

## **Report to Annual Residents' Evening 20 April 2016**

The last year has been busy for the parish council with several plans coming to fruition as well as continued progress elsewhere.

In July the new play area in the Key was completed in time for the school holidays. This was more than 3 years in the planning and it took 4 years to save the funds. It has proved very popular and provides something for children of all age groups. We intend to recycle one of the pieces of equipment which was removed by using it to replace the rather worn-out multi-play unit in the Mounts Way play area.

Also in July we finally got the go-ahead to take over the maintenance of the highway verges and roundabouts. Since then our contractors have been working hard to bring these green areas up to standard and hopefully everyone agrees there has been a marked improvement. Our grounds maintenance team is on site 5 days a week looking after both the highway verges and the public open spaces so can react quickly to any problems which arise.

The Key Centre continues to be heavily used and is a real asset for the community. Having replaced and improved the kitchen a few years ago, we recently refurbished the washrooms in the main part of the building. Going forward we will need to replace the external fire doors and some of the windows. A well-used building requires constant maintenance and we have been fortunate that to date, the Key Centre has not required too many repairs enabling us to improve and refurbish.

The tennis/netball courts are also well-used and provide the only outdoor netball facilities in the area. We have recently applied for a grant to enable us to resurface the courts so they are more suitable for all-weather use.

We hope that this coming year will see the adoption of the remaining roads on the Heath. Real progress was made at meetings last year and whilst nothing moves quickly, there is an end in sight. In addition the parish council continues to talk to Taylor Wimpey about adopting the open spaces in the Hawkley Way area and we hope that this will go through this year.

We hosted some successful events again last year. The fete in June was as well attended as ever with the weather being extremely kind again. This year's fete will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June with a royal theme to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and hopefully more good weather. The concert on the green was also well received and will take place this year on July 16<sup>th</sup> with a variety of musical acts already booked.

The farmers' market in the Key will be 2 years old this May and it continues to grow. Since October it has expanded to include artisan crafts and from next month this indoor part of the market will grow considerably as it moves to the main hall in the Key Centre.

Looking ahead we are planning a community orchard and will be installing some public benches on the green. Like the allotments before them, these have come about following suggestions made by residents. So do please continue to put forward your ideas either by contacting the office or speaking to one of your parish councillors. The Parish Council is here to work for the community and is always grateful for your feedback and ideas.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Financial Report

In the year to 31 March 2016, your parish council spent the following:

£	
103,200	New multi-age play area
84,500	Facilities – managing & maintaining the Key Centre & sports facilities
62,000	Central Admin – incl. office & staff, insurance, professional services
51,500	Grounds maintenance – open spaces & highway verges
30,000	New Key Centre washrooms
11,500	Litter & Fly-tipping
9,300	Tree surgery
8,200	Events – Market, fete, concert & Christmas celebrations incl. tree & lights
1,000	Outdoor equipment – incl. 2 new park benches
800	Street lighting for car parks & cycle paths – maintenance & electricity
500	Dog warden service
<u>500</u>	Grants – incl. annual poppy wreath, Fleet Carnival
<b><u>363,000</u></b>	

This expenditure was funded in the following way:

£	
117,100	Precept
1,200	HDC precept grant (final year)
114,000	Income from facilities incl. allotments
75,500	Reserves
47,750	S106 funds – contribution from the developer towards maintenance
6,000	Market & Fete income
<u>1,450</u>	Bank interest
<b><u>363,000</u></b>	