



## Chairman's report April 2009/March 2010

As your Parish Council our aim is to serve the village and make improvements in a way that you tell us you would like. We deal with a huge variety of issues over the course of the year and my report provides a summary of our activities over the 2009/2010 financial year.

### *The Wootton Bridge Plan.*

We used Talk Back Panels at the Party in the Park based on last year's consultation about how residents would like to see the village develop. The panels were used to ascertain the priority of each objective and figures are in the process of being collated.

### *Wootton Bridge Village Square.*

The Village Square has become the hub of the village. Our second Christmas Festival was a huge success and was well attended by local residents of all ages. We are planning a similar event this year over the weekend of the 18th December so do try and come along. We have not yet decided on the theme for the Pantomime on the Friday evening - you will have to see what is in store for you by attending.

### *Partnership Working.*

We pride ourselves in how we work in partnership with other authorities and agencies to help improve our village. We continue to support the Wootton Bridge Village Partnership, the main body which organises our Annual Party in the Park, an event which every year seems to be getting better and better. We have continued to work closely with our Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer, who both call in to our office on a regular basis to liaise with us and pick up any messages. The Community Support Officer runs a monthly surgery at the Help and Information Centre, as do the Tree Warden and the Environmental Neighbourhood Officer. Telephone 884555 for more details.

### *Day to Day duties.*

We continue to comment on every planning application received for the village and have lobbied on planning enforcement issues and kept abreast of the situation with the long standing matter of the former Lloyds Bank building in the High Street, which we now understand has been sold. We are looking forward to seeing this building being put to good use and enhancing the appearance of our village. We have also responded to a wide variety of consultation papers including those for bus service provision; the Island Plan and Shoreline Management Plan.

We have continued to press the Isle of Wight Council on various traffic matters such as traffic safety and speed in Station Road; 20mph speed limits on our arterial roads;

traffic related problems in Mary Rose Avenue and improvements to the Bridge. One of the biggest issues we have been lobbying for is to try and secure the future of a doctor's practice in the village. Land beside the Community Centre remains under discussion and we are hoping for progress in this respect later this year.

### *Quality Status.*

We are a Quality Parish Council which provides you with a guarantee of standards on how we, as your Parish Council, operate. It is a rigorous process and we are proud to give you this level of service.

### *Recreation ground improvements Phase 2.*

#### • *Proposed Sports and Fitness Centre.*

Unfortunately plans for the proposed Sports and Fitness Centre on the recreation ground have had to be put on hold due to the economic downturn. Grants have been drastically cut but it is hoped that this can be resurrected at a later date.

#### • *New play area.*

The new play area is complete, with the feedback being extremely positive. The showpiece of the play area is the wooden hare and seating. If you have not been up to the new play area, go and have a look. We are currently seeking advice about the possibility of having improvements made to the closed toilet block. This is in its very early stages and the lack of funding may make this unachievable at the current time but we will continue to pursue this issue.

### *Wootton Interactive Community Initiative (WICI).*

- We are delighted to tell you that our new interactive website is now up and running. The official launch of this was at Party in the Park on the 17th July when we showed people how this can be of benefit to them. This new website has meant a tremendous amount of work for the project team, for which we are very grateful. An integral part of the WICI is the "Heron Family" who you will meet if you log on at [www.woottonbridge.org.uk/wici](http://www.woottonbridge.org.uk/wici). Please take a look - this is really something special.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support. Without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do. I would also like to thank Lynda Smith who, after many years of being the Parish Clerk, left on the 22nd July this year. Lynda will be greatly missed by all who know her but she had been training up her successor, Val Cooper, since the beginning of the year. Val has said that Lynda will be a hard act to follow but she is committed to doing her best for the village as the new Parish Clerk.

**Ken Morris, Parish Council Chairman**

## WOOTTON BRIDGE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

We continue to have a very active Village Partnership. The Partnership is the development arm of the Parish Council and this way it is accountable to the electorate.

Our membership involves a wide variety of village organisations and residents of all ages. We all work together to help make the village a better place in which to live. Some of our members join us for specific projects and others are there all the time. It just depends how much time people can give. We welcome all input, however great or small, and we really do get things done.

