



Annual Report

2017/18



The Key Centre Elvetham Heath Fleet Hampshire GU51 1HA
Tel: 01252 819204 Email: office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk

Dear Residents,

As I write this introduction to our annual report, we are embarking on a new term of the Parish Council following the recent election; 3 of the councillors listed in this report decided not to stand again for election and 2 others only joined us last autumn. We therefore start this next 4-year term with new faces and potentially fresh ideas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emma Watmore, George Brown and Richard Woods who have each been involved with the Council for between 4 and 6 years and have been committed to making Elvetham Heath an even better place to live.

In this report, you will be able to read about the last year; how things have progressed, some issues and some great results. We start the new council year very hopeful that the remaining roads will soon be adopted and with our summer events organised. We just need some good weather.

The year has been a busy one. On planning we were still dealing with the Elvetham Chase application and have learned that an appeal has just been lodged. We ran some successful new community events including a joint venture with Church on the Heath at Christmas. In the office, the team has been helping our new grounds maintenance team familiarise themselves with the area and the work required to keep Elvetham Heath looking so lovely. They have also been working to prepare the Council for the new data protection legislation as well as carrying out all their regular duties. We are about to start recruiting for a 4th member of the team so please keep an eye on our website and social media if you are interested in a part-time communications role.

I hope that, like me, you love living on Elvetham Heath. We are very fortunate to have so many people who care about the place they live. I look forward to working with the new councillors and I thank our team in the office for their continued support. In closing I would like to thank you for taking an interest in your Parish Council and the work we do but most of all I would like to thank you for being part of this great community.

Cllr. Marilyn Robson

Chairman, Elvetham Heath Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm except in August. When meeting dates coincide with Bank Holidays, the meeting is either rescheduled to the third Tuesday evening or (in December) to the Monday before.

As this is a small Council, it does not work through standing committees but conducts all its business through the Full Council. The exceptions are the Planning Committee which meets at 7pm on the third Monday of the month prior to the Full Council meeting and the Staffing Committee which meets as required.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council or the Planning Committee. Near the beginning of the Full Council meeting there is 15 minutes set aside for a public session which provides the opportunity for residents to bring matters to the attention of the Council; for details please contact the Parish Council Office.

The agenda for each meeting is posted three clear days prior to the meeting and can be found on the Parish Council website at www.elvethamheath.org.uk. It is also displayed on the council noticeboard on the outside wall of the Key Centre. Minutes of each meeting, once approved, are also posted on website.

Parish Council Meetings for 2018/19

18 June 2018

16 July 2018

17 September 2018

15 October 2018

19 November 2018

17 December 2018

21 January 2019

18 February 2019

18 March 2019

15 April 2019

20 May 2019

ELVETHAM HEATH PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

Elvetham Heath Parish Council Office is situated on the ground floor of the Key Centre and is open to the public from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday.

Officers are available on weekday afternoons but by prior appointment please.

Telephone: 01252 819204. E-mail: office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk

Your Parish Council 2017/18

Cllr Marilyn Robson – Chairman
Planning Committee – member
Staffing Committee – member
Marilyn@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Nichola Bond – Vice Chairman
Planning Committee – Chairman
Staffing Committee – member
Nicky@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Claire Brooks-McGoldrick
Planning Committee – member
Claire@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr George Brown
Staffing Committee – member
(Stood down in May 2018)

Cllr Gordon Smith
gordon@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Emma Watmore
Staffing Committee – member
(Stood down in May 2018)

Cllr Richard Woods
Planning Committee – member
Staffing Committee – Chairman
(Stood down in May 2018)

Staff:
office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk

Jan Hyatt – Executive Officer

Suzanne Pepper – Services & Events Manager

Jo Perkins – Key Centre Manager

Hart District Council

District Cllr Richard Woods
26 Newton Drive
Fleet
GU52 8BP
0755 400 6128
(stood down in May 2018)

District Cllr Sara Kinnell
8 Waleron Road
Elvetham Heath
Fleet
GU51 1GD
01252 693509
Sara.kinnell@hart.gov.uk

District Cllr Steve Forster
Waverley House
Waverley Avenue
Fleet
GU51 4NN
01252 626303
Steve.forster@hart.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council

County Cllr Adrian Collett
47 Globe Farm Lane
Darby Green
GU17 0DY
01252 873786
Adrian.Collett@hants.gov.uk

County Cllr Steve Forster
Waverley House
Waverley Avenue
Fleet
GU51 5AL
01252 679235
Steve.Forster@hants.gov.uk

Accounts & Budget

A summary of the accounts for 2017/18 is attached together with the budget for 2018/19.

