

**Annual Residents' Evening – Chair's report  
Wednesday 15 May 2013**

During the last year your Council has tried to address some of the issues that affect all of us who live on Elvetham Heath. Foremost is the adoptions of the roads especially Elvetham Heath Way. Communications between Hampshire County Council and Persimmon Homes had completely broken down meaning that no progress was being made. Not prepared to let this situation continue, we called a meeting between both sides and it became clear that some major stumbling blocks needed to be removed in order to move forward. As a result of these meetings a working relationship has now been established, genuine progress is being made and targets have been set for adoption of Elvetham Heath way and other Persimmon areas.

We won't stop there. We intend to set up meetings with other developers and Hampshire County Council and our ultimate goal is to see all roads adopted on Elvetham Heath.

Last summer we were very unhappy with the state of the roadside verges that are the responsibility of Hart District Council. We approached Hart DC asking them to consider a proposal that Elvetham Heath Parish Council take over the maintenance of these areas. We have received a response which we need to examine closely to understand the cost implications before any decision can be made. We firmly believe that one grounds maintenance team with a more flexible approach and managed locally by us is what Elvetham Heath needs.

Since the Parish Council took over the unused Pavilion has been an issue raised many times. The terms of the lease do not allow the Parish Council to make a profit from the building and also state that the building should be used for recreational purposes. This has ruled out many of the ideas put forward. However, Persimmon Homes has accepted our proposal to convert the building into a base for the hundreds of scouts, cubs and beavers on Elvetham Heath. A chance conversation with members of Fleet Lions Club who were looking for a hands-on project in Fleet has resulted in this idea becoming a reality. Plans were drawn up and we are thrilled to see that the project is now nearing completion.

With true community spirit Fleet Lions have undertaken the conversion work using their combined expertise which seems to cover all the trades from project managers and chartered surveyors to electricians and plumbers. Their energy to drive this project forward is amazing and many scout leaders and parents are also lending a hand. This is a great example of a community working together and is resulting in a building that had no purpose becoming the hub of activity for youngsters from Elvetham Heath. It is hoped that the guides may also share this space.

At the end of last year we decided to add to the Christmas tree in The Key by purchasing lighting for the trees around the area. We had many favourable comments and felt it gave a very festive feeling especially on the night of Carols in the Key.

Last year's Village Fete was a challenge due to the gale force winds but I must thank the residents for turning up in their hundreds and braving the conditions. Despite the weather it was still a successful event. This year's fete will be taking place on 15 June and let's hope for some kinder weather conditions.

I have learnt over the past few years, since I joined the Parish Council that wheels turn very slowly and it can be very frustrating. We haven't lost sight of other projects like the allotments or the playgrounds and hope that these areas will be the next to be completed.

Elvetham Heath Parish Council has only five Councillors who serve their community as volunteers alongside their day jobs, family and other commitments. We don't feel there are enough of us given the size of budget and number of facilities for which we are responsible. We have therefore applied to Hart District Council to increase the number of Councillors to seven, which we feel is a more appropriate number.

<b>Financial Report</b>							
				<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	
				<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Year ended</b>	
				<b>31-Mar-12</b>	<b>29-Mar-13</b>	<b>31-Mar-14</b>	
				<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
<b>Income</b>				<b>260,530</b>	<b>263,706</b>	<b>272,103</b>	
Represented by							
Precept				108,199	109,148	106,656	
Community Centre				89,552	95,189	98,500	
Outdoor Sports				11,393	9,451	14,500	
Other income				2,677	3,043	5,572	
Developer contribution to maintenance				48,709	46,875	46,875	
<b>Expenditure</b>				<b>231,552</b>	<b>204,563</b>	<b>353,135</b>	
Represented by							
Staff costs				70,008	81,075	83,565	
Community Centre & Operations				80,190	40,792	51,750	
Grounds Maintenance & litter				62,025	35,752	45,200	
Special Projects - play area, allotments				-	18,427	146,000	
Fees (insurance, audit, legal & elections)				8,988	17,012	11,850	
Admin & office				7,784	8,680	9,770	
Grants & contributions				2,557	2,825	5,000	
<b>Surplus to Reserves</b>				<b>28,978</b>	<b>59,143</b>	<b>- 81,032</b>	

Thank you for coming this evening and for showing an interest in your community

Marilyn Robson  
Chair, Elvetham Heath Parish Council