

# **DENMEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10**



**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 2009-10 (as of 31 March 2010)

<b>Cllr Neil H LANDER-BRINKLEY</b> <i>Chairman of Council</i>	<b>High Trees, Thompsons Lane, Denmead, PO7 6NB</b>	<b>Tel: 9225 1484</b>
<b>Cllr Brendan GIBBS</b> <i>Vice Chairman of Council</i>	<b>15 The Heath, Denmead, PO7 6JT</b>	<b>Tel: 9226 4528</b>
<b>Cllr Kevin ANDREOLI</b> <i>Chairman of Planning</i>	6 The Meadow, Denmead, PO7 6YJ	Email: council@andreoli.co.uk
<b>Cllr Greta BENDALL</b>	Inhams Farm House, Inhams Lane, Denmead, PO7 6LX	Tel / Fax: 9225 8692
<b>Cllr Christopher BROWTON</b>	'Crossfields', The Green, Hambledon Road, Denmead, PO7 6NF	Tel: 9224 1634
<b>Cllr Richard HALLETT</b> <i>Vice Chairman of H&amp;GP</i>	Warringa, Forest Road, Denmead, PO7 6UE	Tel: 9225 6910
<b>Cllr Jeremy L HARRISON</b> <i>Vice Chairman of Amenities</i>	36 Little Corner, Denmead, PO7 6XR	Tel: 9223 1135
<b>Cllr Felicity HULL</b> <i>Chairman of Amenities</i>	Seymour Cottage, Forest Road, Denmead, PO7 6UA	Tel: 9226 1977
<b>Cllr John KNIGHT</b> <i>Chairman of Highways &amp; General Purposes Committee (H&amp;GP)</i>	High Trees, Ashling Close, Denmead, PO7 6NQ	Tel: 9226 6345
<b>Cllr Christine PHILLIPS</b>	Rose Hill Cottage Hambledon Road, Denmead PO7 6ER	Tel : 92 257138
<b>Cllr Grenville PHILLIPS</b>	Rose Hill Cottage Hambledon Road, Denmead PO7 6ER	Tel : 92 257138
<b>Cllr Ian REED</b>	50 Harvest Road, Denmead, PO7 6LL	Tel: 9278 6354
<b>Cllr Rachael SMART</b>	'Devonhurst', Hambledon Road Denmead, PO7 6LR	Tel: 9261 0476

Contact details for Councillors are also posted on the Parish Noticeboards and listed on the Parish Council website [www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk) and in the Parish Scene

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2009-10 (as of 31 March 2010)

**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 2009-10 – Kevin Andreoli

Greta Bendall, Richard Hallett, Felicity Hull, John Knight, Gren Phillips, Rachael Smart

**HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair 2009-10 – John Knight

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

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair 2009-10 – Felicity Hull

Kevin Andreoli, Richard Hallett, Jerry Harrison, Rachael Smart, Gren Phillips, Christine Phillips, Ian Reed

## WORKING GROUPS 2009-10

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Footpath sub Committee	Cllrs: G Bendall, <b>B Gibbs (Chairman)</b> , N Lander-Brinkley & C Phillips. Co-opted Members: Mr Dawe and Mr Stallard. Walkers: Ms Crellin and Mrs K Forster
Sports Sub Committee	Cllrs: <b>K Andreoli (Chairman)</b> , B Gibbs, C Browton, G Phillips & N Lander-Brinkley
Youth Provision Working Party	Cllrs: <b>F Hull (Chairman)</b> , 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, C Browton, F Hull. <b>J Harrison (Chairman)</b> & I Reed Head Groundsman
Ashling Park Improvements Working Party	Cllrs: <b>N Lander-Brinkley (Chairman)</b> G Phillips, I Reed and J Harrison. Parish Clerk

## THE COUNCIL STAFF

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**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](mailto:clerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk)  
Office Hours: 9.30am - 1.00pm Monday-Friday Afternoons by appointment

## THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

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The Parish Council maintains a website at [www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://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

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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 : The Clerk

Distribution : John Lewis



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2010**

Presented by Councillor Neil Lander-Brinkley  
at the Annual Parish Meeting at All Saints' Church, Denmead  
on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010

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### **Quality Parish Status**

When the Quality Parish award was first announced by the Government in 2006, the Council here in Denmead decided to apply as soon as it was eligible. Why? Because the Councillors agreed that this Parish, which in terms of the size of its electorate is the largest in Winchester district, should be seen to be working to the highest standards. The first set of paperwork was prepared in 2007, then for various technical reasons (such as the Clerk obtaining a recognised qualification in the business of Parish Clerk) we had to wait before our portfolio could be submitted. An updated version was submitted to adjudication panel in September and Denmead was successful at the first attempt. It is only the sixth Parish in the Winchester District to achieve this award.

### **Parish Scene 100 - a Special Edition**

To achieve anything for the hundredth time is a very special achievement. To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Parish Scene its production went into full colour and glossy paper and doubled its size. We know that the result was very well received by residents because you have told us so! Begun in 1977 and published quarterly, it is distributed free to every household in the Parish. Then, as now, its purpose was "to give information to the Denmead Parishioners on items pertaining to the Parish Council, the District Council, the County Council and any village association (those supported by the Parish Council) wishing to submit articles. These days organisations based outside of the Parish but working within it (such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux) are also given appropriate space in the newsletter. Here's to the next hundred issues!

