

Shinfield Parish Councillors

Ward	Parish Councillor	Postal Address	Telephone
Grazeley (2)	John M. Heggadon	The Old Vicarage, Grazeley, Berkshire RG7 1LD	988 2644
	Suzanne Madigan	6 Loxwood Close, Three Mile Cross, Berkshire RG7 1BX	988 9400
Spencers Wood (2)	Ian Clarke	Mays Farm, Hyde End Lane, Three Mile Cross, Berkshire RG7 1EP	988 3366
	Mike Gough	Eventide, Church Lane, Three Mile Cross, Berkshire RG7 1HD	988 7806
Spencers Wood & Three Mile Cross (3)	Dawn Peer	321 Hyde End Road, Spencers Wood, Berkshire RG7 1DD	988 4370
	Peter Ratcliffe	Rose Cottage, Recreation Lane, Spencers Wood, Berks RG7 1EB	988 4882
	Carl Waite	P.O. Box 5136, Riseley, Berkshire RG7 1GT	988 2880
Shinfield Village (5)	Marjory Bissett	19 Hyde End Road, Shinfield, Berkshire RG2 9EP	988 9283
	Norman Gould	13 Pattinson Road, Shinfield Park, Berkshire RG2 8QL	931 1053
	Peter Hughes	23 Deardon Way, Shinfield, Berkshire RG2 9HF	988 6011
	Jeff Hunt	1 Holder Close, Shinfield, Berkshire RG2 9HQ	988 2989
	Roy Pike	8 Lane End Close, Shinfield. Berkshire RG2 9AS	988 2263
Shinfield North (3)	Antony Atkins	Seneca, Shinfield Road, Berkshire RG2 9BE	914 1323
	Bill Foster	35 Ryhill Way, Lower Earley Berkshire RG6 4AZ	07846284642
	Alanzo Seville	c/o Shinfield Parish Council	988 8022

Wokingham Borough Councillors

Shinfield North	Norman Gould	C/o Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1WQ	931 1053
Shinfield South	Charlotte Haitham - Taylor	C/o Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1WQ	932 6917
Spencers Wood South	Stuart Munro	The Coach House, Lambs Lane, Swallowfield, Berkshire RG7 1JE	988 5865
Shinfield South	Barrie Patman	Meadow View, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Berkshire RG7 1AL	988 3270
Shinfield South	Anthony Pollock	8 Half Acre Close, Spencers Wood, Berkshire RG7 1DZ	988 7110

Contact us with your questions or views

Name.....

Address.....

Comments.....



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 Shinfield
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Shinfield

Parish Council



2010/2011

Parish precept reduced by 0.45%

2010/2011

Have you seen our parish walk leaflets?

2010/2011

Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 7th April 2011
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. 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.



Ian Clarke,
Chairman

Our modern Parish Hall is available for hire contact 0118 988 8220 for more details

Reports from the Council committees

Finance and General Purposes Committee Chair Alanzo Seville

The Finance and General Purposes Committee met six times during the year. Membership varied between four and six councillors.

The committee works diligently to ensure funds raised by our council through residents' council tax are kept to a minimum and there is a rigorous system in place to ensure all spending complies with stated objectives, is legal and provides best value. Our focus in recent years has been to avoid any increases and we have in fact been able to reduce our charges for two consecutive years whilst maintaining a steady level of service delivery.

There is always a growing need for leisure facilities in an expanding community such as ours. Regrettably we have been unsuccessful in our efforts to prevent closure of Ryeish Green Leisure Centre. However we have some funds earmarked to improve and expand our sports and leisure provision and we are continually seeking opportunities to do so. We are limited by the land in our ownership and remain hopeful of an opportunity to secure the use of the playing fields at Ryeish Green School site in the foreseeable future.

Every year we award financial grants to a range of local amenity groups and to some national agencies who provide services in our area. These include agencies such as Citizens' Advice Bureau, Air Ambulance Service, transport groups and we also award grants to local schools in support of school prizes. The 2010/11 financial year was no exception and in fact we increased our grants budget in recognition of the stringent financial pressures facing these valued services and to ensure our residents continue to benefit; we awarded grants totalling £12,000. We welcome suggestions from residents who know of a group with a particular need.

We were able to contain the costs associated with mounting the legal challenge mentioned in the Planning and Transportation Committee report section.

In the absence of major projects this year we have spent some time and energy putting in place the necessary policy documents to comply with ever-increasing demands. We also created a staffing committee in recognition of the changing nature and volume of our workload.

Our annual accounts are available on our website and we comply with the statutory requirement of Local Councils Governance and Accountability legislation in regard to audit. We undergo a rigorous internal audit and our financial activities and governance is assessed by an external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.

We enter 2011/12 in a strong position to undertake new projects as opportunities arise and we continue to source external funding whenever possible.

Planning & Transportation Committee Chairs John Heggadon and Marjory Bisset

The Planning and Transportation Committee met thirteen times during the year. From May 2010 to January 2011 it was chaired by Cllr John Heggadon, and from February 2011 to April 2011 by Cllr Marjory Bisset. Membership varied between eight and nine councillors.

The committee considered numerous planning applications. The majority of these were straightforward applications for residential improvements, on which the committee either passed no comment or made minor observations. There were several major applications from developers, including one for 1,350 houses in Shinfield along with applications for an eastern relief road and suitable natural alternative green space (SANG), and a major proposal for four wind turbines at Rushy Mead. However, the main focus was responding to the public re-consultation on the South of the M4 Master plan 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 master planners to accommodate local wishes, in this new era of localism, has led to the mounting of a legal challenge by this parish and five others in the borough.

The committee maintained pressure on the local authority to solve several long-standing highways issues, such as the need for a lower speed limit through Shinfield village.

Recreation & Amenities Committee Chair Ian Clarke

The Recreation and Amenities Committee met four times during the year. Membership varied between four and six councillors.

The committee runs two annual competitions: a best-kept allotment competition and a best-kept front garden competition. Both are very successful, with professional judges. The allotment prizes are awarded at the annual meeting of allotment holders in the autumn each year and normally all allotments are judged, so everyone is eligible. For the best-kept front garden competition we have a nomination system, and the gardens are judged and prizes awarded in the summer.

Our Pavilion Youth Club continued its success, thanks to the hard work of our youth leaders and the volunteer committee. The number of young people attending increased. The club brings together young people in our area who attend a variety of schools.

Since the closure of the local secondary school last year, the committee has made every attempt to take over and manage the school playing fields but without success to date. We remain optimistic that the playing fields will be retained for community use. In an ever-evolving effort to improve our environment, this committee is planning to take over responsibility from the local authority for some of the local landscaping and verge maintenance. Initially, this will be low level but if successful might lead to significant change.

The committee is endeavouring to support the local sports clubs, as they are experiencing rapid growth, and we hope to work with them over the coming years to ensure sports continue to thrive in the parish. Plans for new play equipment at Spencers Wood Recreation Ground were thwarted this year with the withdrawal of government funded Playbuilder grants. However, this has not altered our intentions and we plan to improve the amenity provision at the site within the next two years. The garden at Shinfield Parish Hall is scheduled for a make-over in 2011/12.

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
Total expenditure		250,431	240,124
	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
Total income		250,431	240,124

Summary of expenditure 2011/12

