



# Swanmore Parish Council Annual Report

## Chairman's Report

A New Year is a time to reflect on what we have achieved and to look forward to what we are planning for this year. This past 8 months, since I took on the chair, have seen us put a number of projects in motion to improve the look and feel of the village and provide improved facilities for residents. There are big plans for the improvement of the recreation ground at New Road and the skate park area; more details of which will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly and in the office. We have started the process of engagement with the relevant authorities on expanding the village car park and hopefully, by the next time I write to you, we will have some significant progress to report.

We continue to challenge the planning system and have had success in getting changes to LPP2. They are small changes but are significant in the message they convey. We expect at some point this year to be able to engage with the developers for the remainder of the lakes allocation, however ours is only one voice and the site is already 'approved' through the LPP2 process. We can only try to influence design and layout.

We are still on the lookout for more councillors and have 3 vacancies at present. You can also be involved with the committees without being a councillor, through the co-option process or via a working party for a specific project. At the end of the day we are all unpaid volunteers trying to work within a system to do the best for Swanmore, so if you feel you can help in anyway then please get in touch with one of the councillors or with the office.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?**

**CONTACT A COUNCILLOR OR THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE FOR INFORMATION**

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**\*\*\*\*\*NEW DATE – NEW VENUE \*\*\*\*\***

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 – 7.30 pm**

**Methodist Church Hall**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY A NEW HOBBY?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

We are inviting all the clubs, organisations and volunteer groups to the evening to chat with residents informally over a glass of wine.

Come and find out about the many groups in the village. Find something new you would like to try.

We will also be supported by our City and District Councillors, the Police and our ACSO who will present their reports.

So come and find out what's happening, ask questions, make suggestions.

We look forward to welcoming you.

## Planning & Highways Committee

As is usual there has been a steady stream of planning applications, with the most significant being the one by David Wilson Homes for 91 dwellings off Hillpound. As the site was allocated as part of the Local Plan process it was a matter of looking at the detail such as flood protection, highway matters, design and layout. The main concern was associated with the traffic on Hillpound, given that average speeds of between 35 and 40 mph have been recorded regularly and the accident rate is considerably higher than should be accepted on a rural road. SPC consider this to be a very dangerous stretch of road and this situation can only be exacerbated by the addition of another access point. In consequence it was strongly proposed that this access should be upgraded to a roundabout together with traffic calming. Unfortunately this fell on deaf ears but Hampshire County Council has now re-painted and upgraded the road markings.

A committee member attended the Planning Inspector's examination of Local Plan Part 2 for soundness. There were two areas in Swanmore which developers considered to be unsound: David Wilson Homes made a submission for the housing allocation at The Lakes to be increased from 140 to 180 and Linden Homes proposed that more of the open space allocated off Lower Chase Road should be taken up for housing. SPC strongly objected to both these submissions. The Inspector has now issued his final report and finds the plan to be sound subject to various modifications of which none directly involve Swanmore.

It is worth noting that he accepted both our above objections. The plan can now go ahead for adoption, subject to the Inspector's modifications, and will be considered by WCC Full Council on 5 April.

We remain very concerned about the level of speeding throughout the village, particularly Hillpound, Lower Chase Road, New Road and Swanmore Road and are currently investigating ways of reducing the levels. Unfortunately money is tight and we can expect little support from Hampshire County Council. We are therefore looking at using our own modest budget to best effect. Next year we will be starting the process of updating our older yellow sodium street lights which should improve pedestrian safety.

The VDS is currently being updated and is currently with WCC Planning Officers for their review. We hope to have this available for comment at the Annual Parish Assembly.

## Communities Committee

The arrival of our Community Safety Officer, Michael Thomas, in May has been one of the more visible achievements of the Committee in the past year. Michael currently spends 10.5 hours a week in Swanmore, for the rest of his time he is in Bishop's Waltham. He is already a familiar figure in the village and has played a significant part in reducing anti-social behaviour and providing support and reassurance to many people in Swanmore.

Our first Community Christmas Event in December was enjoyed by all who attended and the Christmas tree was appreciated by many residents. Our thanks to all those who helped plan and host this event. Numbers for the event were restricted to the capacity of the Primary School hall, so for 2017 we are planning to move the celebrations to the Village Hall to allow more members of the community to participate.

Work on the "beautifying the village" project is progressing slowly, in part due to the need for licences from Hampshire County Council to work on the grass verges. John Ponsford has built and installed the planter outside the Primary School and where grass verges are suitable flower beds will be created in front of the new village signs, with bulb plantings in the grass where the verges are narrow. Many thanks to John for leading this initiative. Volunteers to assist with the seasonal plantings would be much appreciated: please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

The new Parish Council website went live during the year: it includes full details of Council meetings with additional information, including the village's Emergency Plan, Village Design Statement, and many useful links. A defibrillator for community use has been installed in the old telephone kiosk by the shops and the Committee has also been responsible for the refurbishment of the flagpole by the War Memorial, where new flags will be flown as appropriate. An enlarged noticeboard for the centre of the village is on order which will allow space for Parish Council notices, news of community events, and a local footpath map with a dispenser for the map leaflets, which of late have only been available from the Parish Office.

Sadly, not all our projects have had such positive outcomes. Hopes to develop a "satellite" general practice surgery in Swanmore have been shelved after both the Bishop's Waltham and Wickham practices were unable to support the scheme. Plans to increase dementia awareness in the village are also on hold, as we await further input from the organisation promoting the development.

