

DENMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09



Denmead Parish Council

The Old School
School Lane
Denmead
Hampshire PO7 6LU

This Annual Report has been produced with the intention of helping the residents of Denmead become more familiar with the work of the Parish Council. The report presents a summary of the activities and responsibilities of the Council during the past year.

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 2008-09

Cllr Neil H LANDER-BRINKLEY <i>Chairman of Council</i>	High Trees, Thompsons Lane, Denmead, PO7 6NB	Tel: 9225 1484
Cllr Brendan GIBBS <i>Vice Chairman of Council</i>	15 The Heath, Denmead, PO7 6JT	Tel: 9226 4528
Cllr Kevin ANDREOLI <i>Chairman of Planning</i>	6 The Meadow, Denmead, PO7 6YJ	Email: council@andreoli.co.uk
Cllr Greta BENDALL	Inhams Farm House, Inhams Lane, Denmead, PO7 6LX	Tel / Fax: 9225 8692
Cllr Christopher BROWTON	'Crossfields', The Green, Hambledon Road, Denmead, PO7 6NF	Tel: 9224 1634
Cllr Richard HALLETT <i>Vice Chairman of H&GP</i>	Warringa, Forest Road, Denmead, PO7 6UE	Tel: 9225 6910
Cllr Jeremy L HARRISON <i>Vice Chairman of Amenities</i>	36 Little Corner, Denmead, PO7 6XR	Tel: 9223 1135
Cllr Felicity HULL <i>Chairman of Amenities</i>	Seymour Cottage, Forest Road, Denmead, PO7 6UA	Tel: 9226 1977
Cllr John KNIGHT <i>Chairman of Highways & General Purposes Committee (H&GP)</i>	High Trees, Ashling Close, Denmead, PO7 6NQ	Tel: 9226 6345
Cllr Peter MARTIN <i>Vice Chairman of Planning</i>	67 Hatchmore Road, Denmead, PO7 6TE	Mobile: 07941 245 441
Cllr Christine PHILLIPS	Rose Hill Cottage Hambledon Road Denmead PO7 6ER	Tel : 92 257138
Cllr Grenville PHILLIPS	Rose Hill Cottage Hambledon Road Denmead PO7 6ER	Tel : 92 257138
Cllr Ian REED	50 Harvest Road, Denmead, PO7 6LL	Tel: 9278 6354

Contact details for Councillors are also posted on the Parish Noticeboards and listed on the Parish Council website www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk and in the Parish Scene

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2008-09

All Councillors sit on the Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman are voting members of every Committee

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, Committee Chairs

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair 2008-09 – Kevin Andreoli

Greta Bendall, Richard Hallett, Felicity Hull, John Knight, Peter Martin, Gren Phillips

HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair 2008-09 – John Knight

Greta Bendall, Richard Hallett, Jeremy Harrison, Gren Phillips, Ian Reed

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair 2008-09 – Felicity Hull

Kevin Andreoli, Richard Hallett, Peter Martin, Gren Phillips, Christine Phillips, Ian Reed

WORKING GROUPS 2008-09 -

Footpath sub Committee	Cllrs: G Bendall, B Gibbs (Chairman) , N Lander-Brinkley & C Phillips. Co-opted Members: Mr Blomfield, Mr Dawe and Mr Stallard. Walkers: Ms Crellin.
Sports Sub Committee	Cllrs: K Andreoli (Chairman) , B Gibbs, P Martin, G Phillips & N Lander-Brinkley
Youth Provision Working Party	Cllrs: F Hull (Chairman) , C Phillips & N Lander-Brinkley. Co-opted members: Representatives from Hampshire Constabulary, Denmead Swings & Things (Mr P Hull, Mrs D Gissing & Mr A Agathangelou) , Hampshire County Youth Service (Liz Walker) Public Representative (Mr F Hipwell Larkin)
Landscape Working Party	Cllrs: G Bendall, F Hull. J Harrison (Chairman) & I Reed Head Groundsman
Ashling Park Improvements Working Party	Cllrs: N Lander-Brinkley (Chairman) G Phillips, P Martin and J Harrison. Parish Clerk

THE COUNCIL STAFF

The Parish Clerk: Tony Daniells.
Contact details: **Denmead Parish Council**
The Old School
School Lane
Denmead
Hampshire PO7 6LU
Tel: 02392 247947 Email: clerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk
Office Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Monday-Friday Afternoons by appointment

THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council maintains a website at www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk The website lists contact details for members of the Council, District Councillors and the local County Councillor. Editions of the Parish Scene are maintained on the site as a useful reference source. Local businesses and social and community groups are represented.

THE PARISH SCENE

The Parish Scene is circulated to all households in Denmead four times a year, in March, June, September and December. For information about items in the newsletter or to submit articles for publication please contact the Parish Clerk on 02392 247947.

Parish Scene Editor : Bernie Reid

Distribution : John Lewis

Schedule of Meetings Attended by Parish Councillors and Membership of main Committees and Sub-Committee during period 1st April 2008 to 25th March 2009

	Full Council	Amenities Committee	Finance, Admin & Personnel Committee	Highways & General Purposes Committee	Planning Committee	Footpaths Sub-Committee	Total Meetings Held / Attended
No of meetings held	8	8	9	8	25	6	64
Andreoli, K	8	7	7		23		
Bendall, G	3			3	3	2	
Gibbs, B (Vice-Chairman)	7	8	8	4	20	5	
Hallett, R	6			8	16		
Harrison, J	7	8		6			
Hull, F	6	6	4		17		
Knight, J	6		6	8	20		
Lander Brinkley, N (Chairman)	8	6	7	6	18	5	
Martin, P	6	5			13		
Phillips, C	8	7		8		4	
Phillips, G	8	4			21		
Reed, I	8	5		6			

The shaded areas indicate that the Parish Councillor is NOT a full member of that Committee or Sub-Committee and does not attend meetings.

