

## Overview of Elvetham Heath Parish Council

### Background

Elvetham Heath Parish was created in April 2010 and covers the area between the railway line and the M3 motorway from the Minley Road to just beyond Pale Lane Farm.

The Council was set up to represent the parish. It originally had 5 members but was increased to 7 in 2014. In 2017 the parish was divided into 2 wards to coincide with the new County Council divisions - from the 2018 elections onwards, 3 parish councillors will represent the eastern side of the parish and 4 the western side with the dividing line through the nature reserve and Elvetham Heath Way.

The parish has an estimated population of 5,000 of whom 3,400 are registered to vote.

### Staff

The Council currently employs 3 members of staff who are all based in the Key Centre and work part-time. 2 other roles are currently contracted out. The Executive Officer (also known as the Clerk) is the senior member of staff who is responsible to the Council as a body corporate.

### Council Meetings

The Full Council meets 11 times per year – monthly except in August – although additional meetings are called occasionally. The Planning Committee meets immediately prior to each Full Council meeting. The only other committee, currently, is the Staffing Committee which has a scheduled meeting once per year but can also meet at other times if the need arises.

The Council agrees representatives to sit on external bodies on behalf of the Council and report back. However, this is currently limited to one body, the local district association, whose meetings are attended by the Chairman.

### Council Facilities and Services

Elvetham Heath Parish Council has a reasonably large portfolio of assets and facilities to manage given the size of the parish.

- **The Key Centre** – 3 x rooms for hire.
- **Key Centre Car Park**
- **Open Spaces** – the green, small parks & woodland walks
- **5 Play Areas** – situated at The Key, Mounts Way, Twyford Close, Giffard Lane & Nature Reserve.
- **Tennis Courts** – 3 courts which can be converted into 2 netball courts.
- **Turners Way Recreation Area** – this was originally designed as a football pitch but was deemed unfit for purpose by the district council prior to 2010. Now used a recreation area with football goals intended for kick-about not proper matches or formal training.
- **Junior Pitch** – the fenced area is used by the school during school hours although is a parish asset.
- **Pavilion** – converted to Scout HQ in 2013 and leased to 100<sup>th</sup> Elvetham Scouts.

- **Turners Way Car Park** – used by the school during school hours under long-term lease arrangements.
- **Allotments** – set up in 2013 and located on part of the open space between Tunworth and Twyford Closes. 20 small plots available to let.
- **Street lighting** – only on parish council owned ie, 2 x car parks, cycle paths & the green.
- **Litter bins, grit bins & public benches** – on EHPC land only.

The Council also provides the following services:

- **Highway Verge Maintenance** – maintenance of the verges & roundabouts is carried out under a Licence to Cultivate from Hampshire County Council
- **Events** – currently Village Fete, the summer concert, countryside day & the Carols in the Key
- **Farmers' Market** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month
- **Christmas lights and tree**
- **Annual Residents' Evening** – (or Annual Parish Assembly) a legal requirement – a meeting of & for the residents.
- **Planning Applications** – acts as a statutory consultee in all applications within the parish boundary and some major applications in neighbouring parishes.
- **Communication** – some is statutory.
- **Contact** point for residents
- **Lobbying** – eg, in relation to road adoptions, fly-tipping, post boxes etc
- Works in partnership with other agencies – HCC, HDC, the Police etc

### **Hart District Council**

3 District Councillors represent Elvetham Heath Parish as part of the Fleet West Ward.

The District Council is responsible for among other things:

- Refuse Collections
- Street cleaning
- Planning Matters & licensing
- Housing
- Environmental health
- Business rates & Council Tax
- District leisure facilities
- Parking matters
- Nature Reserve, Fleet Pond, Country Parks

### **Hampshire County Council**

2 County Councillors represent this parish with EH West in the Fleet West division & EH East in the Yateley East, Blackwater & Ancells division.

The County Council is responsible for among other things:

- Highways
- Street Lighting
- Libraries
- Education
- Social Services
- Children's Services
- Household Waste & Recycling Centres
- Community transport