### **The Car Parks at Ashling Park**

Ashling Park has reached its limits in the number of activities it can support, and despite the acknowledged shortage of more space, the Parish Council found itself with a large amount of "S106 money" to spend. This is money provided by developers to offset the impact on the community of their building. The money is held on a Parishes behalf by WCC but there is a time limit for it to be spent. This year Denmead has used this money to completely renew two of the car parks at Ashling Park in an environmentally friendly way, and to provide a footpath from the Southwick Road entrance to the park right to the Pavilion so that you can reach it dry-shod, even in the winter. You can watch the football from the path too!

### **Speed Activated Sign**

During 2008, Denmead Parish Council obtained the loan of a mobile traffic speed indicator (from Winchester City Council) and placed it, for a fortnight, on Hambledon Road. The reaction of residents was positive and drivers of cars setting off the sign did, in many cases, get the message and slow down. As a result the Parish Council decided to buy its own sign, and this done, during 2009 it came into action. Being portable, the sign can be placed at one of a number of sites in the Parish to keep up its surprise value.

### **Not so good .....**

During the year this Council has promoted the idea of both a Denmead Business Forum and of reactivating the Parish Plan (originally planned to be prepared after the Village Design Statement (adopted by WCC in 2007) had been completed. Despite our genuine commitment to provide the clerical support for both of these projects, the problem has been finding volunteers from the business community and residents to take up the challenge of being an organiser. If someone comes forward, our offer still remains.

### **Affordable Housing & Little Frenchies Field**

The future planning for homes has been the most difficult subject to address during the past year. There are 75 families with a strong Denmead connection on WCC's housing list who are currently forced to live outside the area or in problem accommodation. Further, Denmead is short of some 20 acres of recreational space for a village of its size (6,611 people). Should Denmead Parish Council tackle these problems and if so how? I refer you to the report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee to find out more.

### **Financial aspects of the past year**

Like every resident, the Parish Council has been affected by the economic recession. The most obvious problem has been the reduction in interest received on our investments. This has been of the order of £11,000. Other financial pressures came from Winchester City Council who asked those rural parishes with public conveniences owned and serviced by the City Council, for a contribution of £3,000 towards their running costs, to ensure that they stay open. Denmead agreed to this as our Conveniences are especially important for the economy of the village centre, not to mention the ramblers and cyclists starting their exercise from the car park, as well as 'bus and commercial drivers.

It is anticipated that next year will see a similar story with further jobs being given to this Council but without the finance to support them. Already the grant from Hampshire County Council, for Denmead Activity Nights (the 9-13 year olds Club led by Cllr Hull at the Ashling Pavilion) has been cut by nearly £10,000.

Every year The Parish Council meets informally to look at applications for grants, and review planned expenditure before preparing its budget for the next year and setting the 'precept' (the name given to the sum that is needed to run the Council which is collected by WCC). This year, your Councillors went through the fine detail of all the funds reserved for projects and by finding underspends and cancelling forgotten projects, over £10,000 was made available to

reduce the planned level of the precept. That sum for 2010-11 is £331,188. What that means to Council Tax payers I have to take on trust because it is a complicated formula, administered by WCC officers) comes out at a 2.3% rise for Band D households. Given the financial climate I will be working to ensure we do even better (ie lower!) than that next year.

### **The Council**

During the year the Council has achieved a full membership of thirteen councillors with the cooption of two residents to fill vacancies. It was a re-assuring sign that both co-options were contested by other people prepared to serve the Parish, unpaid, in the first tier of local government.

Our staff, both on the ground and in the office, continued to serve the public well. In particular, the Parish Council has received many positive comments about the Cemetery, where during 2009 we opened a memorial wall for plaques to be placed by relatives as a means of recording a life. I would like to record my personal thanks to all of our staff. Sadly, Jackie Kerridge, Clerk to the Amenities Committee decided to leave us in order to have more time for her home life. We wish her well.

Cllr Neil Lander-Brinkley  
Chairman



**Schedule of Meetings Attended by Parish Councillors and Membership of main Committees and Sub-Committee during period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

	Full Council	Amenities Committee	Finance, Admin & Personnel Committee	Highways & General Purposes Committee	Planning Committee	Footpaths Sub-Committee	Sports Sub-Committee	Total Meetings Held / Attended
<b>No of meetings held</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>66</b>
Andreoli, K	6	8	8		23			
Bendall, G	3			1	2	0		
Browton, C <sup>1</sup>	5	8		7				
Gibbs, B (Vice-Chairman)	6	7	5	5	22	5		
Hallett, R	3		1 <sup>2</sup>	5	19			
Harrison, J	7	7	1 <sup>2</sup>	5				
Hull, F	7	7	7		19			
Knight, J	4		6	8	18			
Lander Brinkley, N (Chairman)	7	6	8	8	19	4		
Martin, P <sup>3</sup>	0	1			3			
Phillips, C	7	7		7		5		
Phillips, G	5	6			21			
Reed, I	7	8		6				
Smart, R <sup>1</sup>	2	3			8			

