



# Parish council Annual Report 2012/2013

THE PAST twelve months have seen significant activities take place, the completion of several community-led projects as well the commencement of key initiatives to ensure our well-being in the years to come.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Bash and other Jubilee events have to go down as one of the most memorable few days in the parish's long history. It was a remarkable example of how all sections of a community can come together and assemble a programme of entertainment to appeal to people of all ages; ranging from tea dances for the pensioners to live music for all and face painting for the little ones. A special mention must be made of the weeks of hard work and planning that preceded the actual day and the leadership provided by Carole Hughes.

The Oakbank Free School, which opened its doors in September 2012, is a most welcome addition to Shinfield parish. Again, it only came into being as a result of interested members of the community working together with a resolve sufficient to overcome the most challenging of obstacles. Congratulations to the WOW team and very best wishes to Nick Dorey and his staff. The parish council also carried out a complete revamp of Spencers Wood Pavilion, which has greatly improved the Chapel Lane Pre-school facility as well as the area used by the youth club. A completely new state-of-the-art skate park was constructed on the recreation ground following consultation with the youngsters in the area during the design phase.

The parish council has recently completed the formalities required by the coalition government to be able to put together a neighbourhood development plan. This is essentially

a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area, in our case the parish of Shinfield. The team putting together our plan is led by Councillor Peter Hughes and consists of four focus groups:

- Education and childcare
- Natural environment
- Transport, access, housing and parking
- Community and recreation

Each involves Wokingham Borough Council officers and councillors, developers and key stakeholders, for example school headteachers in the education and childcare group. Local residents are very welcome at all focus group meetings. The dates for group meetings can be found on our website [www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk](http://www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk). A dedicated website is shortly to be introduced for the neighbourhood development plan, [www.shinfieldplan.org.uk](http://www.shinfieldplan.org.uk).

It was quite a year by any standards and there is undoubtedly much more to come in the next few years.

Mike Gough, Chairman

## Public meeting on Three Mile Cross developments

SHINFIELD PARISH Council is determined to ensure the involvement of all residents in the evolution of the parish of Shinfield. An excellent example of this in action is the public meeting held on Monday 4 February to discuss matters arising from the impact of the Mitford Fields development in Three Mile Cross. This had the full co-operation of BOVIS and Wokingham Borough Council.

The meeting facilities were kindly provided by the South Reading Christian Fellowship Church and nearly 100 people attended.

Not only did the meeting bring the issues to the attention of all concerned, it also resulted in the establishment of a formal and ongoing follow-up mechanism to be co-ordinated by WBC. A log of all issues and problems is being created and work is underway to make this information available on the Shinfield Parish Council website ([www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk](http://www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk)).

The meeting indicated that all parties would benefit if local knowledge was used in the design of future developments. As an example, at the meeting local residents contributed plenty of insights based on local knowledge to a lively debate about the current plans for traffic flows into and around the Mitford Fields development as well as the impact on other local road intersections. Both WBC and the developers will now be reviewing their plans.

**You are invited to attend the  
Annual  
Parish Meeting  
Thursday 23rd May  
at Shinfield  
Players Theatre  
Whitley Wood Lane  
RG2 9DF  
(nr Foster Wheeler)  
at 7.30pm**



# Your parish council tax charge 2013–14

## What we spend our money on

Annual budgeted expenditure	2012–13	2013–14
Administration, staff salaries, grants, building renewals, youth services, policies and forward planning	£ 128,400	£ 134,450
Facilities management, sports grounds, waste services, allotments, countryside, playgrounds, grounds maintenance, bus shelters	£ 90,400	£ 82,650
Street lighting, street signs, village signs, including Neighbourhood Plan	£ 33,000	£ 54,000
Newsletters, website, information leaflets and walk leaflets	£ -	£ 7,500
2012 playground, skate park and pavilion refurbishment	£ 152,000	
2013 CCTV and pavilion works		£ 16,000
<b>Total budgeted expenditure</b>	<b>£ 403,800</b>	<b>£ 294,600</b>
Parish council annual charge for band D property	£ 46.80	£ 46.80
Change on previous year's charge	0%	0%

## Where our money comes from

Annual budgeted income	2012–13	2013–14
Funds raised through council tax charge	£ 212,753	£ 205,143
Council tax grant	£ -	£ 13,954
Amenities and investments	£ 32,200	£ 38,000
Subsidy from savings and reserves	£ 158,847	£ 37,503
<b>Total budgeted income</b>	<b>£ 403,800</b>	<b>£ 294,600</b>

## Sports and recreation

### Local clubs encouraged to take part in consultation

OUR LOCAL sports clubs have been complaining for some time about the lack of facilities. We are in touch with all the main clubs who play in the parish, but there are groups from the parish who play elsewhere through a lack of local facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan focus group that covers sports and recreation has

appointed a specialist sports consultancy to look at our real needs now and when some 2,750 new homes have been built.

If you represent a group or use sports facilities elsewhere that we should consider for Shinfield Parish, please contact the parish office urgently so your thoughts can be included in this important survey.

## Sign up for news from the parish council

www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk 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 register to receive parish news by email.



Like

Like us at Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ShinfieldParish



Find us on

Twitter: twitter.com/ShinfieldPC

## Shinfieldplan.org

SHINFIELD PARISH council has launched a brand new website dedicated to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Whilst providing the very latest up-to-date details of the plan with all the focus group meetings it will also be used to give our local residents the opportunity to participate by taking part in surveys, adding their own ideas and comments and voting for their preferences. Take a look today at

**shinfieldplan.org**



THE NHS blood service regularly holds donation sessions at Shinfield Parish Hall and we need new donors all the time. The next session is on 23rd June 2013 and you can register in advance to book an appointment time to donate.

This can be simply done online at www.blood.co.uk. If you don't have access to the internet ask at the local library or the Parish Office as they may well be able to help you register. Alternatively, telephone 0300 123 23 23 or you can just turn up on the day, but you may have to wait.

## Contact the parish council

Our office and postal address:

Shinfield Parish Council

Shinfield Parish Hall

School Green

Shinfield, RG2 9EH

Tel 0118 988 8220

Email clerk@shinfieldparish.gov.uk

Website: www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk

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

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