

FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman's report from Shinfield Parish Council

THE PARISH council has had a busy and challenging year. The highlight was the announcement that permission has been granted for a free secondary school in the parish, thanks to the hard work and dedication of seven local parents, truly a 'magnificent seven'. The school, to be known as Oakbank, will open in September 2012 on the site of the former Ryeish Green School. The recent public consultation has demonstrated the very high level of support for the new school within the local community.

The Shinfield Parish Volunteer Group has continued to progress and is a great asset to the parish.

The Pavilion Youth Club under the leadership of Charlie (Elizabeth Charles) is now one of the best in the borough with a membership of over 60 young people.

We are striving to improve the way we communicate with you, and to that end a new committee has been formed, the Communications and Policies Committee, chaired by Marjory Bisset. We are being led into the realms of Facebook and Twitter and I am reliably assured this is progress!

Our Planning and Highways Committee, chaired by Peter Hughes, has had an exceptionally busy year and are to be congratulated on their efforts to engage the local community on major planning issues.

On a sad note, we miss John Heggadon with his all-encompassing knowledge of parish council matters and we wish him a full recovery.

Lastly, after eight years as Chairman, I will be standing down in May but will continue to serve as an active member of the parish council.

Ian Clarke, Chairman



Parish council precept unchanged

THE PRECEPT is part of the council tax you pay to Wokingham and it covers the planned expenditure of the parish council over the coming year. We are pleased to announce that we are able to keep the charge for 2012–2013 exactly the same as last year's. For a band D property this means an annual charge of £48.60. A full breakdown of how the parish council income is spent can be found on page four.

As ever we strive to deliver our services according to best value guidelines.

We are looking to spend more money in some areas. We have recently taken on an additional member of staff to help with the workload in our growing parish.

We have also committed to a significant loan to Shinfield Tennis Club to help them improve facilities at their Millworth Lane site and we are planning improvements to our amenities on the recreation grounds we own and manage. These costs will come from our reserves built up over the past few years to enable us to undertake major projects.

Shinfield celebrates Queen's Jubilee

SINCE LAST October the parish council has been preparing plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June this year.

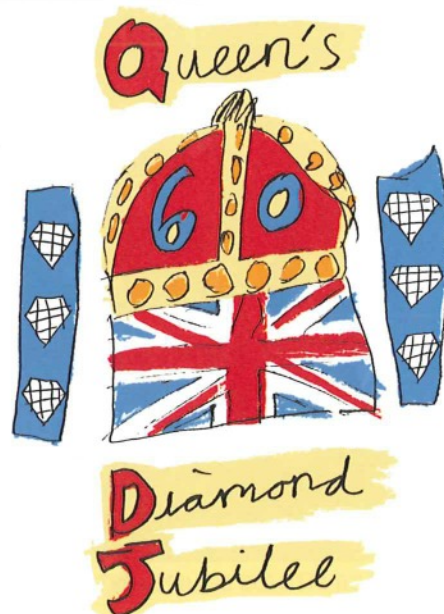
A working group of the parish council, which includes representatives from many local organisations, is putting together an exciting week of events involving local schools, churches and community groups.

In the week leading up to the jubilee weekend the local schools will be holding celebration parties and every child will receive a small gift to mark the

occasion. Over the weekend a number of events will be held culminating in a giant jubilee festival to be held on the Spencers Wood Recreation Ground on Bank Holiday Monday 4 June.

The jubilee festival will run from noon until 9.00 pm and will feature side shows, stalls from local groups, a funfair, roving entertainers, circus activities, food stalls and a bar, live bands and a range of entertainment for all ages.

We hope you will come along and spend the day celebrating the Queen's magnificent Diamond Jubilee.



Your parish council tax charge 2012–13

What we spend our money on

Annual expenditure	2011–12	2012–13
Administration, staff salaries, grants, building renewals, youth services, policies and forward planning	£ 126,524	£ 155,400
Facilities management, sports grounds, waste services, allotments, countryside, playgrounds, grounds maintenance, bus shelters	£ 101,100	£ 90,400
Street lighting, street signs, village signs	£ 12,500	£ 13,000
Playground, pavilion and skate park refurbishment	£ -	£ 125,000
Total expenditure	£ 240,124	£ 383,800
Parish council annual charge for band D property	£ 46.80	£ 46.80

Where our money comes from

Annual income	2011–12	2012–13
Amenities and investments	£ 24,700	£ 32,200
Savings and release of reserves	£ 4,599	£ 138,847
Parish council tax charges	£ 210,825	£ 212,753
Total income	£ 240,124	£ 383,800

Parish Clerk

JACQUI BARNES is clerk to the council and is the council's Proper Officer. Her role involves advising the elected councillors on procedure as well as managing the parish office, council amenities and enquiries from the public.

The parish office is also supported by two part-time staff, Angela King and Katy Hughes.

Shinfield clean-up day 2012



THE ANNUAL litter-pick takes place on Sunday 25th March from 10 am. Please come and lend a hand... equipment is provided.

To register please contact the parish office.

Contact the parish council

Our office and postal address:
Shinfield Parish Council
Shinfield Parish Hall
School Green
Shinfield
RG2 9EH
Tel 0118 988 8220

The office is open to local residents from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon Monday to Friday.

Email clerk@shinfieldparish.gov.uk
Website www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk

The website has news updates, information on the parish council and committee meetings, agendas and minutes from these meetings, details of your local councillors and information on local organisations.

You can sign up for updates by email on parish news.



Like

Like us at Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ShinfieldParish



Find us on Twitter:
twitter.com/ShinfieldPC

Top gardens

EVERY YEAR the parish council runs a best-kept front garden competition with valuable prizes to be won for both gardens and displays in baskets or containers.

If you think your garden or your neighbours' deserve a visit from our judges please contact the Parish Office by 29 June this year.



2011 WINNERS WITH THE JUDGES AND IAN CLARKE, PHOTO READING EVENING POST