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.**

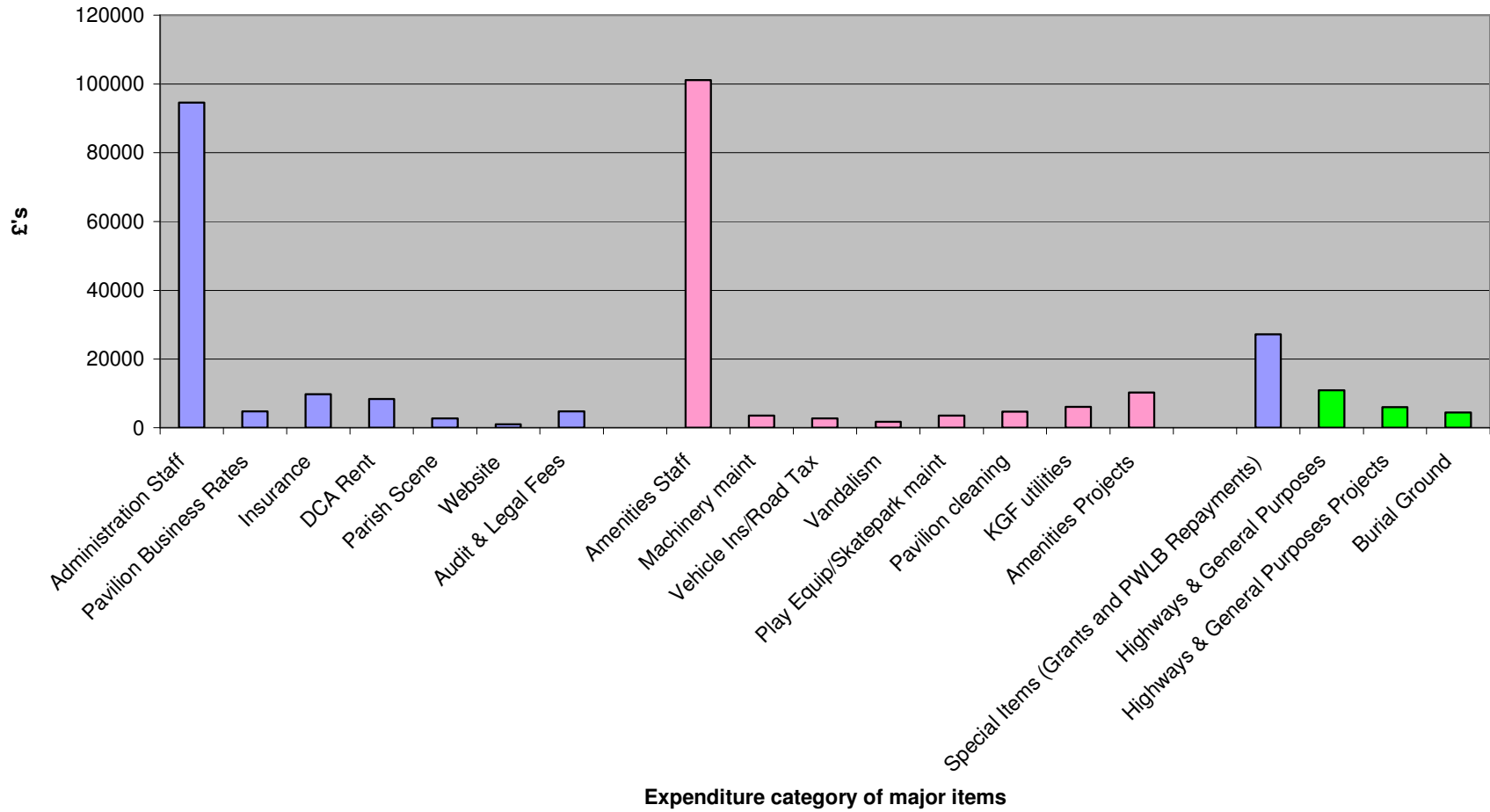
<sup>1</sup> Co-opted to the Council part way through the year

<sup>2</sup> Deputised for Committee Chairman

<sup>3</sup> Resigned as a Councillor part way through the year



**2009/10 Budgeted expenditure by category against a budgeted income of £337,486**





**PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
Prepared by Councillor Kevin Andreoli

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During 2009 the planning committee considered 89 applications, each one being visited by at least two councillors. (This is a drop from the previous year in which we considered 131 applications.) An analysis of 10% of these applications shows that we disagreed with Winchester in approximately 10% of cases.

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

One result of our success at the Control Committee was the refusal of the application by Taylor Wimpey for 80 houses on Little Frenchies Field. This resulted in them appealing the decision and the ensuing Public Enquiry which is still ongoing as I write.

One appeal success during last year was the rejection of the plans for Meadows Farm by that Planning Inspector.

Your Planning Committee has monitored the plans for the West of Waterlooville Major Development Area, now known as Newlands Common. It has commented at meetings of the Forum on several occasions will continue to do so, seeking to influence the planning and mitigate the effects of construction traffic on the residents of Denmead nearest to the development.

Members are also taking an active role in monitoring the preparation by Winchester District Council of their new Local Development Framework. DPC were particularly disappointed by the recently published Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) document which shows that landowners and developers have proposed to Winchester that the majority of green field land to the South and East of Denmead be made available as development land.

During the year we continued to work with the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) taking forward our original suggestion to build a small number of Affordable Homes in the village for the perpetual occupation of those with a connection with Denmead. At the last APA we were not a liberty to divulge which piece of land had been offered to HARAH. Since then we have been allowed to reveal this, with three options for a site in part of Kidmere (known locally as Carpenter's Field) and a public consultation was arranged the village on January 11<sup>th</sup> this year. Given the weather, the fact that an estimated 250 people attended make it a worthwhile event

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, as is the case with a recent surprise proposal by Hampshire County Council who, deciding that they no longer have any need for their land at Old River, proposed building 24 houses there.

Your Parish Council objected on the grounds that this was too many houses in that small area. (DPC had previously proposed that the new Sure Start Children's Centre should be built on this site, but this was opposed by other bodies and that is now being built within the Infant's School site.) The Parish Council has in the past, supported the use of the land for informal or formal recreation, which is its current designation, and has been disappointed that there have been no moves to take forward such a project throughout the site's history. HCC then had discussions with the Parish Council proposing an Affordable Housing scheme,

similar to the HARA scheme. The modifications suggested by DPC, including halving the number of dwellings, making them available as both rented and part-equity purchase by people with a strong Denmead connection, and with part of the land being retained for 'open space' use, possibly as allotments. This scheme too was presented on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

In the case of the Hampshire CC land, it is currently designated as Open Space land and Hampshire CC will need the support of the Parish Council if they are to persuade Winchester CC to accept the change to an exception site, hence the opportunity was taken for your Parish Council to persuade Hampshire CC to modify the original plans.

