

Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Serving the communities of Dibden, Dibden Purlieu and Hythe

Annual Report 2003/04

The elections in May this year saw the number of seats on the Parish Council reduce from seventeen to thirteen following a boundary review and changes to the Parish wards. At the same time a number of members, some long serving stood down from the Parish Council and I thank Brian Dash, Caroline Gradidge, Robert Leavey, John Ramsbottom and Kath Wade for all their hard work in making sure that the Parish is a pleasant place to live and work. Brian Dash is still a frequent visitor to the Council as he continues to be the area's County Councillor.

At the same time we welcomed Jonathan Bennett as a new member on to the Council. Jonathan represents the Dibden ward and is a member of the Amenities Committee

At the end of last year we said goodbye to Brian Beaven as Clerk to the Council so this year has been unusual in that apart from a new Council we have a new Clerk David Shimpe and a new Deputy Clerk Shirley Maitland. Both have dynamism and a commitment to their roles and are a tremendous asset to both the Council and the community.

As always the work of the Council is varied and interesting. We have looked at around three hundred planning applications some of which provoke a great deal of public interest, such as the proposed development at the rear of West Road Dibden Purlieu and Lantern Building at Britannia Gate. Whilst the Council continues to try and protect the Parish environment we still await the results of the Dibden Bay Inquiry.

During the summer I had the pleasure along with children from Orchard School, of reopening the refurbished play area at Noads Way. The play equipment working party have prioritised the provision of play equipment in the Dibden area and investigation work is well under way to provide a new play area in the Dibden area

This year we have produced our annual report in a new format, which sets out our main activities over the year along with the summary of the audited accounts for the year 2002/03 and the budget for 2003/04. I do hope you find the new format useful and I would welcome any feedback that you have.

The Council has agreed a number of new initiatives for next year and I am sure that they will represent an opportunity to continue to develop the Parish for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Finally I would you like to thank all my fellow Councillors and Council staff for their support during the last twelve months

David Smith
Chairman of the Council



Review of 2003/04

Play Areas



This year saw the Council's continued programme of refurbishment being implemented with the completion of the Noads Way Play area in Dibden Purlieu.

The old equipment at the popular park had reached the end of its useful life and posed no real appeal to the users of the park. The Council made the decision to update the park following requests from local residents and children, a consultation process followed where ideas were gathered from all interested parties.

Questionnaires were sent to all the houses that border the park and also to the local junior school. Staff from the Parish Council quizzed children and adults who were using the area when they visited.

A Public Meeting at Hythe and Dibden Parish Council Offices followed where all ideas were discussed and a viable scheme was decided upon. The local residents had been experiencing anti social behaviour by a minority of young people over a period of time so the Council agreed to fence off the access points to the park with a 2.4 metre Steel Fence with lockable gates.

The Council made a budget provision of £37,000 and a tender process was entered into to obtain the best value for the project. The contract was awarded to Wicksteed Leisure of Northants, the equipment has been installed within budget and the Play Area reopened in July.

A Tropica Multiplay Unit is the centrepiece. The new piece of play equipment towers above the park and contains a climbing net, a slide, a fireman's pole and a climb through tunnel. On one end is a small climbing wall, which should prove a challenge for the 1-11 year age group for whom the park is designed.

Other additions to the park are two sets of new swings fitted with anti-wrap bearings that prevent the swing chains from being wrapped around the top bar of the swing frame. Two new play shelters have been provided to allow the children to play noughts and crosses and word games. A Scottie dog 2 way bounce about and a sit-in-spring-Toni Turtle are the other two new pieces of equipment that have been added to the existing roundabout.

The Park is open to the public from 8.15am – 8pm from 1st April to 30th September and from 8.15am – 4.30pm from 1st October to 31st March. Council staff open the facilities in the morning and a local security company is charged with asking people to vacate the park at closing time and to lock the gates.

Website



The year saw the launch of the Council’s new website dedicated to the work of the Parish Council. The site can be accessed at www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk. On the site you can find contact details of your local councillors, minutes and agendas for meetings, copies of the Parish Picture, Press Release and a host of other information. The site also has links to other related sites such as the District and County Council and the community website. The site is hosted by the New Forest District Council but is updated by the Parish Council Staff

Healthy Walks

Hampshire County Council in partnership with the Parish Council and New Forest District Council has developed three healthy walks within the Parish. There will be two notice boards in the Parish showing these routes. One of the boards can be found on Prospect Place. The small sign opposite can be found on lampposts to highlight the route. Leaflets on each of the routes are available from a variety of locations including the Information Office at The Grove, local pharmacies, doctors surgeries. They can also be downloaded from our website



Allotments

The Council has allocated £1000 this year towards the improvement of the three allotment sites. These sites provide some one hundred and twenty-five plots, which due to their popularity means there is a waiting list for any vacant plots, which become available.

Road Safety

Following concerns from residents about the speed at which vehicles travel down residential roads it was agreed to set up a working party of members and the local County Council member to investigate the matter with a view to try and reduce the danger posed by the vehicles. The working party has met once so far and has asked members of the public to either write in or complete a questionnaire giving details of roads affected and ideas on any preferred solutions



Land Transfers

The Council took responsibility for further land at Coat Gardens and Beechwood Way/Oaklands Way. In addition the Council has taken over the maintenance responsibility for land off Challenger Way, which includes a play area at Fletcher Close and a small lake in the woodland. This takes the number of play areas under the control of the Council to nine



Working in Partnership

During the year the Council continued to work in partnership with a number of organisations to improve the Parish. Set out below are some of the main areas of activity:-



- Hythe Promenade - The Parish Council has committed £8500 to the refurbishment of the promenade which is being jointly undertaken with Hampshire County Council and the New Forest District Council. It is anticipated that the work will commence during summer 2004
- Street Lighting - As part of the Council's Community Safety Initiative a scheme to upgrade the street lights at the junction of Lower Mullins Lane and Southampton Road was jointly funded with Hampshire County Council
- Community Facility - £ 5,000 was given to the Hythe United Reformed Church towards the provision of their new community facility
- A further £5,000 was given in grants to a further 17 different organisations which included the Waterside CAB and Community First
- Christmas Lights and Carol Concert – The Parish Council worked with the Hythe Business Partnership and the Hythe Marina Association to provide the Christmas Lights, their switch on by Matt Le Tissier and the subsequent Carol Concert at Hythe Marina. The street collections on the day raised £812 for local charities.

Youth Worker Support

The Council continued its resolve to work with the young people in our community by continuing to support The Handy Trust, which provides a dedicated Youth Worker for the Parish. The Council provided financial support of £8,000 and office accommodation. The youth worker and the parish council staff worked closely together during the year to ensure the work of both organisations was of mutual benefit.

Local Centre – Dibden

The Council has given its support to a bid to Hampshire County Council for the provision of a new local centre at Dibden on the old Baptist Church site. Phase 1 will be the provision of a new day care centre for the elderly. Phase 2 will be a new community facility for use by families and young people. The Council has agreed to use money it has set aside for community centres along with any developer's contributions arising from the development of the site for the provision of this facility.

Cost of Vandalism and Damage

In common with many organisations the Council has to deal with the results of anti social behaviour, which take the form of vandalism, damage and graffiti to the Council's property. During the year the Council has spent around £4000 repairing the damage and removing graffiti.

Community Safety

As part of its responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act the Parish Council has been working with the New Forest District Council to introduce a pilot Community Warden Scheme within the Parish. The Council has agreed to contribute £10,000 towards funding this scheme it is anticipated that the scheme should be introduced towards the end of 2004. It is anticipated that the Warden will patrol areas known to suffer from anti social behaviour and will also enforce local byelaws.

Quality Parish and Town Councils

In June 2003 the Government officially launched their guidance on the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme. Achieving Quality Status demonstrates that the Council has met certain minimum standards expected from an effective, representative and active Parish Council. It will also help in working more closely with partners in the delivery of local services. The Council has considered the requirements and benefits of the scheme and has decided to work towards achieving Quality Status.

Aims for the 2004/05

- To improve the five "gateways" into the Parish
- To introduce a seven days a week litter clearance of play areas and prominent amenity areas
- To provide two new footpaths at Forest Front, Butts Ash
- To continue the programme of play area improvements
- To continue support of the Parish's own youth worker
- To commence Phase 1 of the woodland management scheme
- To undertake the Market Town Healthcheck
- To prepare preventative maintenance programmes for the Council's property.
- To update the website monthly.

In next years report we will consider how well we have performed in meeting these aims.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET 2002/03

31/3/2002

31/3/2003

LONG TERM ASSETS

0.00	Investments	0.00
0.00	Long Term Debts	0.00
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0.00		0.00

CURRENT ASSETS

0.00	Loans made	0.00
0.00	Investments	0.00
0.00	Stocks	0.00
5986.30	VAT Recoverable	4810.72
86178.34	Debtors	713.13
1280.00	Payment in Advance	0.00
556723.57	Cash in Hand & at Bank	463602.05
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650168.21		469125.90
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650168.21	TOTAL ASSETS	469125.90

CURRENT LIABILITIES

(0.00)	Loans received	(0.00)
(0.00)	Temporary Borrowing	(0.00)
(200795.77)	Creditors	(17170.50)
(4200.00)	Receipts in Advance	(2882.00)
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(204995.77)		(20052.50)

445172.44	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	449073.40
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(0.00)	Long Term Borrowing	(0.00)
(0.00)	Deferred Liabilities	(0.00)
(0.00)	Deferred Credits	(0.00)
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(0.00)		(0.00)
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445172.44	NET ASSETS	449073.40
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Represented By:

173069.36	General Fund	80621.29
272103.08	Amenities Areas Investments	368452.11
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445172.44		449073.40
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INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2002/03

Year Ended 31/3/2002		Year Ended 31/3/2003
	INCOME	
1847.50	Agency Services Reimbursements	700.00
95654.01	Amenity Areas Investment A/C (I)	11349.03
21012.44	Committee - Amenities (I)	18005.54
16644.34	Committee - Council (I)	16687.10
30879.90	Committee - GP & F (I)	32283.38
255.30	Committee - Special Funds (I)	0.00
0.00	Income	0.00
5985.68	Interest on Investments	6161.52
0.00	Loan/Capital Receipts	0.00
335464.00	Precept	348249.00
184303.06	Sale of Assets	0.00
19934.43	VAT on income/VAT repayments	45896.05
<u>711980.66</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>479331.62</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
15060.00	Agency Services	9270.00
0.00	Amenity Areas Inv A/C (E)	0.00
160567.06	Capital Costs	7620.91
57469.97	Committee - Amenities (E)	55871.67
26592.32	Committee - Council (E)	31274.14
54774.45	Committee - GP & F (E)	59035.89
33432.82	Committee - Special Funds (E)	32531.98
0.00	Expenditure	0.00
23734.94	Interest/Repayments on Long Term Debts	23734.94
0.00	Provision for Doubtful Debts	0.00
4412.00	S. 137 Payments	8518.00
242124.46	Salaries/Wages	201677.08
19934.43	VAT on payments	45896.05
<u>638102.45</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>475430.66</u>
109845.16	Balance as at 1/4/2002	173069.36
711980.66	Add Total Income	479331.62
<u>821825.82</u>		<u>652400.98</u>
638102.45	Deduct Total Expenditure	475430.66
<u>- 10654.01</u>	Transfer to/from reserves	<u>-96349.03</u>
<u>173069.36</u>	Balance as at 31/3/2003	<u>80621.29</u>