Reasons for non-attendance are recorded when known and held in the Parish Council office.

This list is not comprehensive. Parish Councillors also attend other meetings such as working groups and external meetings with other organisations regarding matters concerning the Parish of Denmead

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009
Presented by Councillor Neil Lander-Brinkley
at the Annual Parish Meeting at All Saint's Church Denmead
on Tuesday 31 March 2009

The Village Centre

Where else can a report on the Parish Council's business during the past year begin other than with the Village Centre Improvements. Phase two of the work was carried out earlier this year and it is a relief to be able to report that the lake which regularly appeared at the end of the parking area, every time it rained, has been dealt with. As everyone will be aware, last week the trees were planted, putting a final, softening touch to the greatly improved pedestrian and parking surfaces. Both in leaf and in bloom, these trees will provide a pleasing aspect to our shopping area.

The work has been funded by Winchester City Council and it is appropriate to record the residents thanks to the officers involved, Greg White and Chris Evans, for their diplomacy and perseverance through the many difficulties and delays. The fact that the City Council was never allowed to abandon the project, despite its twelve years' gestation, and that the funding was increased, is due to our Ward Councillors work behind the scenes, which we gratefully acknowledge. That said, the Parish Council has played its part. After providing a new seat and the new Notice Board, it was discovered that there were not sufficient funds to install the trees with the required guards. Denmead Parish Council put up £4,000 to ensure the work was done as we had requested. Freddie Allgood, with his County Councillor's hat on has used his local funds to offset most of this expense. Indeed, with this funding County Councillor Allgood has met the cost of putting the seat and Notice Board in place, and provided a new transformer for the Christmas Lights on the Green.

One aspect of the village centre which continues to be of great concern to everyone is the The Old Post House/One Stop building. The building is increasingly dilapidated and a visual eyesore. During the last year the architects for the new owners produced some bold and imaginative plans and, to their credit, they consulted with the Parish Council and residents and some of the comments found their way into revised plans. When the application finally came forward, the Parish Council, whilst finding much to applaud, considered that, as a building to stand in the village centre for many years it had too many aspects of the design that the Planning Committee just could not accept. WCC agreed. We wait to see what will now happen.

Last year's Assembly

Last April the Assembly heard from the Baptist Church about their proposals to provide a new community building and facilities. The Council recognised that such facilities could have a potential value to the whole village. To date this Council is unaware of any progress on this matter.

Also last year the Assembly heard from the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing, because the Parish Council are actively pursuing the provision of a scheme to provide some affordable housing in Denmead. It can be reported that although it was felt likely that the project would fail through the lack of a suitable site, following continued

pressure from the Parish Council to explore every angle, since the New Year, progress is being made and it is planned that a fuller report will be made to residents during 2009.

Denmead's environment

Although it is a large village, Denmead residents value the rural nature of much of their surroundings and the Parish Council has reflected that in its response to planning applications. Notably we have strongly, and with the help of our Ward Councillors and neighbouring Parish Councils, successfully contested the wish to put a new access road to the Meadow Farm buildings near to The Chairmakers pub at World's End – although that has now gone to an Appeal.

Contributions continue to be made to WCC's development of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy will be made public soon and further consultation exercises can be expected during 2009. Part of the Parish Council's stance has been to seek the removal of the Housing Reserve status on Little Frenchies Field, which Denmead Parish Council has sought to use for recreation since 2003. At present, release by WCC of the site is considered most unlikely as currently there are sufficient sources of building land in the District, but that has not stopped a speculative application by Taylor Wimpey, yet to be determined, and that is being contested by the Parish Council and many residents.

The Parish Council continues to attend meetings of the West of Waterlooville Forum primarily to mitigate the impact of contractors on the residents of Closewood Road and Newlands Lane. The progress in building the new Newlands Common estates has clearly and dramatically slowed as the national economic situation stifles the sale of new houses

A forum for Denmead's businesses?

During the preparation of this Council's submissions regarding the LDF it became clear that there was nowhere for us to go to seek the view of business Businesses in Denmead. They are an important aspect of life in Denmead yet without a voice. Our response was to promote a forum in which our local business-people can exchange views, swap ideas and perhaps work together. The Clerk examined every possible source of contacts and in the end sent out 98 invitations to people working in or based in Denmead. On the launch day, February 3rd, there was the heaviest snow fall for many years and both of the speakers had to give up their attempts to reach Denmead and a number of attendees had to cancel as well. After discussion and excellent food supplied by Ricardo's Gourmet-to-go it was agreed that a second meeting would be held. Kate Crawford, an Economic Development Officer from WCC spoke to that meeting. The result was a further meeting (in April) to 'network' and meet each other, and a web-site (at this stage to gather views of businesses in Denmead). To date 28 businesses have been involved in some way and although DPC will continue to provide administrative support and goodwill, it is now up to the business community to take matters forward.

