



# HYTHE AND DIBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

*Serving the Communities of Dibden, Dibden Purlieu and Hythe*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

### Chairman's Report



In 2015 we had local elections which resulted in a new makeup of your Parish Council with several new members. This new format has settled in and members new and old are working together for the benefit of the whole community. Whilst this council, like all others, is facing economic difficulties we are striving to maintain all our current services.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff for their efforts in maintaining our Parish in good order and organising events and markets, (see the following reports), that not only help to enhance the viability of our village centre but also help make the Parish a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers in our community who work as individuals or in organisations who give their time freely in the support of others.

**Chris Harrison**  
**Chairman of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council**

### Enhancing the Community for Local People and Visitors

Members of the community often positively comment on the daffodils and floral displays that are present across the parish. During the autumn 2015 period the Council's Maintenance Team planted one ton of daffodil bulbs along prominent verges in the parish. The displays provide a sense of pride for the staff and they are constantly trying to improve the appearance. The Council has committed to maintain the levels of planting in 2016; the maintenance team will play their part in the summer by undertaking the planting and getting up at unearthly hours in the mornings to ensure that the flowers are watered before the parish gets busy.



When they are not maintaining the flowers the maintenance team undertake a number of duties which include daily safety and litter checks of the play areas, tree and hedge cutting, maintaining the sports pitches and generally anything within their power to keep Hythe a nice place to live, work and visit.

### Hythe Tuesday Market – New Appearance - New Location

A brand new market in a new location will arrive in Hythe in Early April.

An experienced market contractor has been appointed by the Council to provide a traditional market in the Village Centre using some of the existing Tuesday Market stall holders as well bringing new stalls to widen the customer choice from that currently being experienced.

Further advertisements will appear on the council's website [www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk](http://www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk) and on the Hythe and Dibden Parish Council Facebook page.

### Art, Craft and Community Events

The Bank Holiday Art, Craft and Community Events were introduced to mitigate the loss after Hampshire Farmers Markets pulled out of the Bank Holiday markets at short notice. The events have gone from





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strength to strength and have resulted in increased footfall in the Village on Bank Holidays; this has made it more viable for some local shops to open thus increasing the economic opportunities. Since the introduction of the bank holiday events additional Italian and French events have been added during the year, again these offer increased footfall which is beneficial to local businesses.

For more information on this year's community events in Hythe please visit the residents' page of the Parish Council's website [www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk](http://www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk)

## **Christmas lights and the Mistletoe Fayre**

This year's Mistletoe Fayre was the most successful yet with record numbers of the local community attending. It has become an integral part of the annual community calendar. Members of the community may be surprised to read that the cost to the Parish Council to provide the Christmas lights in the Village Centre and hosting the Mistletoe Fayre in 2015 totalled nearly £13,000. The cost included the hire and installation of the lighting as well as staff costs to arrange for the necessary licenses and permissions to be in place for the lighting and the Mistletoe Fayre. In view of the escalating costs the Council has developed a Christmas Light Strategy which allows for the provision of new, environmentally friendly solar lighting features to be placed on lamp columns around the Village Centre and for the first time, around the Dibden Purlieu shopping area.

The Christmas Light Strategy document is available on the 'Parish Council' page of the website [www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk](http://www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk). Further information regarding plans for Christmas 2016 will appear on the Council's website in due course. Members of a Council working group will be approaching traders and the wider community over the coming months to discuss the possibilities of wider community involvement in a Christmas Light competition. Further details will appear in due course on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page.

## **Play Area Refurbishments - Forest Front Play Area and Skate Park, Bluebell Gardens and Noads Way Play Area.**

The Council has continued with its strategy to provide quality play provision for residents. Refurbishment works at Forest Front Play Area, Bluebell Gardens, Fletcher Close and Noads Way Play Areas have been completed following consultation between the Council's Play Equipment Working Party, members of the community and partner organisations. Funding for the projects mainly came from developers' contributions.

The working party is continuing to work on project plans for Forest Front Skate Park which it is anticipated will undergo a refurbishment during 2016. In addition, the preparation of an updated strategy for the provision of outdoor play in Hythe and Dibden will commence in 2016.

A list of the Parish Council's play areas is available on the 'Facilities' page of the Parish Council's website [www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk](http://www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk)

## **Community Safety**



The Parish Council's ACISO service continues to patrol the Parish and respond to requests from the community. The two ACISOs now have this replacement vehicle that has been kitted out for their equipment; keep an eye out for them. The e mail bulletins that are enjoyed by many people continue and the service is about to commence a Facebook Page for those of us who love our social media; find us at 'Hythe and Dibden Parish Council Community Safety Team'.

Further information about your Parish Council can be found on the Council's website [www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk](http://www.hytheanddibden.gov.uk) or by contacting the office on 02380 841411.