## Open Spaces & Amenities Committee

Our open spaces are undergoing further work to maintain and improve accessibility. This includes the recreation ground where areas around play equipment have become very worn and muddy. The external maintenance work on the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground is now complete; please contact the Parish Council office if you wish to hire this facility.

We continue to appreciate and acknowledge the work of our volunteers. The Swanmore Conservation Group support and maintain our wildlife habitats; especially around Greens Wood, Marshes Meadow and the village pond. Our newly appointed voluntary footpath warden has identified an extensive list of Rights of Way that require either maintenance or more substantial work to improve access for local residents and visitors. A number of missing or faulty waymark posts have been reinstated and we are communicating with Hampshire Countryside Services who coordinate the protection and maintenance of footpaths, bridleways and byways.

As you will have seen in the Parish Magazine recently, we are moving forward with the proposals for the improvement of the new road playing field. The next steps are to finalise design of the skate park and to provide residents with an opportunity to comment on the overall plan so we will be setting up public sessions soon to do this. In addition, the current plan is also on the Parish Council website for anybody who wishes to take a look now.

## West Hoe Cemetery Management Committee

The West Hoe Cemetery Management Committee has had a busy year which has seen changes at the cemetery and in the administration of the Committee.

In April 2016 the Clerk services and administration for the Committee moved to Bishop's Waltham Parish Council. Mrs Lindsay Edge (Clerk at BWPC) took over clerking the Committee from Yvonne Wheadon who had acted as locum clerk. The move to Bishop's Waltham has allowed the Committee to offer a full 5 day week service. We are very grateful to Yvonne for all her work for the Committee.

The financial administration of the Committee was significantly improved this year with the purchase of a software package to manage the accounts. The Committee now receives bespoke financial reports at each meeting and monitoring of the budget is now an easier task.

The Committee is very appreciative of the support given to the cemetery by Bishop's Waltham and Swanmore Councils. Both Councils provide funding for the cemetery on a two thirds (BWPC), one third (SPC) basis.

This year the Committee has drawn up and approved a strategic plan for the cemetery for the next twenty years which will include:

- The designation, design and installation of a second cremation casket area;
- The designation, design and installation of a fourth burial area; and
- The designation of a fifth burial area.

The Committee is also investigating the provision of a natural burial area to meet the needs of people preferring a less formal arrangement for their loved ones. Further discussions on this proposal will take place during 2017.

Following a tree survey undertaken in January 2016 the Committee commenced a programme of tree works in June. Initial work included the removal of some branches on larger trees and clearance of self-seeded trees invading the shrubbery areas. In December more significant work was carried out and three large Lawson Cyprus were removed. This has opened up the pathway and allowed unobstructed views across the cemetery.

In January new hedging and four new Rowans were planted between the two designated burial areas to replace the old conifer hedgerow removed in 2016. We hope that this will provide an attractive border in the coming years. A further round of tree works will be undertaken in early 2017. Within this period the Committee has also reviewed the rules and regulations for the cemetery to ensure that they are fit for purpose, reinstated the reserves for memorial repairs and agreed to the locking of the cemetery in the evenings to prevent misuse of the car park.

Councillors and staff on this Committee take pride in the cemetery and work hard to ensure that that the cemetery continues to be a peaceful and calm resting place for our loved ones.

## Swanmore Parish Council – Interim Financial Report 2016/17

	£ Budget 2016/17	£ Estimated Actual	£ Budget 2017/18
<b>INCOME</b>			
Precept incl. Council Tax			
Support Grant	£184,070.00	£184,070.00	£201,298.00
Bank Interest	£100.00	£200.00	£230.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£0.00	£36,653.58	£32,401.49
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Open Spaces and Amenities	£93,973.00	£1,300.00	£1,300.00
Grants	£0.00	£977.00	£0.00
Swanmore Recreation Ground	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£279,643.00</b>	<b>£224,700.58</b>	<b>£236,729.49</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
General Administration	£77,267.00	£82,620.61	£87,676.00
Section 137 grants	£1,515.00	£1,515.00	£1,530.15
Community	£24,836.00	£24,336.00	£23,500.00
Loan Repayments	£6,322.00	£6,322.00	£6,322.00
Lighting and Highways	£32,880.00	£37,914.02	£27,476.80
Open Spaces and Amenities	£164,988.00	£52,860.00	£93,083.00
Swanmore Recreation Ground	£26,875.00	£29,375.00	£22,950.00
Donations	£4,040.00	£4,040.00	£4,080.00
West Hoe Cemetery	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	£4,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£342,223.00</b>	<b>£242,482.63</b>	<b>£270,617.95</b>
Capital Projects - New Road Project to be met by reserves and grants as available			£309,500.00

### Members

Jon Woodman – Chairman  
 Pete Ansty  
 Penny Clive  
 David Newberry  
 Chris Newhouse  
 Andy Rankine  
 Giles Pateman– Vice Chairman  
 Currently 3 vacancies

### Contacts

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[www.swanmorepc.org.uk](http://www.swanmorepc.org.uk)  
 Facebook and Twitter

Meetings are held in the Parish Council Office, Hollythorns House, New Road

Meetings begin at 7.00pm unless otherwise indicated on the agenda.  
 When there are no planning applications to consider the meeting may be cancelled.