Denmead's provision for young people

The Ashling Pavilion was designed to enable a provision for young people of the village. During the last year Hampshire's Youth Service had to withdraw their staff and support of the Tuesday Denmead Activity Nights (for 9 to 13 year olds) as their funding priorities changed. They continued to operate the Youth Club (for 13+) on Wednesdays but as the provision for the younger age group was considered particularly important, Denmead took the step (not without some trepidation!) of employing two part-time youth workers. This has proved to be a

great success, not only that, but continued funding for their work has been secured from The Children's Fund (originally a Government funding stream, now administered by County Councils). The evenings are well attended, so much so that provision has now been extended into Monday evenings with a quieter, but nonetheless well-supported, set of activities.

Finances

The year-end accounts for 2008-09 will be made available in the Council's website and the main Notice Board when they have been prepared and approved by the Council and audited. For the Assembly the papers include details of the Accounts for the current year up to the end of February. The Council continues to support village life with grants to organisations such as Denmead in Bloom and the Horticultural Society, as well as supporting organisations that work in the village such as the CAB and Homestart.

Residents who live near the Barn will have noticed that a major refurbishment of the play area there has begun as the equipment has reached the end of its usable life. This is using money known as 'S106 funds' which originate from Developers who have built in Denmead and is held by Winchester City Council. This Council has plans to make further use of this funding to improve the car parks and footpaths in Ashling Park.

In November, taking into account the ever increasing responsibilities and pressures on its budget, the Parish Council set a precept of £318,240 for the year 2009/10. This is an increase 2.74%.

The Council

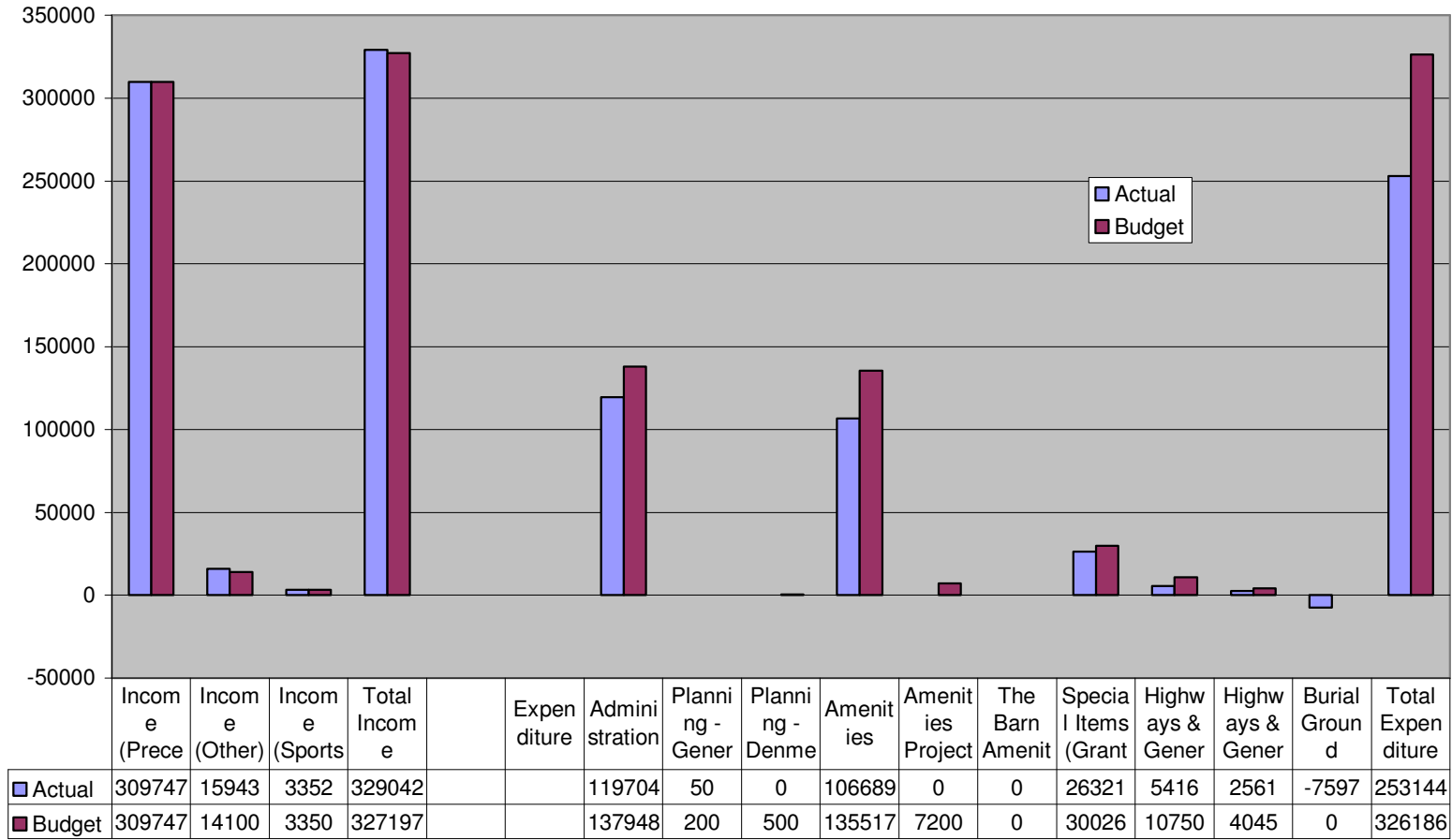
The Parish Council is made up of thirteen members but during the past year it has operated with a vacancy. That was until last week when three candidates put themselves forward for co-option at a meeting of the Council. At the time of writing the successful candidate has yet to be selected.