Kevin Andreoli  
Chairman

## HIGHWAYS & GENERAL PURPOSE

Prepared by Councillor John Knight

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Highways One of the worst winters for many years on top of many years of financial underinvestment in road maintenance has left many of the roads in and around Denmead in an appalling state with potholes, broken haunches and blocked surface water drains. The HCC Highways maintenance teams are working hard to rectify this situation but until central government is prepared to allocate a greater proportion of the cash extracted from our heavily taxed motorists towards the upkeep of our over used roads it seems unlikely that this situation will significantly improve.

That said, one major improvement achieved by the HCC Highways Department during the year has been the alleviation of the long standing flooding problems in Anmore Road and Edneys Lane caused by unmaintained roadside ditches. We hope that further improvements to reduce the risk of flooding in this area might be achieved during the coming year by work to re-establish King's Pond as a fully functioning component of the urban drainage system feeding the River Wallington. This is not the only area in Denmead where heavy rains lead to flash flooding due inadequate or poorly maintained surface water drainage systems and the DPC continue to press for these systems to receive the attention they deserve.

Work will commence shortly on widening and conversion of the existing footway along Hambledon Road from the outskirts of the village up to the boundary with Waterlooville to provide a shared route for pedestrians and cyclists. This work is scheduled to take about 3 months but is the first stage of a planned safe cycleway between Denmead and Waterlooville.

Revised speed limits on roads in and around the village have come into force during the past 12 months and further 30mph limits will be introduced shortly along the Hambledon Road to the east of Denmead and along part of Closewood Road. It is hoped that these changes together with the flashing 30mph reminder sign purchased and operated out of the parish budget will help to make our roads safer for all those who use them.

Burial Grounds The new Memorial Wall in the North Field has had a number of new plaques added to commemorate loved ones during the past year and new shrubs, not favoured by deer, have been planted in the Memorial Garden. Judicious crown lifting and pruning of the many trees in the Old and New Burial Grounds by our ground staff has improved access to graves and the overall appearance of the burial grounds. Work is also underway to replace the main and pedestrian gates to the burial grounds with new green oak gates.

Investigations into the establishment of a woodland or natural burial ground within the boundaries of the parish continue and a visit to the Chiltern Woodland Burial Park, near Beaconsfield, was made recently to see how that had been organised. Something similar in a part of Creech Woods would be ideal; however, its set up costs, about £5M, would be far beyond our means. We will continue to investigate other possibilities since new environmental regulations prohibit any extension to our current burial grounds when the North Field reaches capacity.

Street Lighting After a very lengthy gestation period, the new Private Finance Initiative programme for the upgrading and maintenance of street lighting in Hampshire at last came into effect on 1 April. This contract will cover the 90 or so parish owned lights together with those owned and maintained by HCC and will mean that the parish will pay for but will no longer be responsible for the maintenance of our lights. We understand that the upgrading programme will concentrate initially on large urban areas with Denmead having to wait 5 or so years.

Glass Recycling During the past year the WCC, at the request of the DPC, have established two new glass recycling facilities, the first near the junction with Ashling Park Road and Bere Road and more recently a second on the car park at the Kidmore Lane recreational field. These are both on trial and, after some initial problems, are proving generally popular and well used.

H&GP Budget Matters We were disappointed to learn earlier in the year that as a cost cutting measure the WCC intended to close down the public toilets in the Kidmore Lane car park unless the DPC agreed to shoulder 50% of the future upkeep costs. The DPC considers these toilets to be a necessary village facility and therefore had no option but to include £3,000 in the coming year's budget to cover this cost.

Over recent years the parish rate has met the installation and emptying costs of the 12 dog bins sited around the village. This year's budget was set at £3,000, an increase of £500 over last year to meet the installation of 2 new bins and an anticipated modest rise in WCC charges for their emptying. We were recently informed, after our precept had been set, that in order 'to balance their budget' the WCC had decided to increase their emptying fee by 61% which would have resulted in a H&GP budget overspend of almost £1,000, even without the installation of the two new bins! We are pleased to report that we have since found an alternative private contractor to empty our dog bins whose charges fall within our budget and allow the installation and emptying of the two additional bins.

John Knight

Chairman, Highways & General Purposes Committee

## AMENITIES

Prepared by Councillor Felicity Hull

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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. This last year also saw a working party looking at improvements to the Ashling Park car parking and associated paths. This working party has now completed their work with the installation of a path from the Southwick Road car park to the Pavilion, and the relaying out of the Southwick road and Southern Car Parks.

We are happy to report that we have a new fulltime weekday user of the Trevor Dowling Hall in the Ashling Pavilion in the form of Denmead Day Care. The Hall is still available for hire on Thursday / Friday evenings and most weekends – unless there are cricket matches on.

### **The Sports Sub Committee**

Chaired by Cllr Kevin Andreoli, looks at our policies to do with sport and liaises with the different sports clubs. This has been a generally uneventful year on the sports front with nearly all carrying on as usual. Whilst we had to turn down two football teams who applied to use our facilities before the start of the season one of our clubs has since diminished and will be playing elsewhere. We look forward to hearing from clubs who wish to play at Denmead next year before next season so we can allocate the pitch space.