Allotments

The allotment site at Tunworth Close has 20 small plots. There have been some recent changes in tenancies but currently residents are cultivating all 20 plots and there is a waiting list of 10.

Car Parking

The Parish Council operates 2 car parks: at the Key Centre and in Turner's Way, to the rear of the school. The **Key Centre Car Park** is closed off on market days and for other events such as the car boot sales & motorbike rally run by Fleet Lions Club. The problems continue in this car park with Morrisons' shopping trollies. They cannot be secured and as a result often roll into the parked vehicles.

The Parish Council is not responsible for the **Park and Ride area** at the entrance to the Heath. This had been owned by the developer, Persimmon Homes, but was recently bought back by Calthorpe Estates. They have closed off the entire area and have carried out a significant amount of tree and shrub clearance. It is not known what their intentions are.

Community Events

The **Annual Village Fete** is the Council's largest event of the year and we have generally been lucky with the weather. It was held on June 17 with a record attendance.

Without a doubt the most popular attraction was the Last Man Standing which will be back this year so start training now. The date for 2018 is Saturday 16 June.

For the first time this year we held a **Countryside Day** with a dog show, falconry display, goose dog (as opposed to sheepdog) display & donkey rides. There were also stalls and attractions all on a countryside theme. It was a popular event and we hope to repeat it

in the coming years. For 2018 the **Summer Concert on the Green** is back and takes place on Saturday 14 July.

The **Carols in the Key** is a wonderful Christmas sing-along event for families. This year it was held in conjunction with the Church on the Heath and their first live nativity. This was a real success and attracted lots of families getting everyone into the Christmas spirit. We will be repeating this event again in 2018.

Council Facilities

1. The Key Centre

The centre continues to thrive and remains self-funding. We continue a programme of maintenance and refurbishment with most of the building being redecorated in 2017. Following several incidents of vandalism, CCTV was installed around the building.

2. Tennis/Netball Courts

The courts are now being used more than ever. Since they were resurfaced last year, they have become the main location for netball in the Fleet area with sessions running on Monday & Thursday evenings and Friday mornings. Various tennis groups also play on weekdays – the Tuesday morning over 60s club is looking for new members. Courts are available to hire at weekends and other times when not being used by the clubs.

Elvetham Heath Market

The monthly farmers' market continues to be a popular Elvetham Heath attraction. It takes place in the Key on the second Saturday of each month (except January & August) and runs from 10am to 1.30pm with stalls selling meat, bread, cheese, pies and sweet treats like fudge & marshmallows. It is important to support local producers and we are proud to be doing so.

Flagpole

We had to remove a tree from outside the Key Centre as its roots were causing problems. Rather than replace it with another tree, the Council decided to erect a flagpole.

This was installed early in 2018 and currently flies the Union Flag. To celebrate Hampshire Pride Week, we flew the rainbow flag.

Grants

Each year the Parish Council makes a small budget provision for grants and donations to local organisations or those who provide a service to parish.

If you feel your organisation or project could benefit from a small grant from the Council, either check the Parish Council website or contact the office to see if you could be eligible and how to apply.

In the last year, the Council supported the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Royal British Legion and Churches Together for the Christmas Day lunch.

Open Spaces

The Parish Council is responsible for all the open spaces & woodland walks around the Heath with the exception of the nature reserve (which includes the pond). Over the last 2.5 years the Council has also been responsible for the (adopted) highway verge & roundabout maintenance. Grounds maintenance is an ongoing project greatly affected by weather conditions. The warm damp summer made our contractor's job difficult, but they managed to get everything back on track over the winter. We have used the same contractors for several years now and the continuity has really paid off. We have a new team of operatives here now who take a real pride in their work. The Council would like to thank VPS Grounds Maintenance (formerly known as Lotus Landscapes) for their hard work.

Whilst we try to ensure that the whole parish is covered, there may be small areas which are missed or issues which arise between contractor visits. If this is the case, please contact the Parish Council office to let us know.

The funding for the maintenance of these open spaces is largely covered by money from

the developer. When an area is taken over by the Council, the developer is required to pay over a sum to cover 20 years of maintenance.

Play Areas

The Council is responsible for 5 play areas around the Heath situated at the Key, Mounts Way, Giffard Lane, Twyford Close and the by the Nature Reserve. Towards the end of this year, the Space net climbing frame at the Key had to be closed. It will be replaced in time for the summer holidays.

