



ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

This publication is based upon the report given by
Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, Chairman of the West Wycombe Parish Council
at the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April 2013.

Further reports from West Wycombe Community Association, West Wycombe
Community Library, West Wycombe Community Association, West Wycombe
Pre-School and The Parochial Church Council can be found on our website.

www.westwycombe.org.uk

QUALITY **Q** COUNCIL

West Wycombe Parish Council

It is 26 years since West Wycombe residents elected 7 local people to form a Parish Council. There hadn't been a Parish Council for West Wycombe in the previous 55 years.

During the last 26 years your Parish Councillors have worked hard to try and give the whole area of West Wycombe what is needed to make it a welcoming, good and safe environment to live in.

We have had a few changes of Councillors this year. Carol Dakin resigned in May 2012 and Danny Callaghan resigned in July 2012 but we were delighted to welcome Kate Cheshire in May and Lisa Cook in September 2012 when Neil Harris was elected Vice Chairman.

Parish Plan

With the help of some of our residents we are working on another parish plan questionnaire similar to the one we produced about 7 years ago. The results of the last Parish Plan can be found on the website.

This will go out to all homes and businesses within the West Wycombe Parish.

As the most local form of government we feel this is the way to ensure that we try, where possible, to meet the needs of everyone who lives and works in our parish.

In addition, the Parish Plan will also help when we work with other agencies such as the District Council, County Council and the Police because they can see that we have done our best to consult and engage with our electorate.

The Events Team

It has been decided to set up a West Wycombe Events Team to organise the fete and any other local events.

This group will have its own bank account, Chairman and Secretary.

Neil Harris is the Chairman of this group and Kate Cheshire is Secretary.

Although the team at present consists of a good many of us Parish Councillors we welcome anyone who would like to come and help with the organising of the fete etc or perhaps just help on the set up and take down days.

**Fete 2013
- Saturday 13th July -
West Wycombe Park**

Localism

With Central Government talking over the last year of Localism and taking policies and decision making closer to the electorate, we were not sure how this would affect us but, practically, we have found it has made very little difference to our decision making process this year.

Basically, because of the continuing recession, there is no extra money to take on new projects, by us or the two tiers above us.

We have kept our precept the same for the last 2 years and for the coming year. The precept is the money that we ask Wycombe District Council for to run the Parish Council and it comes out of our resident's council tax.

We are pleased that Mr Eric Pickles, The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has changed his mind on one of his original ideas.

He has decided that if you want to build an extension to your property you should consult your neighbours and with luck, it should go on to the local planning office.

Pedestal Playing Field

We are always delighted to see families using the playground equipment but were disappointed when, at the beginning of the children's Easter holidays two local boys broke into the pavilion, took out some florescent tubes and smashed them over the play equipment.

We couldn't allow the multi system to be used because of the danger of glass fragments.

This was not an easy job to clean up and in the end we had to pay for a specialist contractor at a cost of £150, not to mention the time spent by Sharon and Neil.

Since then Sir Edward Dashwood, who owns the pavilion, has had it made safer and hopefully vandal proof and has subsequently licensed it to Downley Dynamos Football Club, so we look forward to seeing them play and make more use of the field.

We are very pleased to see the field being used BUT we do, however, wish people would clear up after their dogs, take their litter home or use the bins provided.

**Find out about local planning applications
by visiting our website
westwycombe.org.uk**

Parish Work

Much of the every day work of the Parish Council is to monitor work or sometimes the lack of work, carried out by BCC and WDC.

For instance for many months we have asked for our street lights and the pot holes in our roads and the pavements and kerb stones in the High Street to be repaired with no real success up to the time of writing this report.

We have looked at the problem of parking on the road beyond West Wycombe Caves, however this will take some time and money to try to sort out. We have issued requests for double yellow lines at all the junctions in our parish on West Wycombe Road and outside Old Station Place.

We passed on to BCC resident's complaints about the large signs they had put up in 2012 saying they were dealing with the road conditions.

We look thoroughly at every planning application that comes in from WDC.

Knowing the parish as well as we do, our comments to WDC reflect how the application will impact on the area. Occasionally we are disappointed that some plans go through that we think shouldn't but understand that WDC can only work to government rules and regulations.