### **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.

Denmead Activity Nights continue to develop in line with the age and interests of the young people currently attending. We are now established on two nights, Monday and Tuesday, employing two part time youth workers. Thanks to an arts based grant from PUSH Find Your Talent we were able to employ drama and dance tutors in the Christmas term to help with our pantomime production – Robinson Crusoe. We continue to engage in a wide variety of sports, dance, arts and crafts, cookery and other activities. Half terms saw a variety of day trips and home based activities ranging from thrill seeking trips – climbing, high ropes, etc to theme parks or theatre / cinema trips, etc. These were both productive to the young people and their parents who were able to carry on working. Last summer also saw us taking the young leaders on a short youth hostel based trip to Wales where we went gorge walking, high ropes and a visit to Oakwood – the welsh theme park.

Unfortunately with the downturn in the economic climate grant funding for next year has been severely cut so we will have to curtail some of our activities. We will continue however to provide as challenging a programme as we can. This year's Denmead Youth Awards will be held as a separate evening on Tuesday 22 June (7.00 pm) – all welcome.

### **Landscape Working Party**

Chaired by Jerry Harrison LWP continues to work hard at maintaining and improving the sports fields, shrubberies and open spaces owned by DPC. We have been able to undertake more projects this year through the use of Community Payback teams to do initial clearance

of areas which had become unkempt and this has freed our staff to do the more skilled work. As a result we have undertaken major clearances at Rookwood Nature Reserve and the Harvest Field Wetlands. The 'bramble hedge' at Harvest Field has also been cut back although the ground has still to be dug over and the root removed by the Community Payback teams before the new hawthorn hedge is planted. Unfortunately the recent very wet weather has delayed this.

With the long delay in the legal process to transfer the Roman Green Open Space (mainly shrubbery) finally being completed we have also managed to cut back this stretch of hedge on Forest road. One benefit of the hedge being left for so long has been that we have managed to lay part of it which should grow into a traditional thick hedge in time. We continue to plant further bulbs in the autumn and this year saw the inclusion of crocus and anemone blanda as well as daffodils along the greenways. This spring should see the making up and planting of the shrub/flower beds at the recently redone car parks.

Whilst all the above work is very encouraging it is hard not to be dispirited on occasion by the continued antisocial behaviour of some residents who continue to tip their garden waste – including plastics and other non-biodegradable substances onto the parish land and those dog walkers who pick up their dog waste, place it in plastic bags and hang it in the hedgerows, where at best it is unsightly and at worst sprays the staff when they come to trim the hedgerows. It is hard to understand such disgusting habits and it is hard for all the residents who have to pay in their council tax for such mean minded behaviour.

Apart from this though it has been an encouraging year.

## FOOTPATHS

Prepared by Councillor Brendan Gibbs

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The footpaths sub-committee of the Parish Council of Denmead has continued to monitor and report on the condition of all the rights of way within the civil parish of Denmead. All of this is due to the efforts of our co-opted members and walkers who give freely of their time on our behalf.

As always, 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 continue to work closely with Hampshire County Council's Rights of Way team. This is evident by noticeable improvements over the last year to some of the footpaths, waymarkers and stiles.

As is usual I wish to thank the volunteer walkers Elaine Crelin, Robin Dawe, David Blomfield (now retired from the committee due to moving out of the area), Paul Stallard and Karen Forster for all their efforts in walking and the detailed way in which they commented and reported on what they saw.

***I also thank my fellow councillors who sit on the committee for all their help, support and advice throughout the year.***

As has happened in previous years I will list some successes from the last twelve months and outline what we would like to achieve over the coming year.

More work has taken place at Little Denmead Farm. We now have a new stile in place where the Pyles Farm fields begin. This is set back off of White Horse Lane. The footpath here has also been cleared of vegetation and a redundant stile has now been removed. This has enhanced access to this footpath.

Most of you will know the Wayfarers Walk that follows a route to the north of the village towards Hambledon. We are indebted once again to a local tenant farmer who has overseen a vast improvement in the condition of the footpath. Members of the Barn Green Allotments Association have also undertaken work here. Without doubt I can say that this footpath is in the best condition it has been during my time living in Denmead.

Signage at Furzeley Golf Course has been further improved with regard to the footpath that crosses the course through to Pipers Hill and Closewood Road. This is due to the danger of walkers being struck by errant golf balls. There is also a significant improvement in the waymarking of the footpath across the golf course and the stile at its boundary has been completely rebuilt. My thanks go to the management of Furzeley Golf Course for their help in this respect.

Last year we organised 18 healthy walks around our village using the many varied routes that our footpath network has to offer. We also took the opportunity of arranging some Thursday evening walks in June and July 2009. These were a great success and the initiative will be

repeated and extended in 2010. My thanks must go to the very many people who have taken the time to join us on all of these walks.

*Looking forward to 2010-11 I am confident that we can achieve more.*

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

At the present time we are awaiting a response from the local Countryside Access Forum regarding a grant request to improve the condition of a locally significant path. We also await a decision on a grant request to produce a new leaflet providing information about the Denmead Millennium Trail. This trail will be re-launched sometime during the summer months.

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](mailto:dclerk@denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk).

Don't forget to visit [www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk) for up to date information on footpath matters. We have a series of maps and sketches available for all to view. In addition to this information there is an online version of the Denmead Footpaths Guide.

Happy Walking !!

Brendan Gibbs  
Footpaths Sub-Committee

# Hampshire County Council

Annual Report to Denmead Parish Assembly  
13 April 2010

## 1. County Elections 2009

Elections were held last June for the Hampshire County Council. I was successful in the Winchester Southern Parishes Division which covers Boarhunt, Denmead, Knowle, Southwick, Whiteley and Wickham.

The Conservative Party retained control of the Council with an increased majority and re-elected Ken Thornber as Leader with Roy Perry as Deputy Leader.

## 2. My Workload

I have been appointed Vice Chairman of the Children and Young Peoples Select Committee and a member of the Audit Committee, the Regulatory Committee, the River Hamble Management Committee and the Pension Fund Management Panel.

I am also Chairman of the Winchester Action Team, Vice Chairman of the Winchester District Road Safety Council, and a member of the Fareham Foster Panel, the Schools Admission Forum, the Education Advisory Forum, the North Whiteley Forum, the West of Waterlooville Forum and the Local Strategic Partnership Executive.

## 3. Children Services

**School admissions:** Hampshire was able to award first preference places at secondary and primary schools to 12,825 children this year – 93 percent of applications. A further five percent received their second preference and one percent their third preference, This left only 169 children who were allocated places elsewhere. This is the highest allocation of first preferences achieved by the county.

**Looked after children:** The number of children taken into care has increased substantially as a result of the high profile given by the media to cases of child neglect in London. Increased resources are being made available to cope with this increase, including education advisers who will assist looked after children attain better exam results.

**Children Centres:** Hampshire has completed work on 60 children's centres in phases one and two and has plans in place for the final phase of building a further 25 centres. The phase three includes a children centre in Denmead adjacent to Denmead First School. I have made several visits to the Merry-go-round Centre in Wickham and very pleased with the progress being made. I am confident that the Denmead Centre will be of great benefit to local families.

## 4. Pensions Fund

The Hampshire Pensions Fund has made a remarkable recovery in the last six months after the financial disasters at the end of 2008. This is due to the strong recovery of the stock markets around the world, particularly in China, India and Brazil. The media makes great play

of the so-called “black hole” in the local government pension funds, an actuarial calculation of how much cash is needed if everyone retired this week. But obviously most young people are not going to retire in their Twenties or Thirties! The Government has agreed to a suggestion by Hampshire that pension liabilities should be reclassified as short-term, medium-term and long-term rather than grouped together as all short-term needs to be addressed.

## **5. Highways**

Hampshire has decided to allocate additional resources to the repair of the county’s roads following the damage caused during the severe weather experiences this last winter. The number of highways crews has been increased to 50 to tackle potholes. Residents of Denmead are encouraged to report potholes to Hants Direct at 0845 603 5633.

## **6. Local Matters**

Through my personal Community Support Budget I have recently arranged a grant for the Denmead Community Association to purchase their own film projection equipment, a grant for the Parish Council to arrange for road signs on the greenways, new bridge tables for the Denmead Bridge Club, and improvements at the Community Centre to benefit children.

I have visited Green Meadows to meet the manager and many residents and have visited the two local schools.

***Frederick Allgood***  
*County Councillor for Denmead*  
31 March 2010

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL –  
Report to Denmead Annual Parish Assembly 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

From District Councillor Frederick Allgood

**1. My Workload**

In the last 12 months I have continued as a member of the City Council's Cabinet with the portfolio of responsibilities covering finance, benefits, estates and the efficiency programme.

**2. Finance**

My main task has been to oversee Winchester City Council's finances and to ensure we ended the year on a positive note. In fact we achieved a small surplus despite the difficulties of a fall in income from parking, licensing and planning applications as well as a lower return on our investments. This was largely achieved by means of vacancy management whereby we delayed recruiting replacements for council officers who had left and reviewing the need for certain posts.

I also oversaw the preparation of the 2010-11 council budget and secured the approval of council to the proposals. The increase in Council Tax for the district has been kept to 1.5 percent. The total council tax for Denmead residents including the county, police, fire and parish precepts rises about 2.1 percent – one of the lowest for many years.

**3. Efficiency Programme**

The council was able to achieve efficiency savings of £503,000 in the financial year 2009-10, slightly higher than our target of £500,000. We have put in place a programme to continue to find efficiencies in the next financial year. Over the last three years this programme has saved the council £1.5 million.

**4. Property Management**

I have been involved in managing the property repair programme for the city council. The major project has been a £3.5 million refit for the Guildhall to bring this up to date with energy savings measures such as a new roof, new boilers and a new air conditioning systems. We are creating a new cafeteria to front on to the Broadway, a new entrance that makes it easier for disabled people to gain access and additional rooms. It is anticipated that the improvements will be completed by December.

We are also involved in repairs to Avalon House, the Hyde building, Abbey Mill, Abbey House and the River Park Leisure Centre. This is the most comprehensive repairs programme of all our property ever undertaken. This includes work on 26 foot bridges for which Winchester City Council is responsible and which needed strengthening for safety reasons.

**5. Revenues Team**

The team that administer housing and council tax benefits has been graded as outstanding by the Audit Commission because of the speed with which they handle new claims and changes

to existing claims.

The Revenues team is also responsible for collecting council tax and business rates. Despite the recession that has hit some businesses very hard, our collection rate has been maintained at more than 96 percent.

## **6. Journey's End**

I am standing down from Winchester City Council after 27 years in order to concentrate on the county council matters. It has proved difficult to carry out work on two councils at the same time. I have enjoyed my long service at Winchester when I have served as Deputy Mayor and then the 689<sup>th</sup> Mayor, six years in the Cabinet and as chairman of several committees including Housing and External Affairs. It has been a pleasure to work with the Parish Council who have the interests of Denmead at heart, to liaise with other Denmead organisations and to help solve individual problems of local residents.

Freddie Allgood

31 March 2010

## **REPORT TO DENMEAD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – APRIL 2010**

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL** - report by Councillor Patricia Stallard

### **Council Tax**

Winchester City Council has agreed a Council Tax at Band D of £126.27 for the year 2010/2011 – an increase of just 1.5% or 3p per week. The gross Budget for the year will be £18.7 million and a net expenditure of £13.1 million after capital financing, transfers from reserves and charges to Winchester town residents.

Key capital works for 2010/2011 includes the renovation of The Guildhall, essential repairs to Abbey Mill, modernisation of Avalon House, repairs to car parks and updating some sewerage schemes. Other key points in the budget include the provision of a second Park and Ride site and the promotion of a lower carbon economy. Savings include a reduction of 5% in allowances paid to Members of the Council.

### **City Council performing well in assessment**

Winchester City Council has been judged as performing well for its residents in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and awarded a “Good” assessment. The results have been based on the new harder criteria that replaced the old system, 'CPA', where the Council was judged to be 'fair'.

The City Council's Organisational Assessment scored a 3/4 in the Managing Performance assessment, and in the harder test Use of Resources assessment scored 2/4 overall. In both cases, the Council is either meeting or exceeding the standards expected of a Council. Many of our services have been found to be above average and we have demonstrated that we can improve our performance when needed. This indicates a significant improvement from the previous system of CPA where we were judged to be only 'fair'.

## **West of Waterloovile MDA**

Grainger plc is now using a new team of planners, called Savilles, but Mayer Brown remains the lead engineers. The new designers have adopted a very different approach and include:

- Placing all employment areas next to Brambles Park
- There is greater emphasis on 2/3 bedroom family homes
- The shared-space north-south boulevard concept has been dropped, there is now greater emphasis on east-west connections
- south and west of the site are now the main housing areas, with flats/four storey buildings nearest to the mixed-use area
- density of groups of houses reduces as they get closer to the countryside, with countryside features retained
- a new planning application for the 3,000 homes development and an application for outline planning permission is expected to be submitted late Spring/early Summer 2010. You can go on their web site to make comments on the plan and receive regular updates on progress [www.newlandshampshire.co.uk](http://www.newlandshampshire.co.uk)

## **Strategic Planning Issues**

Winchester City Council is continuing to work on the Local Development Framework (LDF) to cover the future of the Winchester District to 2026. The first document is the Core Strategy which has been consulted on widely in the past two years. This document will have many policies concerned with the Economy, Employment, Climate Change and protecting the Countryside and the Environment of the District and well as meeting the housing numbers in the South East Plan. The Core Strategy publication has been delayed to October 2010 to complete work on assessing the public consultation comments on the Draft Core Strategy and to provide additional evidence to meet the comments raised by the Planning Inspectorate.

Presently Winchester is required to provide 12240 houses between 2006 and 2026. Between 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 approximately 2,804 properties have been built or received planning permission

## **Rural Affordable Housing Schemes**

Two rural affordable housing projects, developed in partnership with HARAHA (Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing) have just been completed in the villages of Littleton and Swanmore, providing much needed 12 affordable homes for local people. The projects have been built as an exception to Winchester Local Plan policies, to meet the housing needs of people with strong local connection to the parishes.

## **LEADER Funding - £2 million rural funding**

The Fieldfare Local Action Group (LAG) has reported good progress in its remit to award grants from its £2 million 'pot' of LEADER funding for the Winchester and East Hampshire areas. The LAG has so far offered over £330,000 of grant funding to support 20 projects across the two Districts. The WCC Programme Manager, Ken Brown, has been helping local farmers, foresters, rural business and tourism providers to explore how the Fieldfare LEADER funding opportunity might be able to help them get their project ideas off the ground. For more information about LEADER log onto [www.winchester.gov.uk/leaderfunding](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/leaderfunding) or contact Ken Brown on 01962 848 588.

## **Winchester leads the way towards a low Carbon Society**

Major organisations in the Winchester District have pledged to reduce their carbon footprints in a pioneering local declaration on climate change. Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) has been working with Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) on 20:12, the campaign to cut the carbon footprint of Winchester by 20% by the end of 2012.

The first wave of organisations to sign up include Winchester City Council, The University of Winchester, Winchester College, Winchester Area Community Action and DC Leisure. Organisations agreeing to sign up will publish a plan for reducing their carbon footprints by 20 per cent by 2012, sign up to at least one low carbon campaign, and support their staff in reducing their own personal carbon footprints.

The City Council has budgeted to provide for energy efficiency work to be undertaken at The Guildhall and Avalon House, plus its housing stock and at the River Park Leisure Centre. The total investment in Council buildings carbon reduction is £2.3 million.

## **Sports Award Success for Denmead**

The Winchester District Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) held its second annual sports award at Winchester Guildhall on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Amongst this year's winners was David Chiswell from Denmead Tennis Club, who won the award for Male Service to Sport.

## **Mayor's Awards to Volunteers**

Four people from Denmead recently received the Mayor's Award for voluntary work in the community: Bernie Reid, Janet Nobes, Chris Pattison and Mike Thwaites.

## **Free disability awareness course for local traders**

Winchester City Council recently commissioned a Destination Access Audit of Winchester City Centre with the support of Tourism South East and funding from the South East England Development Agency. The audit was designed to build a picture of the 'Winchester experience' from the perspective of visitors with a range of disabilities. The consultants tested out the rail station, buses, taxis, car parks, public toilets, shops, eateries, hotels and the Shopmobility service. They also looked for information on websites and in printed brochures which would help someone with a disability to plan a comfortable visit to the city.

The City Council is now working with other organisations to implement the report's recommendations, so that Winchester is ready to 'Welcome the World' in time for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic games. A free one day disability awareness training course for retailers is one of the many actions stemming from the report.