This year we have restructured the Partnership so that it is one committee again. This is proving to work well and our meetings now usually consist of around 12 members. However, we still have a core membership of over 40 members who continue to help in one way or another.

For example many are involved on our various Project Groups who are working on village regeneration projects including:-

- Wootton Bridge Plan – which will map out what we want to see for the village in the future.
- Older persons initiative – This is a community call scheme that we set up involving a regular phone call to our older village residents to check they are ok. We are still working on spreading the word about this
- Party in Park – our annual village party!
- Christmas festival – looks like this will be an annual event.
- Wootton WICI - This stands for Wootton Interactive Community Information. It is a computer based information system located at the HIC and will include things like village polls, residents comments and Parish Council information on line. It was launched at Party in the Park this year on the 17th July but will need constant updating and monitoring.

Grants received in 2009/2010 include:

- £50,000 towards the cost of the Play Area in the Recreation Ground.
- £10,000 in respect of developing the WICI, including purchasing the equipment and for ongoing training.

The vast majority of projects undertaken by the Partnership are grant funded and it is always worth noting that since the Partnership formed in 1999 we have raised over a quarter of a million pounds.

Anyone in the village can join the full Partnership - everyone is welcome.

**Ken Morris**  
Village Partnership Chairman

## WOOTTON BRIDGE HELP AND INFORMATION CENTRE REPORT (HIC)

The Help and Information Centre continues to be well used. Issues we deal with are very varied: from potholes in the road to coastal erosion issues. We also hold every planning application submitted for the village.

The HIC has been going for 9 years this November and it has become an established part of our village life. We are proud of all the very positive feedback received from our customers, both on the Parish Council side and the Isle of Wight Council side.

The Office provides us with a very good way of communicating with the village and is invaluable for carrying out our consultation exercises. These exercises are vital in the process for securing grant funding.

Our facilities include:-

- Computer courses every Wednesday.
- The Beat Officer and PCSO are always calling in either to hold a surgery or pick up messages.
- Gill Salter our Tree Warden has her surgery on the first Friday of each month.
- Our various Project Groups meet at the office.
- CCTV coverage of the square and the new toilets.
- Photocopying and laminating service.

Also we must not forget the Isle of Wight Council outreach facility which has provided a valuable local service on all matters related to the IW Council including:-

- Council tax payments.
- Assistance with the costs of housing and council tax.
- Sale of green garden sacks.
- Issuing of Island resident parking permits.
- Issuing of English National Concessionary bus passes.

Unfortunately the Isle of Wight Council outreach was cut to two mornings a week and is currently suspended. If this returns, please ensure you use this facility so that we can continue to fight to keep this in place for the village.

## OPENING TIMES

<b>Parish Council</b>	Mon 10.00am - 1.00pm Tue to Fri 10.00am - 1.30pm
<b>IW Council</b>	Mon and Fri 9.15am - 1.00pm (currently suspended)
<b>Tree Warden</b>	First Friday in month 10.00am - 12.00pm
<b>Beat Officer &amp; PCSO</b>	First Tuesday in month 10.00am - 12.00pm or messages can be left for PC Massey or PCSO Katy Berry at HIC
<b>Parish Councillor surgeries</b>	By appointment - contact HIC
<b>IW Councillor Surgery</b>	By appointment - contact HIC
<b>Computer courses</b>	Every Wednesday

**Val Cooper, Clerk**



**PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

The following report shows the income and expenditure for 2008/2009, the last accounts to be audited by the Audit Commission. No matters giving cause for concern came to the attention of either the Internal Auditor or the District Auditor and the books were successfully signed off by the District Auditor on 4th September 2009. Local government electors have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts and have the right to attend to the auditor and make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Full details on how this can be done are posted on the Village Notice Board and at the HIC prior to each annual audit, usually in the summer.

The council tax precept for 2010/2011 is £47800 and represents approx £32.03 per annum per household at Band D or 62p per week.

Any questions or a request for copies of the accounts can be directed to me at the HIC any weekday morning.