At our meeting every month we discuss a diverse range of subjects from highways issues, the allotments, maintenance of the burial ground and playing field, planning, future plans, parish finance and items brought up by the members of the public; we also report back on meetings, forums, training and consultations we have attended individually during the month.

We were somewhat irritated that we were not consulted by BCC on plans for the Chapel Lane junction so invited the officers in charge of the project at BCC to come and talk to us about it at our April meeting. It will be a difficult time when the road is realigned and traffic lights are installed but hopefully in the end our residents will see the benefit.

One of the interesting things we discussed last year was the 6 sets of Roman remains that were found when earth was removed during some renovation work from a garden in Church Lane. After the bones had been analysed, we felt it was right that they should be buried in our burial ground which is not too far from where they were found. Last summer we held a moving little ceremony and are hoping to place a memorial stone there to mark their final resting place.

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Parish Work (cont.)

We are consulted on many things including the Wycombe Air Park noise action plan.

Your Parish Councillors are unpaid and they use their knowledge and personal expertise to serve our community. They give up an enormous amount of their time to attend meetings and seminars etc. They are members of other committees on our behalf and make sure we are represented and often involved in discussions throughout the High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire area. In fact we will go anywhere if we think there will be information that could affect our parish.

They very much deserve your thanks.

Mrs Sharon Henson, our Parish Clerk and Financial Officer, also deserves your thanks. We Parish Councillors all know that without Sharon's understanding of Parish Council Law and her experience it would be much harder to run this Parish Council as efficiently as we do.

It makes my job as Chairman of the Parish Council much easier knowing I have an enthusiastic team of people who are dedicated to moving West Wycombe along with the times without losing sight of this area's unique character.

Parish Council Meetings

We have a small number of people who attend our meetings but we would welcome more.

Although you cannot participate in the meeting we do put aside a small amount of time for anyone who wishes to address the council on a subject which appears on the agenda. To raise matters that are not on the agenda please contact the Clerk or any Councillor. Full details are provided on the inside back cover and on our website at www.westwycombe.org.uk

Agendas are published on the website at least three clear days before the meeting and minutes appear after the meeting following their approval. The agenda can also be found on our notice boards throughout the parish.

The meetings dates for the remainder of the year are as follows.

July 18th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th
December 12th

Maybe if you come along to a couple of meetings it might stimulate your interest sufficiently for you to want to participate.

Fete - Saturday 13th July - West Wycombe Park

Affiliations

Wycombe District

Association of Local Councils

Our Clerk, Sharon Henson, is the Honorary Secretary of this association. It is open to all parish councils in the High Wycombe Area and Cllr. Mrs Smith is our representative. It gives training and has regular open discussions on anything related to parish councils and their residents.

The Bucks and Milton Keynes

Association of Local Councils

who meet in the County Offices in Aylesbury. Parish Council members come from all over Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. This Association also arranges training sessions on a larger level and keeps us informed of news from the National Association of Local Councils.

The Marlow and South West Chiltern Local Area Forum

This is a group run by Bucks County Council and where we presented a case to be able to obtain funding for the Vehicle Activated Sign last year

The Wycombe District Council Rural Forum *is important because it keeps us up to date with news from the farming community. 80% of the Wycombe District Council area is rural.*

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Cllr Vicki Smith is a member of this Police led group who include members from Lane End, Piddington, Wheeler End, Studley Green and Stokenchurch. We help each other with problems such as anti social behaviour and parking problems. Parents parking outside schools at home time is a problem for most villages and our local police officers now come regularly to monitor the parking problems we have in West Wycombe, handing out parking tickets when necessary to persistent offenders.

Wycombe District Council Standard's Committee

Cllr. Vicki Smith has been a member for a number of years.

Wycombe Air Park JCC Committee

Our representative is Cllr Neil Timberlake.

Your elected Members are kept busy making sure West Wycombe Parish Council warrants it's qualification as "A Quality Parish Council" as we continue our quest to ensure every decision we take, makes the Parish of West Wycombe a better place to live and work.

Visit YOUR website

www.westwycombe.org.uk

It's more than just the Parish Council

Thank you

We would like to thank our Wycombe District Councillors Mrs Jean Teesdale and Mr Ian McEnnis for their support and keeping us informed with news from WDC.

Frank Downes is one of your Parish Councillors and was also your Bucks County Councillor. In May this year Frank stood down from BCC and we thank him most sincerely for the 12 years of service he has given to them and the support he has given us in his capacity as our County Councillor.

We would like to thank the regular members of our community who come along in the rain and cold to our Parish Council meetings, it is much appreciated by us and we value your support. They do say they prefer our meetings to watching television on a Thursday evening!

Mike Henson at mh-p.net looks after our website and keeps it full of interesting information not just council related but items that will be of use to the community at large.

2012 Fete

We joined with the National Trust again to put on our third fete.

This time we were lucky to have Sir Edward Dashwood's kind permission to have the Diamond Jubilee Fete in West Wycombe Park.

Planned for July 14th, we had everything ready but it poured with rain for days (weeks even) beforehand and the ground became so soggy that we, regretfully, had to postpone the fete until September.

This time the weather was kind to us.

Lots of people came and enjoyed themselves and we felt it had been a big success and we plan to have another fete this year on July 13th 2013.

We would like to acknowledge all the hard work our local National Trust Rangers put into these event days because we wouldn't be able to put on the Fete without the help of the team from Hughenden Manor.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU

With all the cutbacks being forced down from central government it is having a detrimental effect on the level of service that is being provided by Bucks County Council.

If you see a pothole, trees or bushes overhanging pavements, flooding, broken kerbstones, empty grit bins, or damaged street furniture or signs, please report it directly to Transport For Bucks.

08452 302882

<http://www.transportforbucks.net>

Emergency Service - 01296 486630

Receipts and Payments

Year Ending 31st March 2013

RECEIPTS - year ending	31/3/2013	31/3/2012
Precept	37,500.00	37,500.00
Interest	1.53	1.34
HM Customs 2011/2012	-	2,472.57
HM Customs 2012/2013	5,552.61	-
Burials/Memorials	1,446.00	1,105.00
Refund towards telephone line	618.36	553.64
Allotments	222.00	234.00
WDC Community Leaders Fund	-	250.00
BCC Community Leaders Fund	-	1,300.00
mh-p internet Ltd. - Play equip	-	200.00
Anonymous donation - fete	165.00	100.00
WW Comm Assoc - fete	-	325.00
Chairman's New Years Day Walk	-	72.50
Fete	1,725.16	1,352.16
Southern Electric refund	-	308.20
Cancelled Cheque	£30.00	120.00
Total	47,260.66	45,894.41

The Financial Statement

We have finished our financial year with a balance of £12,572.

During the year we installed phase two of the pay equipment at The Pedestal Paying Field and contributed towards the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on West Wycombe Hill and the Fete. We also made a donation to St Lawrence Church for the restoration of the surface around the War Memorial.

Due to the lengthy and cold winter we had to spend more money on salt/grit for the salt bin at the Garden Centre.

We had a higher income than the previous year from the Burial Ground which means that once again we have been able to keep our precept at £37,500 for the coming year.

Receipts and Payments Year Ending 31st March 2013

PAYMENTS - year ending	31/3/2013	31/3/2012
Administration	14,990.18	17,599.43
S137 Payments	150.00	150.00
Street lighting & air quality	5,340.29	6,177.93
Burial Ground	3,418.90	3,465.17
Training	148.56	20.00
Subscription	407.84	409.47
Allotments	70.00	125.00
Pedestal Playing Field	3,015.63	3,015.65
Highways - cleaning/salt	447.50	1,258.60
Play Equipment	15,214.00	-
Fete costs	2,087.45	777.78
Contribution to War Memorial work	400.00	-
Diamond Jubilee Bunting & Band	309.70	-
VAT on purchases	5,552.61	2,472.57
Hard Standing for Recycling Area	-	725.00
Fitting Christmas Tree Lights	-	180.00
Total	51,552.66	36,376.60

Cumulative Balance

Opening Balance	16,854.26	7,346.45
Income	47,260.66	45,894.41
Total	64,124.92	53,240.86
Expenditure	51,552.66	36,376.60
Balance	12,572.26	16,864.26

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

For the evening of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Parish Council and the National Trust organised a special evening on West Wycombe Hill. People brought picnics. There was a glorious bonfire, singing led by West Wycombe Chamber Choir, musicians and a juggler. It was joyous time and from the top of the Hill we could watch all the celebration fireworks going on around High Wycombe. Our Parish Councillors decked the whole of the village High Street out in bunting for the occasion.

