

**2011****Parish  
precept  
reduced by  
0.45%****2011****Have you  
seen our  
new parish  
walk  
leaflets?****2011****Annual  
Parish  
Meeting  
Wednesday  
7th April  
7.30pm**

## Chairman's Report 2010/11

Welcome to 2011, we leave behind snow, extreme cold and very wet weather – unfortunately the weather is beyond the parish council's control!!

We are still seeing the fruits of the extensive work carried out by the Parish Plan groups, under the chairmanship of Jeremy Saunders. The draft plan has been available for some time, outlining how you would like to see the parish changed and improved in the future. Already some projects have come to fruition; Caf'Active at St Michael's Church in Spencers Wood and the successful volunteer car group set up and managed by Eddie Brown.

In conjunction with these projects is the very active Volunteer Group chaired by Phil Green. The group has supported the sterling work of Patricia Green and Richard Hatton who have created six parish walks leaflets, plus a series of impressive map displays that have been erected throughout the parish. Thanks must also go to Cllr Peter Hughes who has worked in parallel to create information boards that show all the walks, suitable for businesses to display. Congratulations to all involved – please carry on the good work!

We are delighted that the Loddon Reach monthly magazine will, from March 2011, be distributed to our residents north of the M4. Thanks to our communications committee chaired by Cllr Marjory Bisset for making this happen. Our website, also overseen by this committee, has come on by leaps and bounds – for example, you can now register to receive parish news by email.

Having lost our battle with WBC to take over Ryeish Green Leisure Centre for community use, we have commenced negotiations to take on and manage the old school playing fields in an effort to enhance the facilities we already own and manage (two pitches and a sports pavilion). We remain optimistic despite having reached an impasse at the time of writing.

On the planning front, apart from formulating comments on numerous planning applications including major proposals for four wind turbines at Rushy Mead and 1,350 houses in Shinfield along with an eastern relief road, the main focus has been responding to the public re-consultation on the South of the M4 Masterplan document. As a result of the many objections lodged last March to the initial draft proposals, some minor changes have been incorporated but not nearly enough to reflect the numerous well-articulated responses from the local community. Consequently the apparent intransigence of the masterplanners to accommodate local wishes, in this new era of localism, has led to the mounting of a legal challenge by the southern parishes of the Borough.

In addition to maintaining a keen control of budget and financial planning, our Finance & General Purposes Committee has been working hard to update our policy documents and has recently formed a staffing committee to assist in keeping abreast of ever-changing legislation and requirements.

2011 is an election year for parish councillors and if you feel you would like to become involved, please contact our Clerk for further information.

*Jan Clarke*, Chairman

Check out our website  
[www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk](http://www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk)

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# Financial Report 2011/12

## Expenditure

Our expenditure is met by the council precept, a charge levied on your council tax. It forms a very small part of your annual council tax bill. We have again this year made a small reduction of just under 0.5%, resulting in a charge of £46.80 per annum for a Band D property.

As ever, we strive to deliver our services under a best value principle and this year we have once again trimmed our running costs. However we have also been able to make provision for additional staff as there is an ever increasing workload in our growing parish.

We will be pleased to discuss any issues or concerns about council budgeting. Please contact us.

## Summary of precept charges

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
Precept	210,831	210,825
Annual charge Band D property	47.01	46.80
Change on previous year	-1%	-0.45%

	Annual budget – expenditure	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
Finance committee	<i>Administration, salaries, grants, building renewals, youth services, policies and forward planning</i>	114,906	126,524
Recreation committee	<i>Facilities management, sports grounds, waste services, allotments, countryside, playgrounds, grounds maintenance, bus shelters.</i>	120,525	101,100
Planning committee	<i>Street lighting, street signs, village signs</i>	15,000	12,500
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>250,431</b>	<b>240,124</b>
Annual budget – income			
General income	<i>Amenities and investments</i>	23,700	24,700
Met from balances	<i>Subsidy from savings and reserves</i>	15,900	4,599
Precept	<i>Funds raised through council tax charge</i>	210,831	210,825
<b>Total income</b>		<b>250,431</b>	<b>240,124</b>

## Summary of expenditure 2011/12