Our staff

To end this report it is fitting to thank the Office team for their support of the Council members as well as dealing with their regular administrative workload. Tony Daniells, our Clerk, is to be congratulated on gaining his Certificate in Local Council Administration during the year. This will enable DPC to take forward its application for Quality Status during 2009. Finally thanks too, to the Landscape Management team who continue to deal effectively with the task of dealing with our hedges, green ways, open space areas and playing fields.

Cllr Neil Lander-Brinkley
Chairman

Finance Report for the Year 2008/09 To Date



PLANNING COMMITTEE
Prepared by Councillor Kevin Andreoli

During 2008 the planning committee considered 131 applications, each one being visited by at least two councillors. An analysis of 10% of these applications shows that we disagreed with Winchester in approximately 15% of cases.

With the backing of our district councillors we successfully took some of the more contentious applications to the WCC Planning Development Control Committee and won our argument.

Notably the Shipyard Motors site, where we successfully fought off a three storey building, Meadows Farm where (with the residents association) we won round one of the battle against a plan to build a new access track across the water meadows, and Harrowgate Lane where the Agricultural Land status has been retained. We also successfully fought a plan to build a large number of flats on the Parklands business estate.

Unfortunately Meadows Farm is now the subject of an appeal.

Your Planning Committee has monitored the plans for the West of Waterlooville Major Development Area and will continue to do so.

We have continually fought to avoid excessive building in the village, and where we have lost the overall battle we have often managed to gain some modifications to the initial plans.

We are now embarking on the battle to save Little Frenchies Field from being turned into another housing estate – we'll need YOUR support for that one.

At last year's Annual Parish Assembly we had a presentation by the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing about the Council's plans for affordable houses for local people – I will be giving an update on this activity during the evening.

HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE

Prepared by Councillor John Knight

Highways It is pleasing to report that there have recently been some significant repairs to the roads in the parish, most notably the eastern section of Anmore Road and Newlands Lane. Although not within the parish boundaries, the resurfacing of the Southwick Road on the outskirts of Southwick will also be of benefit to the many Denmead residents who regularly use the road. However, much remains to be done and we will continue to urge the Hampshire County Council (HCC) Highways Department to improve the maintenance state of our roads throughout the parish.

We have continued to press for action to improve the maintenance state of many of our surface water drainage systems. Flooding regularly occurs at the junction of Bere and Ashling Park Roads, Kidmore Lane, Green Lane and Edneys Lane though HCC engineers have had some success in Southwick Road and the drains serving the village centre have been cleared.

Village 30 Initiative The introduction of the new 30mph speed limits along Forest Road, Furzeley Road, Bunkers Hill and Inhams Lane is proceeding, though not as fast as we had hoped this time last year. Subject to a satisfactory outcome to the current statutory consultation period, we now expect these new limits to be in place later this year. We fully recognise that reducing the speed limits alone will not overcome the problem of speeding traffic and we will continue to seek more frequent visits to the village by Roads Policing Unit (Speed Enforcement) officers. In addition provision has been made in next years parish budget for the purchase of a speed reacting sign, similar to those on temporary loan last year, for use on parish roads.

Street Clutter Following the lead given by the Campaign to Protect Rural England to reduce street clutter on our country's roads, members of the H&GP committee are looking to see whether there are any road signs in the parish which might be removed without reducing road safety. This is a matter of subjective judgement; one person's clutter is another person's essential sign! It is my intention that the outcome of this survey should err on the side of safety rather than on the too liberal classification as clutter!

Safety Neighbourhood Panels As the largest parish in the area, the DPC have recently taken the lead in establishing the Denmead, Hambledon, Southwick and Widley Safety Neighbourhood Panel. In addition to members of those parish councils the panel includes the WCC Community Safety Manager, Neighbourhood Watch representatives, our local Hampshire Constabulary Safer Neighbourhoods Team, and WCC District Councillors. The aim of this panel is to provide a focus for discussing and seeking solutions to the broad spectrum of crime, anti-social behaviour and other matters affecting the peaceful enjoyment of life in our villages. The inaugural meeting was held in January when it was agreed to hold further meetings at 3 monthly intervals. The next meeting is scheduled for 1400 on Thursday 23rd April in The Old School. If you feel that there are concerns you would like to voice about matters of safety in Denmead then come along to our next meeting. You will be very welcome.

Burial Grounds The recent wet winter has made the upkeep of the burial grounds unusually difficult but our ground staffs are now catching up on the backlog of work. Contractors have recently completed work on improving the turning head at the top of the North Field which will improve its appearance and, most importantly, provide increased parking for visitors to the burial grounds. We are now in the process of getting quotations for grading and shingling the North Field drive and for the repair of Cemetery Lane.

The ground staffs are currently working on establishing a Memorial Garden in a corner of the North Field specifically for the scattering of ashes. This will be planted with appropriate shrubs. It is proposed that the end wall of the Sexton's Hut adjacent to the memorial garden will be used for the permanent display of memorial plaques commemorating those whose ashes have been scattered there. Further details can be obtained from the parish office.

In order to meet a growing interest in 'natural' burials, we are investigating the feasibility of establishing a woodland burial site somewhere in Denmead. This is not a simple matter since the environmental restrictions associated with the creation of any new burial ground have become much stricter during recent years.

Street Lighting When eventually installed, the new lights on the greenway referred to in last year's report, were fitted in the incorrect location! This is not all bad news, however, because as a result we have been allocated a further subsidy by HCC for the installation of a further three lights where originally planned. We expect this work to be completed this summer.

