

# **Cllr. Dan Poole**

## **Dibden and Hythe East Ward**

### **Annual Parish Council Report 2016**

Since my election to this Council and also New Forest District Council, last May, I have attended all full Council meetings, plus all meetings of the Committees and Outside Bodies that I serve on; namely the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the New Forest Environmental Protection Liaison Committee.

The months since last May have been a learning experience for me. However, new councillors have also been fortunate in receiving excellent training to ensure that we are provided with the necessary skills and knowledge to help us in our public duties.

I am currently on several task and finish groups, from the upcoming implementation of the District's kerbside glass SMS service, which will send reminders out to residents before their collection is due, to the Screen Tourism task and finish group, which looks at enhancing tourism in the New Forest, with all the financial benefits that will hopefully bring to our communities. Lastly, I am a member of the Young People task and finish group, which will look at young people and the Hospitality industry in the New Forest, which covers my own working background. These task and finish groups are still in their early stages and I look forward to contributing towards them.

In May, I was invited to attend meetings regarding the relocation of PC Builders and the possibility of a new supermarket coming to Hythe. At the request of one of the companies involved, I was informed that details of discussions were confidential until negotiations were over. However at these meetings, both Councillor Kate Crisell (Furzedown and Hardley Ward) and I, stressed the need for transparency at the earliest opportunity, given rumours and concerns being voiced by the residents of the Parish, so this could be rectified. I succeeded in achieving special permission from Executive Director, John Mascall, to confirm in a statement that talks were indeed taking place between NFDC, PC Builders and Lidl Supermarkets and relayed this information back to the Parish council, ending a long period of speculation.

I have been proud to lend my support to Dibden Youth, by donating £300 of my Community Engagement Grant for this year, after attending their photography competition and learning of how funds will assist with their worthwhile ongoing photography project. Also, along with Councillors Peter Armstrong, James Binns, Kate Crisell, Beverley Thorne, and my Ward colleague, Bill Andrews, we were delighted to hand a cheque of £1,200 to

Families Matter, based in Hythe, in order to support the fantastic work they do.

This year has been both challenging and rewarding, but I have learned a lot and will undoubtedly continue to do so. I look forward to the next twelve months.

*Dan Poole*