Allotments

After 4 years most allotments are now well established, looking good and yielding superb products. There was one tenancy change in October. Again there will be an allotment competition at the Fete so watch out for instructions on how to enter.

Odds and Ends

We helped with the cost of the replacing the surface around the war memorial in St Lawrence Church Yard and we lay a wreath on behalf of West Wycombe residents on Remembrance Sunday.

We ensure our grit bin at the Garden Centre is filled regularly and report to BCC when theirs in our parish are getting low.

We supply the Christmas tree lights on the tree in Village Hall car park and the lights on the tree at the High St/Chorley Road junction.

Website

Our website has received over 2000 visitors in the past year who have generated over 4000 page views which is quite remarkable for a small parish.

You can benefit from this traffic by getting your organisation, community group or business listed in our directory or telling us about any events that are taking place.

Just send the details to: webmaster@mh-p.net and your event will appear in the News and Events column.

The website is constantly being updated with news, forthcoming events, agendas, minutes, documents and planning applications so there's always something new.

In the next few months we'll be doing some work re-organising the site to make things easier to find and we'll also be adding a new section "History of West Wycombe" and a Photo-Gallery.

If you have any memorabilia from times gone by or photographs of life in the parish please email the details to webmaster@mh-p.net and if you send a photograph please remember to provide a caption.

Please remember, you must own any photographs that you send through to us for publication.

Parish Council Officials - 2013/2014

Chairman:

Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, 2 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AE
Tel: 01494 532239

Vice Chairman:

Cllr Neil Harris, 49 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AG
Tel: 01494 524787

Clerk:

Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 448048

Members:

Cllr. Roger Seymour, 78 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR
Tel: 01494 439081

Cllr. Frank Downes, High Barn, Flint Hall Farm, West Wycombe, HP14 4ES
Tel: 01494 440860

Cllr Neil Timberlake, 8 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 459004

Mrs Kate Cheshire, 34 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4AT
Tel: 07768 746150

Mrs Lisa Cook, Primrose Cottage, 11, Bradenham Road, West Wycombe,
Bucks HP14 4EY
Tel: 07711 870845

District Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks HP14 6DJ
Tel: 01494 483298

Cllr Mr Ian McEnnis, 49 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BN
Tel: 01494 462834

County Councillor:

Cllr. Mr Darren Hayday, 17 Woodlands Close, High Wycombe, HP12 4HB
Tel: 01494 462611

West Wycombe Summer Fete 2013

in the grounds of West Wycombe Park

Saturday 13th July - 11.30am to 4pm

Attractions:

Collective Calm
The Andersons
Saxadentally
West Wycombe Choir
West Wycombe School
GKR Karate Group
Stage Plus
Punch & Judy
Roald Dahl Story Tellers

Food Marquee:

Handmade Treats (Oils, Marinades, Sauces & Vinegars)
Cooks Cakes
Teasome (fine tea, coffee and related accessories)
The Chef's Pantry - Jams, Marmalades and chutney

Craft Stalls:

Stage Plus
Books & Baskets
Baby Gifts
Sensory Products
Learning Products
Ladies Clothes & Scarves
Childrens Jewellery
Ladies Jewellery
Childrens Books
Home Accessories & Gifts
Organic & Natural Health and Beauty Products
Hand sewn gifts
Home decorations
Handmade Jewellery
Ceramics
Fashion Accessories
Quality Kitchen Tools

and West Wycombe Community Library, West Wycombe Pre School, Anatolian Crafts, P Hayday Photographic, Cards, Flower craft, Penny Arcade, Rocks, Stones, Fossils & Wood, Guess the number of balloons in MaNDy, Everlief, Cookie & Cake Jars, Penalty Speed Gun, Plumridge Family History, Tatty Bumpkin, Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Face Painting, Partying Pets, Parish Council, SBASCH, Messy Mayhem, Garden stones & ornaments, Fairground rides including childrens tot town.

George & Dragon - Beer Tent
Moet Champagne Van
Coolberry café - Frozen yoghurt
Café 2u - Coffee van

Ashridge Delicious - Large pans
Bread & Cheese deli
Yourz to Eat-Roast/Burgers/Sausages
Village Hall - Tea & Cake

Visit the website for the latest information

www.westwycombe.org.uk