The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) programme for the upgrading of street lighting in Hampshire is slowly moving forward. Our budget makes provision for Denmead to participate in this programme which will result in all the parish owned street lighting being brought up to the latest national standards and maintained thereafter. It is anticipated that this contract will be placed within the next 12 to 18 months.

Village Centre Improvements (Phase 2). The last 12 months have seen this work at last come to fruition and, as I write, contractors have started on the final phase of the work to install the nine specimen trees in the lower end of the car park. Although the allocated budget was not sufficient to allow for the adequate protection of these valuable trees, the budget shortfall has been made up by funding from our Ward County Councillor and by the Parish Council. We hope that these new trees will do much to improve the appearance of the village centre.

AMENITIES

Prepared by Councillor Felicity Hull

The Amenities Committee is now well established with its different sub groups – Landscape Working Party, Sports Sub Committee and Youth Provision Working Party reporting back to the main committee. We also have a new working party looking at improvements to the Ashling Park car parking and associated paths.

Landscape Working Party

Chaired by Jerry Harrison this working party meets mid point between each Amenities Meeting to look at both general policy and the minutiae of our landscaping work. As a Working Party we are able to include site visits during a meeting if it becomes necessary, schedule meetings with local residents who have a problem or wish to discuss a personal point of view and review working practices. We continue to encourage those who wish to take out a Licence to Cultivate. These areas are all very different and reflect how much local residents can add to their surroundings and to the village as a whole. On the other hand we continue to struggle with those who can have no real interest in the area and tip their garden waste – including plastics and other non-biodegradable substances onto the parish land.

The Sports Sub Committee

Chaired by Cllr Kevin Andreoli, looks at our policies to do with sport and liaises with the different sports clubs. We maintain good relations with the Bowls Club who have a lease on their ground in Ashling Park and carry out all their own maintenance. Tennis is another ‘sole user sport’ and as such we have a partnership with Denmead Tennis Club whereby we encourage the participation in tennis and they administer the courts for both public and club use. The club is currently planning to replace their old wooden pavilion with a new version. This winter has seen three football clubs, all in different leagues, using Denmead as their home ground and we will shortly be entering the cricket season and the outdoor archery season.

The Youth Provision Working Party

Chaired by Felicity Hull this Working Party includes members of Denmead Swings and Things, public, police and the Winchester Youth team. This group looks at youth provision in its entirety within the parish but concentrates on the playground provision and the Youth Club provision at the Ashling Pavilion.

With regard to play provision the new playground at ‘The Barn’ is currently being installed. The bulk of equipment will provide the first phase and we hope in the future to be able to add some further small ‘rocks’ and seating. The landscaping phase will also follow on afterwards providing for all round sensory stimulus and providing more of a community garden feel than a bare area with play equipment.

The reorganisation of Children’s Services at County level has led us to implement a number of changes within the Denmead Activity Nights (“DAN”). We now employ two part time youth/play workers for the project rather than buying them in and have also opened on a second night – Monday. This has enabled us to widen our scope with regard to activities and interests and to work at a slightly deeper level with the young people.

Christmas saw an evening's entertainment in the form of a production of Nutcracker and sale of work which was enjoyed by about sixty parents and friends. This last half term we were able to come to the rescue of a number of working parents by organising 4 days of trips plus a full day's cover on the Monday Inset day. These activities included sporting challenges at Calshot plus visits to Paultons Park, Monkey World / Moors Valley Country Park and Horzone / Fort Nelson. We are particularly indebted to the headmaster of Flying Bull Primary School for lending us one of his school minibuses for two of the days. Hopefully there will be a number of photos of the young people's activities on the display boards for people to look at. We are also grateful for the money raised by Waitrose Community Support scheme to go towards subsidising those who have trouble meeting the full trip fees.

A lot of this work is quite challenging however there is great reward in seeing their achievements and it is some of these that DPC wish to honour at the Annual Parish Assembly.

FOOTPATHS
Prepared by Councillor Brendan Gibbs

Once again I report to you all regarding the work of the Footpaths Sub-Committee.

The committee continues to meet every six weeks to present their reports. At each meeting councillors and walkers compare notes on how the footpaths appear throughout the year. We have now built a working relationship with the Hampshire County Council Rights of Way team and it is clear from the condition of many of the footpaths that they are improving their response to our comments and requests for action.

Thanks must go to the members of the committee for their diligence on our behalf.

I once again thank Elaine Crelin, Robin Dawe, David Blomfield and Paul Stallard for all their efforts in walking and the detailed way in which they reported what they saw.

I again thank my fellow council members of the committee Greta Bendall, Chris Phillips and Neil Lander-Brinkley for all their help, support and advice throughout the year.

The committee again looks forward to working on some new challenges in the coming year. Now that we have a meaningful budget we are looking to make a difference in the management of the local footpath network.

I will list some successes from the last year and outline what we would like to achieve over the coming year.

A number of stiles have been repaired along the footpaths that cross White Horse Lane near Little Denmead Farm. This has enabled easier access to these well-used paths.

Most of you will know the Wayfarers Walk that leads north of the village beginning from Kidmore Lane via the Cemetery to Hambledon. Working closely with a local farmer we have achieved a great improvement in the condition of the footpath. My thanks must go to Mr Michael Bailey who has spent many hours on the re-establishment and management of this locally significant path. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Signage at Furzeley Golf Course has greatly improved with regard to the footpath that crosses the course through to Closewood Road. There is an obvious danger of golf balls and footpath walkers coming together but there are now clear signs warning of the potential danger. My thanks go to the management of Furzeley Golf Course for their help in this respect.