The play areas are checked every week but please contact the office if you notice any problems or faults. Unfortunately, the play areas do suffer from occasional vandalism and simply from wear and tear and need to be made safe as quickly as possible.

Planning

The planning application for around 700 homes at Pale Lane Farm (Elvetham Chase) was refused by Hart District Council in February 2018. The Parish Council had objected and the Stop Elvetham Chase campaign received a lot of support. We understand that an appeal has just been lodged by the developer, so we will watch how that progresses.

As part of the planning permission for the houses at Oak View, formerly Brickyard Plantation, the developers had to pay for the installation of a timber boardwalk to cover the flood-prone part of the footpath behind Hawkey Way. This was constructed by our contractors in the autumn.

Precept

The Parish Council took the decision to increase its part of the council tax (the parish precept) for 2018/19 to help future proof the finances of the parish. The increase was around 3% which equates to just over £2 per year extra on a Band D property.

Currently the total council precept stands at just over £125,000 per year. The costs of all its services is nearer £300,000. The shortfall is covered by income from the Key Centre &

other facilities and what is left of the developer's contribution which has been used to fund most of the grounds maintenance to date. Over £50,000 of the developer's contribution is used per year and at this rate the money will last for less than 10 years. Small precept increases can be used to extend the life of the developer fund and build a cushion to prevent a large increase in a few years' time.

Public Participation

The Parish Council provides opportunities for residents to meet Councillors.

There is a public session near the beginning of every council meeting where residents can bring matters to council's attention. Please contact the office in advance if you would like to speak.

Members of the public can also make an appointment to meet with the Executive Officer or councillors in the Parish Council office if they wish to discuss any particular matter in private.

We also communicate with residents via the following digital media channels:

www.elvethamheath.org.uk

Facebook

Twitter @EHparishcouncil

The Parish Council Office is also open Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm without appointment if members of the public wish to see any of the officers. The office is closed to the public at all other times.

Road Adoptions

As we have reported before, the adoption of Elvetham Heath Way and the roads in the remaining Persimmon phases of the

development, had been delayed because the County Council has required evidence of the culverts being fit for purpose. Unfortunately, the bridge structure at the Ancells Farm end proved problematic which put hopes of a 2017 adoption on hold. Matters have progressed, and it has been agreed that Persimmon will pay Hampshire County Council to carry out all the necessary remedial work. The adoption should go through this year.

Work is also continuing for the adoption of all the other remaining roads – mainly in the Hawkley Way, Marwell Road & Twyford Close areas. In April Kingsley Square was adopted by the County Council and others should follow in due course.

Thanks

The Parish Council relies on numerous people for the success of its work. This Annual Report provides an opportunity to acknowledge these.

We would like to thank the following people all of whom make a difference to this lovely place:

- Staff: Jan Hyatt, Suzanne Pepper & Jo Perkins;
- District Ward Councillors;
- County Councillors;
- Local groups who help out at events;
- Our many local contractors & suppliers;
- All the individuals who volunteer to support various aspects of our community.

Financial Statement

	Actual Year-ended 31 March 2018 £	Budget Year-ended 31 March 2019 £
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Central Admin – incl. office & staff, insurance	81,670	92,696
Facilities – manage & maintain Key Centre & sports facilities	52,200	48,598
Grounds Maintenance – open spaces & highway verges	70,080	70,000
Project costs		
• Key Centre refurbishment (incl. car park)	17,415	12,000
• Tennis courts & play/sports equipment		13,000
• CCTV	1,840	12,000
• Flagpole	920	750
• Website Development	1,320	
• Boardwalk (with developer contribution)	8,910	
Litter & Fly-tipping	12,770	13,500
Tree Surgery	350	5,000
Events – market, fete, countryside day, Christmas celebrations	7,860	
Play Areas, Allotments & outside maintenance	9,577	7,250
Street lighting – car parks & cycle paths	1,590	1,100
Dog Warden Service	1,140	1,250
Grants	1,900	3,500
Total	269,542	290,244
<u>Funded as Follows:</u>		
Precept	125,120	130,480
Income from Facilities	111,522	114,850
Event Income	5,010	4,550
S106 Receipts		
• Boardwalk	9,490	
• Hawkley Way open space adoption	40,000	
Hampshire County Council Contributions		
• Towards highway maintenance	3,000	3,000
• Parish Lengthsman Scheme	1,100	1,100
Interest income	1,297	1,750
Allotment Rent	1,010	1,040
Other income	6,743	
Transfer to/from Reserves	-34,750	33,474
Total	269,542	290,244