



Annual Report

2018/19



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

Dear Residents,

Writing this letter gives me the opportunity to look back over the year. I am very pleased that we have a full complement of councillors, all full of enthusiasm. It is so good to have such a varied Council, not only in age but people with fresh ideas and the drive to see things through. I would like to thank all the councillors for making our meetings enjoyable and friendly but also productive.

For a small parish we hold quite a few events throughout the year. These provide an opportunity for the residents and their friends to spend time together enjoying the facilities that we are so lucky to have at Elvetham Heath. During this last year we have put on a Summer Fete, Concert on the Green, monthly markets and Carols in The Key. These events don't just happen, and thanks must go to Suzanne, our Services & Events Manager, who works tirelessly to deliver them. Elvetham Heath also hosted a car show organised by two residents and their team of helpers and the Classic Motorcycle Rally organised by Fleet Lions.

For the first time, we held a Spring Clean Day which was very well supported with over 70 people who helped to collect a mountain of rubbish. It was great fun and thanks must go to Councillor Nick White for organising the entire day. I am sure we will repeat this event.

For the last few years we have displayed Remembrance Day poppies on our lamp posts along the length of Elvetham Heath Way. This is organised by ex-councillor George Brown and his team of willing helpers and I think they deserve thanks from us all. I also had the honour of attending the Remembrance Service and Parade in Fleet and laying a wreath on behalf of all Elvetham Heath residents.

In January I attended the planning appeal for the Pale Lane site, Elvetham Chase. I represented the Parish Council and spoke against the development alongside a group of local residents. We were all fully prepared and felt that we were well received by the Inspector and the QCs. We still await the outcome as the Inspector's report is now with the Secretary of State. It is likely to be August before the result is known.

I rounded off this past year by being asked to open the extended and refurbished Morrisons superstore. It is good to have such a popular store on our doorstep, but the car parking situation has caused quite a few headaches. Meetings have taken place with representatives from the school, nursery, church, pub and Morrisons but no solution has yet been found.

None of the things I have mentioned would happen without Jan, our Executive Officer. Her knowledge and support are invaluable. Thanks also to Jo, our Key Centre Manager and Lucy our Communications Officer.

Please take the time to read this report and thank you for taking an interest in your Parish Council and the work we do for our wonderful 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 2019/20

17 June 2019

15 July 2019

16 September 2019

21 October 2019

18 November 2019

16 December 2019

20 January 2020

17 February 2020

16 March 2020

20 April 2020

18 May 2020

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 2018/19

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

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

Cllr Claire Brooks-McGoldrick
Planning Committee – Chairman
Staffing committee – Chairman
Claire@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Martyn O'Donoghue
Staffing Committee – member
Martyn@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Gordon Smith
Gordon@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Candice Walmsley
Staffing Committee – member
Candice@elvethamheath.org.uk

Cllr Nick White
Planning Committee – member
Nick@elvethamheath.org.uk

Staff:
office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk

Jan Hyatt – Executive Officer
Suzanne Pepper – Services & Events Manager
Jo Perkins – Key Centre Manager
Lucy Ivie – Communications Officer

Hart District Council

District Cllr Angela Delaney
18 St Swithin's Road
Elvetham Heath
Fleet
GU52 1GL
01252 819505
Angela.delaney@hart.gov.uk

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
07712 695461
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
07712 695461
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Accounts & Budget

A summary of the accounts for 2018/19 is attached together with the budget for 2019/20.

Allotments

The allotment site at Tunworth Close has 20 small plots. There have been some recent changes in tenancies but currently residents are cultivating 19 plots and there is a waiting list of 10. The 20th plot has been allocated to the 100th Elvetham Scout Group.

Car Parking

The Parish Council operates two 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 motorcycle rally run by Fleet Lions Club. The extension to the Morrisons store and the introduction of a two-hour parking limit in its car park has had a knock-on effect for parking in the Key. The situation is being monitored and may result in the introduction of parking controls. The problem with shopping trollies continues.

The Parish Council is not responsible for the **Park and Ride area** at the entrance to the Heath. This is now in back in the ownership of Calthorpe Estates and it is still not known what their intentions are. It was hired out to Morrisons for staff and contractor parking during the construction work at the supermarket. The area suffered two incursions of travellers over the summer and the landowner has now installed stronger barriers to prevent a reoccurrence.

Community Events

The **Annual Summer Fete** is the Council's largest event of the year. It was held on a beautiful Saturday June 16 with a huge attendance. Again, the most popular attraction was the Last Man Standing which will be back again this year. The date for 2019 is Saturday 15 June. This year the June market will be incorporated into the fete with most of our regular stalls attending. Let's hope for another fine day.

The **Summer Concert on the Green** returned on Saturday 14 July – another gloriously sunny and very hot day. The line-up of performers was well received with the ever-popular Heathrow Jets headlining. The concert returns again in 2019 with the same headline band and will be held on Saturday 29 June.

The **Carols in the Key** is a wonderful Christmas sing-along event for families. For the second time this year it was held in conjunction with the Church on the Heath and their Live Nativity. Unfortunately, the weather was less favourable than previously, so the event had to be held inside the church. It was another success and attracted lots of families getting everyone into the Christmas spirit. After two successful years of a combined event, in 2019 the Carols will return to its roots – a pre-Christmas sing-along around the tree in The Key. Details will be available nearer the time.

For the first time this year, the Parish Council ran a **Spring Clean** event. 70 volunteers came out on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the end of March to clean signs, pick up litter and simply help to spruce up the Heath. Thanks to all the volunteers, to Morrisons for providing cleaning materials and refreshments and especially to Councillor Nick White who organised the event.

Council Facilities

1. The Key Centre

The centre continues to thrive and remains self-funding. We continue a programme of maintenance and refurbishment. In an effort to save energy, the lighting in most of the building was changed to LED at the start of 2018. New doors and an entry system were fitted to the Village Room Entrance enabling us to hire out all the rooms on a self-service basis and therefore reducing staff costs.

2. Tennis/Netball Courts

The courts are now being used more than ever. They have become the main location for netball in the Fleet area and sessions

now run on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Various tennis groups play on weekdays. Courts are available to hire at weekends and other times when not being used by the clubs. Both tennis and netball continue throughout the year as the courts are floodlit.

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, pickles & preserves and sweet treats like fudge and marshmallows. In the last year we have added stalls selling scones & cakes, gin and curries. It is important to support local producers and we are proud to be doing so. You can follow the market and check for updates via social media:

Facebook: Elvetham Heath Market

Instagram: @elvethamheathmarket

Twitter: @EHMarket

Grants

Each year the Parish Council makes a small budget provision for grants and donations to local organisations who provide a service to the 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, Fleet Phoenix, Fleet Cricket Club, the Guides, Churches Together for the Christmas Day lunch & the Church Crookham & Fleet Men's Shed.

Open Spaces

The Parish Council is responsible for all the open spaces and woodland walks around the Heath with the exception of the nature reserve (which includes the pond and the swales which feed into it). Over the last four years the Council has also been responsible

for the (adopted) highway verge & roundabout maintenance. Maintaining green spaces is an ongoing project and is greatly affected by weather conditions. In the summer the focus has to be on grass cutting and weeding. Winter projects include the swales and larger scale hedging work. We have used the same contractors for several years now and the continuity has really paid off. The Council would like to thank VPS Grounds Services (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 staff in Parish Council office.

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 five play areas around the Heath situated at the Key, Mounts Way, Giffard Lane, Twyford Close and by the Nature Reserve. In the summer, the Space Net in the Key play area was replaced by another piece of climbing apparatus. The skate ramp and zip wire in the same area are particularly well-used and as a result, require regular maintenance.

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 as well as simple 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 joined the Stop Elvetham Chase campaign group with their representation at the inquiry hearing.

The Inspector's report has now been sent to the Secretary of State for consideration. A decision will be issued on or before 6 August 2019.

Precept

The Parish Council took the decision to increase its part of the council tax (the parish precept) again for 2019/20 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 £130,000 per year. The costs of all its services is between £250,000 and £300,000. The shortfall is covered by income from the Key Centre & other facilities and the remainder of the developer's contribution for grounds maintenance.

Over £50,000 of the developer's contribution is normally 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. In fact, over the last two years we have been able to minimise the use of the developer fund.

Public Participation

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.

The Parish Council Office is open Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm should members of the public wish to talk to any of the officers. The office is closed to the public at all other times. However, appointments can be made to meet with the Executive Officer or councillors in the Parish Council office to discuss any particular matter in private.

We now send out four communications each year which are delivered to every household: three newsletters and Christmas information in the form of a Christmas card.

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

Website: www.elvethamheath.org.uk

Facebook: Elvetham Heath Parish Council

Instagram: @elvethamheathpc

Twitter: @EHParishCouncil

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. Matters appeared to be progressing well at the start of 2018/19 but then stalled again. Recent changes in personnel on both sides seem to have had a positive effect. Hampshire County Council and Persimmon seem very keen to sort this out finally.

Work is also continuing for the adoption of all the other remaining roads in the Hawkey Way, Marwell Road and Twyford Close areas. This too is looking more positive.

We continue to monitor the situation and will keep you updated of progress via all our usual communication channels.

Thanks

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

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 & Lucy Ivie;
- 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 2019 £	Budget Year-ended 31 March 2020 £
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Central Admin – incl. office & staff, insurance	85,435	92,468
Facilities – manage & maintain Key Centre & sports facilities	42,485	46,970
Grounds Maintenance – open spaces & highway verges	64,865	75,000
Project costs		
• Key Centre refurbishment (incl. car park)	13,300	30,000
• Tennis courts & play/sports equipment	10,750	5,000
• CCTV		12,000
• Christmas Lighting & Floral Displays		10,750
Litter & Fly-tipping	10,675	9,500
Tree Surgery	1,764	5,000
Events – market, fete, concert, Christmas celebrations	9,246	10,000
Play Areas, Allotments & outside maintenance	5,865	6,350
Street lighting – car parks & cycle paths	1,620	1,650
Dog Warden Service	1,397	1,250
Grants	2,850	4,000
Total	250,252	309,938

Funded as Follows:

Precept	130,480	135,730
Income from Facilities	113,592	114,500
Event Income	5,808	5,650
Hampshire County Council Contributions		
• Towards highway maintenance	3,000	3,000
• Parish Lengthsman Scheme	1,100	1,100
Interest income	3,446	3,250
Allotment Rent	922	988
Other income	1,382	
Transfer to/from Reserves	-9,478	45,720
Total	250,252	309,938