We have also organised some healthy walks around our village using the many varied routes that our footpath network has to offer. This initiative has so far seen seven walks over the last year with the promise of more to come in 2009.

Looking forward to 2009-10 I am confident that we can achieve more.

We are currently working with the Hampshire County Council Rights of Way team to improve a series of footpaths leading from the Fareham Road to Newtown via Bent Lane and Bunns Lane. There are a number of stiles that need to be improved and we are now in discussion with the landowners in order to make this happen.

Another very important task is the monitoring of the footpath network in the area to the south of Denmead. Here it is expected that 2000 new dwellings will be built before 2011. Our role is to ensure that none of the public rights of way in this area are lost due to the development.

Finally we will be re-launching the Denmead Millennium Trail over the next year. This is an important trail locally and is a route that is recommended as one appropriate for all fitness levels. Using a number of footpaths, part of the Forestry Commission land at Creech Woods and some minor roads this trail is a very pleasant walk around the village.

If you feel you want to join us or are keen to gain more information please contact us at the Parish Council office in School Lane on 02392 247947 or by sending an email to dclerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk.

Don't forget to visit www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk for up to date information on the next Healthy Walk.

Brendan Gibbs
Footpaths Sub-Committee

Hampshire County Council

Annual Report to Denmead Parish Assembly
31 March 2009

Activities

During the last 12 months I have attended all 6 of the meetings of the County Council, In addition I have served on the Children and Young People Select Committee, the Pension Fund Executive Panel, and the Fareham Area Foster Panel. I have been Chairman of the Hampshire Action Team for the Winchester District and Vice Chairman of the Road Safety Committee.

I have represented the Council on the South Downs Joint Committee, the West of Waterlooville Forum, the Fort Nelson Liaison Committee and the Winchester District Local Strategic Partnership Board.

Top Rating for Council

For the seventh year in succession Hampshire has been cited as an Excellent Authority by the Audit Commission and awarded 22 marks out of 24, the highest score of any local authority in England. The council was praised for its support and care of adults, for disposal of rubbish, and for its libraries.

Council Tax

The County Council has the lowest tax in the South East of England, despite receiving the lowest grant. The increase in council tax for 2009-10 is 1.9 percent, the lowest for 40 years.

Protecting Children

Hampshire has an excellent record of protecting vulnerable children and has decided to invest in providing additional administrative support for social workers so they can spend more time with families and less time on typing reports at their desk. So high is the county's reputation it has been asked to advise other councils who have come under attack for incidents when children have been harmed.

Education

Children at Hampshire's schools continue to improve their performance at exams with GCSE results that are among the best in the nation. The county is investing in new buildings and also taking steps to ensure there is a good supply of candidates to become head teachers over the next eight years when about 40 percent of current heads are due to retire.

The county is preparing to undertake new responsibilities for sixth form colleges when the Learning and Skills Council which currently run them is wound up next April.

Youth Service

The county took over responsibility for the Connexions service for young people last April and merged this with its current youth service. It is able to offer a broader service for young people in the county.

Highways Maintenance

A new contractor, Amey, took over the task of maintaining Hampshire's roads last summer and has settled in well. It was given the task of clearing all drains and gullies in the county by the end of June and is well on its way to achieving this. Another priority was to repair potholes more efficiently and additional money was found for this task.

The highways team faced a major challenge this winter as the county experienced some of the worst winter weather for many years. It maintained sufficient levels of sand to grit the main roads, using about 40 percent more this winter than normal.

Adult Services

The county is introducing a new approach to support for elderly people, called personalisation. This means the county can offer services that are geared more closely to the needs of each adult than previously. Adults can choose what support they need, instead of a standard approach.

Climate Change

The County has set targets to reduce the carbon footprint of its buildings over the next six years. This is particularly true of the refurbished headquarters building in Winchester which is nearing completion. The new Ashburton Court will have desks for more staff so that the county can save a large amount of money every year by surrendering the leases of four nearby buildings. The new building will generate less carbon as it will be heated by energy derived from its computer room.

Local Activity

The county has carried out work on improving the roads and pavements in Denmead, cleared drains and gullies, tackled potholes that have been reported, and produced schemes to reduce the speed of traffic. Denmead is part of the Village 30 programme and next month some roads currently 40 mph will have the speed limit reduced to 30. In addition the road between Denmead and Waterlooville will have a 40 mph speed limit in action.

Frederick Allgood

County Councillor for Denmead

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL –
Report to Denmead Annual Parish Assembly 31st March 2009**

Capital Strategy and Programme

Full Council has approved the capital strategy and capital programme for the period 2008/09 – 2013/14 which amounts to just over £57 million. The capital budget finances the purchase of land and equipment that will provide economic benefits over a number of years. Major refurbishment costs and some grants are also included in Capital Expenditure, eg the Winchester Stadium and the Discovery Centre, both of which received £1 million investments from the City Council. This year we have spent £9.4 million on capital projects, including improvements to council houses to meet the Decent Homes Standard prescribed by Central Government.

Council Finances

The return on City Council investments in 2009-10 is likely to be down by £1.27 million. Income from planning applications this year is forecast to be down by £275,000 and there will also be a shortfall next year. Income from parking this year is down by £135,000. Income from Land Charges is down this year by £100,000 and this is forecast to continue and the recycling market has so collapsed we are likely to be short of another £125,000. Consequently, Winchester City Council has had to find additional income and/or savings of about £2.5 million just to stand still!

Because of the wholly unexpected nature of the current worldwide financial crisis, the City Council are proposing an innovative measure. Instead of balancing the budget over a 12 month period, we are proposing to balance this over two years. In the current financial year we are likely to exceed our investment income by £443,000 because of the strength of our investments early in the year before the worldwide crisis. So we are planning to use this in 2009-10 to balance the forthcoming year's budget.

Council Tax

The City Council has approved a tax increase of only 2.75% for 2009/2010. The tax will be one of the lowest such increases of any District Council in Hampshire and recognises the financial difficulties being faced by residents and local businesses, but maintains services at a high level and also invests in essential services for the future. Prudent housekeeping and savings in energy costs have been used to lower the level of council tax.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

47,000 comments were received from 3,000 responders to the consultation process and data presented to the Local Development Framework Cabinet Committee, which will draw up a preferred approach for the District, based on all the evidence gathered. The amended timetable for submitting all the documents to Government is -

Preferred Options – April 2009
Consultation – May/June 2009
Draft document – December 2009

Final submission stage – mid 2010

Likely adoption – Summer 2011

As part of the LDF framework a strategy to provide development that serves local needs and maintains the viability of existing communities is being proposed through a settlement hierarchy. Denmead has been included at Level 2 which means that new development will be accommodated through infilling, redevelopment and green field releases for housing (including 40% affordable housing) for about 300 new dwellings – averaging 15 dwellings per annum from 2006-2026. Related documents are available on www.winchester.gov.uk. Wickham is also designated a Level 2 settlement whereas Hambledon and Southwick will be Level 3.

LEADIng the Way

Winchester and East Hampshire District Councils have successfully led a local bid for just over £2 million of funding from SEEDA, the regional development agency. The money will be for projects selected by the Local Action Group which will enhance the rural areas of the two Districts. The funds originate from the Common Agricultural Policy, so SEEDA want it invested in the rural economy. The money will be spent under five themes:

- To facilitate agricultural and forestry /woodland business development and diversification
- To support the regeneration of rural communities
- To develop a quality rural tourism offer
- To provide enterprise and skills development for small rural businesses
- To enhance the value of the physical environment

These themes are underpinned by the cross cutting issue of sustainability, which every project will need to demonstrate before it is funded. If you know of anyone who has a project which fits under one or more of the themes above, they might be eligible to bid for funds of up to £50,000. For more information, go to www.winchester.gov.uk/leaderfunding or email kcrawford@winchester.gov.uk

Local Authorities Business Growth Incentive (LABGI)

The LABI grant to the City Council has been increased from £701,000 by another £282,094.60. Consequently the Council decided to transfer part of this money into the Property Fund and use the rest to find ways to help our local businesses through challenging times ahead.

Housing

In January, Council approved an increase in Housing rents averaging 6.14% in line with the Government's guideline rent increase proposals. It also approved a range of guiding principles on which the housing budget will be based next year. Despite some reductions, there will be an increase in the boiler replacement programme of £550,000 and a sum of £100,000 towards the provision of communal aerial systems as part of the digital switchover, which needs to be completed by 2012. There will be no increase to garage rents.

Car Parking Charges

Although Cabinet agreed to minimal revised car park charges for 2009/10 there will be no increase in the park and ride charges, nor any increase in rural car park charges. It has also been agreed not to impose Sunday parking charges at this time. The car park capital programme itemises work totalling £180,000 plus the carry forward of £100,000 for Tower Street car park works in 2009/10.

Access

The Winchester Town Access Plan is being prepared jointly by the City Council and the County Council and will set out proposals to reduce demand for car based travel; how to manage current traffic issues and consider how to offer more and better travel choices. The Access Plan must also reflect other priorities, such as the need to address climate change and promote a reduction in carbon emissions. Cabinet has recently confirmed the City Council's support, in principle, for the provision of a second park and ride service, south of Winchester and further discussions will take place with Hampshire County Council. The first park and ride site was opened in 1993, was subsequently expanded in 2004, and has can now hold a maximum of 785 vehicles. The completion of a second park and ride site will increase parking spaces to over 1600.

Revenue Grants

Cabinet agreed the recommendation for a revenue grant of £1,400 to Havant & District CAB – the money helps to maintain the CAB office in Denmead, held in The Heath Room, All Saints Church, every Monday at 10.00 a.m.

Reserve Sites

Policy H.2 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review allocates four “Local Reserve Sites” which are to be released for development, only if monitoring indicates that they will be needed to meet the Structure Plan's housing requirement for the District. The possible need for one or more of these sites to be released has to be reviewed annually.

Little Frenchies Field, Denmead was identified in the 2006 Winchester District Local Plan as a “reserve site” with capacity for 70 dwellings but a report to Winchester City Council in February 2009 concluded that no Local Reserve Sites need to be released at that time. However, there is a need to bring forward strategic housing allocations in the medium term, through the LDF Core Strategy and this is being progressed. The City Council will invite comments from stakeholders and interested parties on the conclusions of that Assessment. These comments will then be considered before the matter is taken back to Cabinet for a formal decision on whether any Local Reserve Site releases are needed for the coming year.