Budget 2003/04

	Budget	Sub Total	Precept
Expenditure			
Amenities Committee - Core	174,608		
Amenities Committee – Special Funds	29,250		
General Purposes and Finance - Core	220,507		
General Purposes and Finance – Special Funds	5,500		
Contingency	6000	435915	
Income			
Amenities Committee	27,790		
General Purpose and Finance	28,655		
Bank Interest	7,000	63445	372,470

The amount payable to Hythe and Dibden Parish Council for this year for a band “D” property is £49.79 per annum

Parish Councillors

Butts Ash

Graham Parkes*	28 Lodge Drive Dibden Purlieu SO45 5LX	023 8084 7388	Graham.parkes@nfdc.gov.uk	
Mike Short	17 Beverley Road Dibden Purlieu SO45 4HR	023 8084 2776	mikeshort@btinternet.com	Vice Chairman
David Smith	21d Crete Road Dibden Purlieu SO45 4JX	023 8084 6289	davidandannsmith@btinternet.com	Chairman

Dibden

Malcolm Wade*	1 Bullrush Close Dibden Purlieu SO45 4NN	023 8084 7218	Malcolm.wade@nfdc.gov.uk	
Jonathan Bennett	26 Elizabeth Gardens Dibden Purlieu SO45 4NF	023 8084 1172	jonastra@aol.com	

Dibden Purlieu

Chris Harrison*	15 Corsair Drive Dibden SO45 5UF	023 8084 8929	chris.harrison@nfdc.gov.uk	
Brenda Smith*	6 Merriemeade Close Dibden Purlieu SO45 4PZ	023 8084 9696	Brenda.smith@nfdc.gov.uk	

Furzedown

George Dawson	115 Heatherstone Avenue Dibden Purlieu SO45 4LD	023 8084 0849		
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Hythe East

Bob Podesta	“Ramnor House” Sharvells Road Milford on Sea	01590 644841	podesta@beeb.net	
Stan Wade*	“Pathways” 5 Jessop Close Hythe SO45 6AF	023 8084 2484	Stan.wade@nfdc.gov.uk	

Hythe West

Roger Guy	24 Lanehays Road Hythe SO45 5EA	023 8084 5446	rogerianguy@compuserve.com	
Maureen Robinson*	“Cumbria” 36 Lower Mullins Lane Hythe SO45 5AF	023 8084 5854	Maureen.robinson@nfdc.gov.uk	

Langdown

Maureen McLean*	85 Hobart Drive Hythe SO45 6FD	023 8084 4324	Maureen.mclean@nfdc.gov.uk	
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* New Forest District Councillors

Officers

Mr D Shimpe	Clerk to the Council	023 8084 1411	Email: david.shimpe@btconnect.com
Mrs S Maitland	Deputy Clerk to the Council	023 8084 1411	Email: s.a.maitland@btconnect.com

Office Opening Hours 9.00 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday

Facilities Provided by the Council

Allotments	Jones Lane (35 Plots) Shore Road (37 Plots) West Street (53 Plots)
Amenity Areas	Prospect Place Rear of The Grove
Football Pitches	Shore Road
Halls	The Parish Hall West Street
Information Office	The Grove 25 St Johns Street
Picnic Area	Shore Road
Play Areas and Recreation Grounds	Capella Gardens Cathay Gardens Ewart Recreation Ground Fern Hill Fletcher Close Forest Front Langdown Lawn Noads Way Shore Road
Recreation Centre	Clayfields Sports Centre Claypits Lane (Managed by New Forest District Council on behalf of the Parish Council)
Woodland Areas	Fern Hill Langdown Lawn Nature Reserve Forest Front Orestone Copse Tates Copse The Piggery Widcombe Drive

Further information on the above facilities including hire charges can be obtained from the Council Offices or on the website at www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk

Hythe and Dibden Parish Council, The Grove, 25 St Johns Street, Hythe, SO45 6BZ
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