Val Cooper  
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009</b>		
	31 March 08	Current year end 31 March 2009
<b>INCOME</b>		£
	40,600 Precept	45,000
	4,946 Partnership/Regeneration funds	8,586
	3,872 Interest on investments/bank interest	3,138
	779 {Grass cutting grant}	804
	250 {Churchyard maintenance grant}	
	250 St Marks PCC grant	250
	150 PAYE Online filing incentive	150
	0 Sale of Garden Waste Sacks	601
	262 HIC Income	567
	215 Insurance claim for laptop	0
	<b>51,074</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME 59,046</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		£
	25,431 General Administration incl. salaries	29,095
	0 Capital	278
	1,141 Capital schemes (Joannes Walk)	61,352
	135 S137 payments	50
	3,661 Help and Information Centre	4,119
	1,456 Grass cutting	1,311
	2,525 Partnership/Regeneration projects	7,231
	1,586 Churchyard maintenance	1,417
	284 Miscellaneous and grants	270
	Sale of Garden Waste Sacks	609
	343 Seats/sign maintenance	0
	4,191 Recreation ground Phase 2 (fees)	
	20 Training	40
	<b>40,773</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE 105,772</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
	91,938 Balance at 1 April 2008	102,239
	51,074 Add total income	59,046
	<b>143,012</b>	<b>161,285</b>
	40,773 Deduct total expenditure	105,772
	<b>102,239 BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2009</b>	<b>55,513</b>

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PARISH COUNCILLORS FROM 4 JUNE 2010: -

Ken Morris	Chairman	<b>OFFICERS</b>	
Steve Porter	Vice Chairman	Val Cooper	Parish Clerk
Barry Abraham		Madge Reeves	Assistant Parish Clerk
Rob Ashley		Gordon Tutton	Financial Assistant
Brian Ballard			
Dick Doran			
Sarah Fulford			
Barrie Hailstone			
Peter Mundell			
Roy Murphy			

## MEETINGS

The Parish Council usually meets on the third Tuesday in every month except August when no meeting is held. We meet at 7.00pm in the Primary School and members of the public and press are welcome to attend. Members of the public are able to participate in meetings and speak on any agenda item. There is also an Open Forum at the start of every meeting where issues can be raised that are not included on the agenda. Notices of the agendas are posted on the village notice boards, on the web site and at the HIC. Sometimes extra meetings are held to deal with urgent matters such as planning.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Additionally there is a statutory Annual Parish Meeting held during April. The Annual Meeting provides another opportunity for residents to come along and address the Parish Councillors or just to have a say on matters of interest or concern. Additionally reports are given by the Parish Council Chairman, Clerk, Village Partnership Chairman, Isle of Wight Councillor, Tree Warden and Beat Officer.

## PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The following attendance record is in respect of the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 and is in respect of the Parish Councillors who were in office during 2009/2010.

Of the 11 scheduled monthly meetings held, Parish Councillor attendance was as follows:-

Barry Abraham 9 Rob Ashley 6 Brian Ballard 11 Dick Doran 9\* Sarah Fulford 8\*  
Barrie Hailstone 9\* Ken Morris 11 Peter Mundell 9\* Roy Murphy 10 Steve Porter 10 \*from June 2009

## OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Parish Council Office opening times: 10.00am to 1.00pm on Mondays. 10.00am to 1.30pm Tuesdays to Fridays.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Parish Councillors/officers can be contacted at the Wootton Bridge Help and Information Centre on 884555 or by email at [wbpcc@onwight.net](mailto:wbpcc@onwight.net)**

Remember that your Parish Councillors give their time for free because they care about the village; they receive no payments or expenses. Also, much of what we achieve is thanks to the many volunteers who help us in all manner of ways. Together we have raised thousands of pounds worth of grant funding for village regeneration projects. It is very rewarding to work together and to see so many projects come to fruition. If you would like to become involved or would like more information please contact any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk on 884555.

Questions relating to this report can be addressed to any one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk at the Help and Information Centre.

This report is also available on the Parish Council's web site at  
**[www.woottonbridge.org.uk](http://www.woottonbridge.org.uk)**



Wootton Bridge  
PARISH COUNCIL



QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL