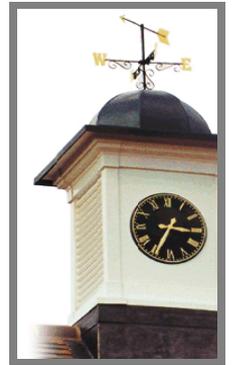


ELVETHAM HEATH

Parish Council



Newsletter

April 2011

Issue 2

Introduction by Marilyn Robson, chair of the Parish Council

Welcome to our second newsletter, a little later than we had hoped but we have been quite busy on your behalf.

We are almost at the end of the first year of Elvetham Heath Parish Council coming into existence. Maybe I should explain how the Parish Council works. We have four councillors (plus one vacant position) who are unpaid and a Parish Clerk who is salaried. The work that the Councillors do for the Parish Council has to be done alongside their paid work or in my case retirement. The demands, even in a small parish, can sometimes be quite great, but we volunteered for this job knowing the full facts.

Since April 1st we have set up a Parish Office at The Community Centre giving members of the parish greater accessibility should they need advice or information. Jan Hyatt, The Parish Clerk is available in the office Monday to Thursday each week.

A lot of the work we have completed in the last 12 months has been essential but mundane. Policies and procedures were required so that the Parish Council could function, but now that the majority of that work is done we can move forward.

In this newsletter we are able to share with you what we have achieved so far, our plans for the future and ways you can get involved with your community.

Village Fête

Saturday 11th June 2011

I am very pleased to announce that after a break of many years there will be a Village Fête once again on our Village Green. Those of you who have lived here for eight years or more will remember the Fêtes organised by the developer. We felt that this event should be put back on the calendar.

An event like this just doesn't happen so I am looking for help.

If you have ideas, contacts or can spare some time please get in touch. An initial planning meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd March. Some great ideas were put forward by those that attended. If you were unable to be there but have some good ideas or would like to offer your help then please email me: marilyn@elvethamheath.org.uk.

Another meeting will be arranged shortly. This is your Village Fête so please consider being involved from the outset.

The Parish Council invites all residents to:

Annual Community Meeting

Wednesday 18 May 2011

7.30-9pm at Elvetham Heath Community Centre

Come along to meet your parish councillors and find out what they have been doing on your behalf.

This is your opportunity to raise and discuss any issues of importance or concern and to put forward your ideas for the future of your community

Your district and county councillors are likely to be on hand to answer questions and we hope community groups will be there to display information about their services.

If you have any questions you wish to raise, please submit them to the Clerk at least a week prior to the meeting. This will give us the opportunity to provide a more informed response where necessary.

Refreshments will be served and we hope to see as many of you as possible.

What your Parish Council has achieved so far

- Steve Mabbott-Say is now the full time Operations Manager at the Community Centre.
- An on-line booking system is now in place for party Bookings.
- We held a Photograph Exhibition to mark 10 years of Elvetham Heath
- We have set up Face Book page and website
- We have worked on our 2nd budget.
- Maintained the Parish Precept at same figure for the 2nd year running. 0% increase.
- Dealt very quickly with any Fly Tipping issues.
- Dealt with excess use of Estate Agent boards in certain areas of the estate.
- Placed Christmas Tree in Key
- Held Carols in the Key which we hope to make an annual event.
- Held Table Top Toy Sale prior to Christmas
- Held Friends & Family Play Dates during the summer holidays.

Some of our plans for the future - others are covered elsewhere in this publication

- We will be holding a Village Fete on Saturday 11th June 2011
- The kitchen at the Community Centre will be replaced.
- We hope to hold a Farmers Market in The Key
- The Community Centre will be decorated in a rolling programme.
- A new grounds maintenance contract will be negotiated
- Sports facilities will be brought up to standard and increase usage encouraged

The Community Centre Extension

You will be aware that over the past few months building works have been taking place at The Community Centre. The extension is being funded by Hampshire County Council for the provision of early education and childcare. Little Elves (Pre-School) obtained the funding and have invested a considerable amount of time and effort into managing the project. This additional space will result in reducing or eliminating completely the long waiting list for places at the pre-school.

Once completed the extension will become part of the Community Centre and will be available for hire at our normal rates when not being used by Little Elves. The facilities in the extension are geared to young children with appropriate sized toilets, a secure outside play area and even low windows so that the children are able to see out.

The building site compound is in the process of being removed, the service road taken up, the grass re-seeded. The tree that was removed will be replaced in the autumn.

The Parish Council would like to thank the builders, Goodall Barnard, for limiting the disruption to our users. We would also like to acknowledge the commitment to the project of Kate Wakley of Little Elves in bringing the project to fruition.

Celebrating the Royal Wedding?

Friday 29th April 2011

If you are considering organising a street party on April 29 you may wish to look at the website www.streetparty.org.uk for tips and information.

For this event the government has relaxed the red tape surrounding road closures and Hart District Council's website has more information and application forms which need to be submitted by April 1, see www.hart.gov.uk.

However, most of Elvetham Heath's roads have not been adopted so permission should not be sought from Hart but from the developer. The Parish Council will write to the developer and request a blanket permission to cover the whole area. Leaving you to follow these simple guidelines:

- Ensure that there is access for emergency vehicles at all times (having someone available to remove any road blocks)
- Do not prevent access to other roads
- Consider public liability insurance (not required for cul-de-sacs)
- Make sure everyone in your road is aware of your street party and is happy for it to take place.
- Enjoy yourselves

Budget & Parish Precept

Elvetham Heath Parish Council is proud to announce that for the second year running there will be no increase in the Parish precept part of the council tax for 2011-12. Hart District Council will also be maintaining their council tax charge unchanged for the coming year.