Council Tax Summonses

Fewer summonses and reminders about unpaid council tax have been issued by the City Council. So far this financial year, Winchester City Council Officers have issued 4,360 summonses, including first and second reminders and final notices, compared with almost 6,000 in 2006/2007. The Council believes that the decline is due to more people paying by

direct debit. However, if you are struggling to pay your council tax, please get in touch with the City Council as soon as possible.

Sports Awards

Last year I attended the County Sports Awards evening at the Rose Bowl, Southampton, and decided that it would be very appropriate for Winchester District to recognise the achievements of local sportspeople, coaches and volunteers – something we have never done before. Working in partnership with the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA), the City Council hosted the first ever Winchester District Sports Award evening at The Guildhall. The evening was hosted by Olympic swimmer Julia Beckett who, together with The Mayor, presented a range of awards and trophies to fourteen winners. Julia also received the Senior Sportswoman Award. The evening was such a success that we intend to make it an annual event.

Official Opening of the Stadium

The official Opening of the Winchester Stadium is to take place on Saturday 2nd May 2009 and has been planned to coincide with the Winchester District Sports Festival – being organised by WCC and the SPAA partnership. A group of University Sports Development students and the local Army Regiment have been enlisted to help with the project. The Winchester Sports Festival will provide opportunity for members of the public to either try or observe different types of sports. This will be followed by a Young Athletics Meet on Sunday 3rd May.

Sports Facilities Strategy 2010 – 2020

The Sports Development team are putting together a Winchester District Sports Facilities Strategy in order to provide a framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities in the District. This Strategy document builds very much on the work undertaken for the PPG17 study for the Winchester District. The aim of the Strategy will be to increase the number of people who are physically active; increase the number of sports coaches, official and volunteers and improve access to high quality sport and recreation facilities.

City Museum Achievement

The City Museum has recently been awarded quality accreditation under the National Visitor Attraction Quality Accreditation Scheme (VAQAS) following a rigorous process of written submission, mystery shopping and staff interviews. The assessment considers every aspect of a visit, from the availability of pre-visit information, to ease of finding, to on-site experience.

The museum is only the 3rd attraction in the District to win the accreditation, the others being Marwell and INTECH. The assessor reports that the museum was awarded a “high score.”

Culture Conference

Over 90 delegates attended the City Council’s inaugural Culture Conference, held at the Discovery Centre on 21st January 2009. The Conference attracted several National speakers, including Francesca Canty, UK Cultural Programme Advisor of the Olympic Games; James

McVeigh from Arts Council South East and John Holden, an academic from the political think-tank, Demos. Feedback from the Conference will inform the Council's updated Cultural Strategy.

Older Persons Information Day

More than 200 people attended an Older Persons' Information day at Winchester Discovery Centre on 22nd October. The event, which was organised by the Winchester District Older Peoples Partnership, attracted visitors from as far afield as Portsmouth and Southwick. Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and HM Revenues and Customs all worked in partnership to provide advice and information on the day. During the course of the day, the pension service arranged over 50 referrals and the Fire Service arranged a number of home visits to fit fire alarms and carry out safety checks. Following on from the success of the Older Persons Day, the possibility of establishing an "Over 55s Action Forum" is being explored. If you wish to find out more, please telephone Nicola Lawrence on 01962 848497 for further details.

Reporting Anti Social Behaviour

Winchester residents can now make use of an online form to report incidents of anti social behaviour in their area. The form is designed to make it easier for residents to quickly and discreetly report problems. Residents wishing to report incidents of anti social behaviour can visit www.winchester.gov.uk/asb to complete an online reporting form. The web page also provides details on alternative ways to report incidents of anti social behaviour and details on what action the Council can take against it.

Healthy Walks – National Accreditation

The Healthy Walks scheme run by Winchester City Council has been awarded accreditation by *Walking the way to Health*, a joint initiative between Natural England and the British Heart Foundation. Winchester Health Walks is a relatively new scheme and aims to get more people walking in their own communities, especially those who take little exercise or live in areas of poor health. The initiative has helped to create 525 local health walk schemes across England and has trained over 33,000 volunteer Walk Leaders. The Council's first Health Walk was at the beginning of last November and the group meets every Monday outside the Winchester Tourist Information Office at 10.30 am. New walkers are always welcome, and it's free! Contact Lydia Lockhart on 01962 848725.

Health

Did you know that whilst levels of violent crime in Winchester District are low, there are nearly 1,800 children living in poverty? Health inequalities are found with the District, eg life expectancy is 4 years lower for men and women from the most deprived areas, compared with those people from the least deprived areas. However, over the past ten years, rates of death from all causes, and early deaths from cancer, heart disease and stroke, have improved and are better than for England. The Hampshire Public Health Annual Report for 2007 and other key documents relating to health can be found at: www.hampshirepct.nhs.uk

Free Swimming

Central Government recently announced funding for local authorities to promote swimming in specific age groups, namely those aged over 60 years and young people aged 16 years. Winchester City Council has supported these initiatives and introduced the two schemes for free swimming sessions on a two year trial basis, until 2011, but no residency criteria can be imposed by any participating Council.

West of Waterlooville blog

A new blog site has been launched to keep people up-to-date with how the West of Waterlooville development is progressing. The link is <http://westofwaterlooville.wordpress.com>

Submitted by Patricia Stallard on behalf of Councillors Allgood, Read and Stallard

March 2009

Councillor Patricia Stallard, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport; Historic Environment Champion; Health and Wellbeing Champion; Winchester City Council

Councillor Michael Read, Mayor of Winchester, Winchester City Council

Councillor Frederick Allgood, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, Winchester City Council