## **Scores on the doors - food hygiene**

The City Council operates a "scores on the doors" system for food safety known as "safe2eat". This means that the hygiene rating of all food businesses is now available to the public on the website [www.safe2eat.com/winchester](http://www.safe2eat.com/winchester)

Following a full food hygiene inspection a business will be rated excellent, satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Each premise will receive a certificate depicting what category they are in. Please look out for this certificate when you are visiting these premises.

### **Over 55s Forum**

The Winchester and District Over 55's Forum is a community organisation that has been established to ensure that the concerns and needs of older people are brought to the attention of those who provide services for them. This includes service providers such as local government, charities, utilities and transport agencies, in addition to the dozens of small local providers whose services can make a difference to the well being of older people. If you are interested in establishing an Over 55s Forum in Denmead, please let me know – ring 023 9225 1484.

### **Small Grants Schemes 2010/2011**

The Winchester City Council 2010/2011 Small Grant Scheme includes a budget of £18,000 for Bio-Diversity, Carbon Reduction, Community Chest, Community Planning, and Twinning activities/projects during 2010-2011.

Grants of up to £500 are available to not-for-profit voluntary organisations, community groups, or registered charities which run activities or projects that fall within one of the following five themes:

*Health and Wellbeing ■ Safer and Stronger Communities ■ Economic Prosperity ■ High Quality Environment ■ Inclusive Society*

All activities/projects must be for the benefit of residents within the Winchester District. Application closing dates are:

- 2 June, 2010 (for activities taking place after 14 July, 2010)
- 6 October, 2010 (for activities taking place after 17 October, 2010)

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation details of the schemes are on the Winchester City Council website: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/AdviceAndBenefits/Grants/>

### **Wheels to Work**

Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils have introduced 'Wheels to Work', a moped loan scheme that aims to give 16-25 year olds the means to get to work, vocational training courses or interviews. The scheme is aimed at helping those who live in areas that have limited public transport options, cannot afford their own car and have no other transport options to turn to.

The fully taxed and insured 50cc mopeds can be loaned for any period of time between three and 12 months. A fleet of 12 mopeds is available to cover the District, at a hire charge of £12 per week. To find out more about the scheme, visit the [Wheels to Work webpage](#) or contact Hampshire County Council's Community Transport Officer on 01962 845844 or email [community.transport@hants.gov.uk](mailto:community.transport@hants.gov.uk)

## **Registering to Vote**

The latest date for registering to vote in time for elections held in May is Tuesday 20 April 2010. To register, simply complete and return a Voter Registration Form which is available to print-off on the City Council's website:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/DemocracyAndElections/ElectoralRegister/>

## **Activities/Achievements as Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport Historic Environment Champion; Health and Wellbeing Champion**

- ◆ Accreditation of The Westgate Museum under the national Visitor Attractions Quality Assessment Scheme run by Visit England
- ◆ an increase of 7% in Meadowside Leisure Centre's score for its reassessment under the national QUEST quality assessment scheme for leisure centres, making a total 70% score
- ◆ a special Mayor's Community Award for the volunteers of the museums service in March 2010
- ◆ the official opening – in the form of a Sports Festival attended by around 2,000 people – of the new University of Winchester Sports Stadium at Bar End on the Spring Bank Holiday in May 2009
- ◆ a successful year of Hyde900 celebrations launched in Winchester following five years of planning with a voluntary community group, starting with two exhibitions at Winchester Discovery Centre, one of which received £50,000 in Heritage Lottery Funding
- ◆ sell-out performance by new poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy at The Stripe theatre at the University of Winchester, in partnership with The English Project
- ◆ working with the Royal Armouries Fort Nelson to help secure planning permission and a £2m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a total £3.5m development of this popular National Museum in the south of the District
- ◆ supporting the annual dig by the Winchester Society for Archaeology and Local History (WARG) at St Cross, including promotional and staffing support for the dig open weekend in August 2009
- ◆ the opening in October 2009 of the new synthetic turf pitch for school and community use at Henry Beaufort School in Winchester, costing £750,000 towards which the Council contributed £116,000 from the Open Space Fund
- ◆ the exceeding of the throughput targets of 2,000 for health walks and 1,800 for GP referrals, supported by the Active Lifestyles Officer in partnership with the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance
- ◆ support for successful '10 Days at The Laundry' arts event co-ordinated by the artists' collection known as The Yard
- ◆ hosted the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance Winchester District sports awards
- ◆ completion of the first, comprehensive audience development plan for the museums service in order to guide engagement with our 'hard to reach' residents, leading to the

creation of a young people's focus group and the museums service's first Facebook presence

- ◆ reroofing of The Westgate Museum to protect the building below and improve the visitor experience at this much-loved viewpoint;
- ◆ exceeding the target of 85% set for returning historic environment consultation responses to planning management service within a two-week period, in spite of an increase in total planning applications and some significant staff absences during the year
- ◆ co-ordination and administration of the Culture and Economy Informal Scrutiny Group, reporting to the Local Economy Scrutiny Group
- ◆ successful negotiation of contract extension with operators of River Park Leisure Centre, to include Meadowside Leisure Centre from April 2010
- ◆ Youth Music. Some grants/officer time allocated (eg to WinFest which is music by young people for young people, now relaunched at Tower Arts, and the transfer of Winnall Rock School back to more suitable premises
- ◆ the provision of Street Dance workshops for young people in Denmead
- ◆ confirmation of the *Winchester 2012 Torch Relay* which will take place across the Winchester District with participating villages/Parish Councils/Wards

My focus has been on reaching out to target groups who find it harder to access our services (eg young people, those with disabilities) and to develop more inclusive services. We have exceeded our aspirations in most areas.

Patricia Stallard  
Portfolio Holder and  
Ward Member for Denmead

April 2010