a matter of safety due to vehicles using it as an exit
- Preserving our Village Heritage through the refurbishment of Finial Rings and Finger Posts. Last year we restored/renewed both Mayswell and Anthill, this year we have restored the signs at Worlds End and Bunkers Hill. We have reinstated the Milestone on Hambledon Road (near Soak Road) after it was lost during road works.
- Community Speedwatch. The team of volunteers is now sadly down to six people and we are looking for more (if you can spare a couple of hours a month please let us know). 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 the work on Bere Road and the resurfacing of Anmore Road.
- Under phase 2 of the Highways Improvements in the village, a survey of the greenways has taken place. The programme will include repairs to surfaces, some areas widened and other areas cleared to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use them safely.

## 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:

- We have had a survey of the burial ground carried out by Cemetery Development Services, to identify the cause of drainage issues in the north field of the burial ground. We are now obtaining costs to carry out these works.
- 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.

## Acknowledgements

I extend my thanks to Gary West, who has been my vice chair for this municipal year, 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, Kelvin Andrews, for his invaluable advice and assistance.

I Brown

Chairman - Highways and General Purposes Committee

March 2018

## VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

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The Parish Council currently has three vacancies and is 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.