Maintenance of the facilities and environment within Elvetham Heath take up a large slice of the council's budget. Contributions from the developers currently make a significant contribution to meeting these costs, but these are projected to last only until the mid 2020s, at which point either maintenance would need to be cut back significantly or substantial increases in the parish precept would be required.

We have therefore begun to look at ways in which we could take action now to avoid or minimise such increases and will share our findings with the community and seek input from residents once more work has been done in this area.

Safer Routes to School

Plans are underway to close off Wintney Street to through traffic as part of the Hampshire Safer Routes to School scheme. The residents have already been consulted but there is now a wider public consultation running until 8 April. Detailed plans are available to view at Fleet Library and Hart District Council Offices. Any representations should be made in writing to Stuart Jarvis, Director of the Environment, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UD or via email to public.notices@hants.gov.uk. Please quote the reference A852/MB.

Tennis Coaching on the Heath

Our hard court floodlit tennis area is regularly used for football, netball, by toddlers groups and the Primary School. We are currently getting ready for a busy Spring/Summer season with a particular emphasis on tennis.

The Parish is in the process of organising regular tennis coaching sessions for all levels of tennis enthusiasts. In addition hourly pay and play sessions at just £5 per court are now available – tremendous value!

Please check the website and other advertisements for an announcement soon.

Plans for the coming year

As has already been mentioned, the Parish Council chose to be cautious in its first year of operation, in case the budget assumptions we inherited proved to be inaccurate. As a result, spending on maintenance was kept to a minimum, with a number of projects held over to future years. In the end the budget assumptions proved to be slightly pessimistic, generating a surplus which will allow a number of projects to be undertaken in 2011-12.

The **community centre** will see extensive refurbishment. There will be redecoration in the existing Play World room (to be renamed the Heath Room) to bring it up to a similar standard to that in the new extension (Village Room). After ten years the kitchen needs replacement and this will be undertaken this year, together with a rolling programme of refurbishment of the rest of the centre.

The **sports pavilion** seems unlikely to be used for its original purpose and we have begun to discuss possible alternative uses, such as converting it for use by groups such as the scouts and guides. These discussions are at a very early stage and any proposed change of use from a sporting facility will be subject to full consultation with both local residents and the landlord, Beazer Homes. Any residents with suggestions for the future use of the pavilion are invited to contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@elvethamheath.org.uk).

For the **outside areas** we have set aside some money for the refurbishment or replacement of some of the equipment in the play areas and also for the provision of additional litter and grit bins. We are working with Hampshire County Council to complete the work required to bring the **junior pitch** into use this year and have begun seeking estimates for the refurbishment of the **full size pitch**. If budget can be found for this, the aim will be to have the pitch ready by the end of summer, in time for the start of the 2011-12 football season.

Your Local Authorities - Who does What?

The Parish Council is the most local of the 3 tiers of local government.

Many issues which concern residents are the responsibility of the District or County Councils.

The following table should give you an indication of whom to contact.

Council	Responsible for:
Elvetham Heath Parish Council The Community Centre, The Key, Elvetham Heath GU51 1HA Tel 01252 623700 E-mail: clerk@elvethamheath.org.uk	The Community Centre The Key car park Turner's Way car park Recreational Facilities (play areas, courts, pitches) Outdoor Green Space (excluding nature reserve and ponds).
Hart District Council Civic Offices, Harlington Way, Fleet, GU51 4AE Tel 01252 622122	Refuse Collection, Street Cleaning, Fly Tipping & Recycling Environmental Health & Public Conveniences Parking matters (excluding Key & Turner's Way car parks) District Leisure Facilities Planning Matters, Tree Preservation Orders & Licensing Grass Verge & Watercourse Maintenance Housing Council tax Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve
Hampshire County Council Based at Hook Compound for local highways matters Tel: 08456 035633 All other depts based in Winchester Tel: 01962 841841	Highways incl gritting & signage Street Lighting Public rights of way Education and Learning & Libraries Consumer Advice & Protection Social Care Community Transport

Please note because the majority of roads in the parish have yet to be adopted by the County Council, their maintenance remains the responsibility of the developer.

Have your say!

The Elvetham Heath Parish Plan gives us an opportunity to say what we want to achieve for our community. Though it's name suggests otherwise the Plan is not generated by the Parish Council, but by volunteers across the community. It's purpose is to continue to make Elvetham Heath a great place to live in the short, medium and long term. The plan can include anything that is relevant to the people who live and work here, e.g. transport, recreation, youth provision and the protection of our community etc. It will identify what people value as well as problems and opportunities in the area. It will quantify how residents want the community to develop and will identify actions needed. All this information will then be incorporated into a public document – *the Elvetham Heath Parish Plan*, which drives the priorities of the Parish Council.

If you'd like to be involved in this exercise, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Contact us at Elvetham Heath Parish Council, The Community Centre, The Key, Elvetham Heath, GU51 1HA.

Telephone 01252 623700.

E-mail: clerk@elvethamheath.org.uk

Website: www.tiny.cc/ehhome