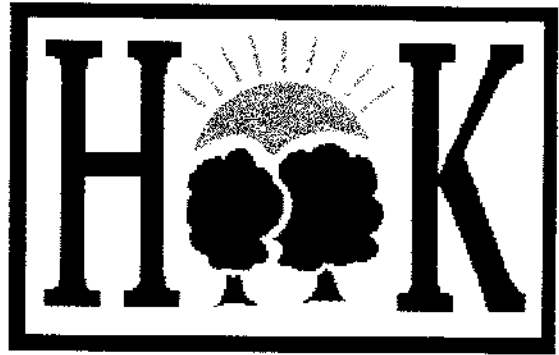


# Hook Parish Council

## Annual Report 1999-2000



### Chairman's report

Once again, we are a village under threat, with plans to build 270 houses at Holt Lane. Other sites, at present not in the local plan, have also been named by developers. Needless to say, your Parish Council opposes these proposals.

Hook, on the extremity of Hart District, often seems to be the dumping ground for more houses. Never mind the fact that the village has endured such tremendous growth in recent years! Whatever happened to consolidation?

This year, your councillors have increased from ten to twelve. These include three new faces - Antony Hunter, Gillian Morgan and Martin Whittaker. Remember, councillors are unpaid - and giving up their free time! I would like to thank the committee chairmen: Colin Brown, Jane Bonnin and Janet Deller, who have worked hard to improve our village. Elsewhere you will be able to read their notes in this report. Also a word of thanks to Frank Sopwith, who is our Cemetery Administrator - a thankless task that often demands a sensitive and caring approach.

Vandalism is an on-going problem. Amongst other mindless acts, a child's swing at the John Morgan Close play area was damaged and safety surfaces at Hartletts Park were dug up. Late night vandalism has also occurred at Wellworth's park. Do please report such acts if you see them taking place.

The Parish Council is actively involved in supporting many activities beneficial to the village. Again, in the summer, we sponsored the Summer Holiday Playscheme for three weeks in July/August and offer thanks to Shirley Clancy and her team of helpers for so ably organising the Playscheme.

Hook Action Group and the Odiham Cottage Hospital received financial support. The Parish Council installed new and very efficient lighting in the Elizabeth Hall area. In the Amenity report, you will read about the progress of our new BMX and in-line skating facility.

You may recall that the school crossing patrol sign

used by Mrs Gary was lost or stolen. Police advised that it shouldn't be replaced and reliance should be placed on the pedestrian traffic lights to see children across the road. The Parish Council continued to press for a replacement and finally a new patrol sign was provided by Hampshire County Council. In the event of a power failure, it would be the only lawful way for Mrs. Gary to stop the traffic!

By the time you read this, Lloyds Bank will have closed its Hook branch. Unfortunately, according to Lloyds, it had become uneconomic. The 'bottom line' is now paramount and community service and customer care are being consigned to the past. It will be the old and those without transport who will be most affected.

The Parish Council, in an attempt to reverse the decision, sent a delegation to meet with Lloyds directors. The outcome was not successful, however. The closure is a retrograde step and follows the departure of Barclays some years back. Long live on-line banking!

Thanks to Hook 2000 and the Millennium Group for their on-going work. Approximately 1000 people were in Station Road for the lighting of the Millennium Beacon. All present felt a great sense of community and, despite the rain, it was a great success.

On a personal note, my wife Pam, who loves her garden, presented the village with a 20' living Christmas tree. This was carefully removed from the garden and replanted in front of Grand Parade in early December. Wary of vandals, it was decided not to decorate the tree until Christmas week. It is a sad reflection of our times that the Christmas tree lights lasted just one night, before being vandalised beyond repair!

On the positive side, although it is still early days, the tree appears to have survived the move and hopefully will provide a "Village Christmas Tree" in vandal free Christmases to come.

**Peter Jennions**



## Money Matters

The Parish Council's share of the Community Charge for the year to April 2000 came to £148,000, the lowest precept for three years.

The money actually spent during the year can be analysed as follows: -

Running expenses (salaries, expenses, stationery, insurance, typing, utility costs, office equipment)	£ 41,500
Youth facilities	£ 10,200
Street Lighting/ Security	£ 10,600
Loan repayments	£ 20,000
Gardening/ Park keeping/ Cleansing	£ 48,500
Grants	£ 21,400
<b>Village Projects:</b>	
Drainage Hartletts Park Pitches	£ 20,000
Skate board/BMX park	£ 23,000
Security Lighting at Elizabeth Hall	£ 9,500
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>£204,700</b>
	=====
Less other income	(£21,400)
Less transferred from reserves	(£35,300)
	-----
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£148,000</b>
	=====

Full audited accounts will be available for inspection after the end of the financial year. The precept for the year to April 2001 has been increased to £192,000. This increase is due to a double squeeze on the village finances. On the one hand Hart are reducing their contribution towards services in the village, whilst the requirement for facilities continues to rise. Plus, we have the ever present risk of a major planning enquiry to prepare for.

Next year's precept is equivalent to £1.25 per week for each band D property. We strive to keep a balance between keeping costs down and gradually providing sustainable facilities for the benefit of residents.

**Tony Taylor**  
email: [tony.taylor@antalis.com](mailto:tony.taylor@antalis.com)

## Village Garden and Cemetery Committee



For some time, the Parish Council had been aware that a considerable number of burials taking place here were those of people who had no connection with the village whatsoever. Valuable space in the cemetery was being taken up, which could ultimately result in there being no spaces left for villagers.

The rules have now been changed, so that only those with a village connection can be buried here. In this way, we hope to keep the village cemetery available for the benefit of the village.

**Jane Bonnin**

## Hook on the Web

The Parish Council's web site has now been augmented by a searchable archive of minutes going back to 1994. Not everyone's idea of an enthralling read, perhaps, but very handy if you want to find out what the council or some of the visitors to its meetings had to say on a particular issue.

There are also links to websites of village organisations, as well as contact details for the councillors and clerk.

**Jane Bonnin**  
email: [jane@sunspots.co.uk](mailto:jane@sunspots.co.uk)

<http://hook.parish.hants.gov.uk>

## Election News



One of our District Councillors, Roberta Flowers, has resigned, as she is moving away from the area. Roberta has held the seat for some years, during which time she has served as Chairman of Hart District Council. Our thanks go with her.

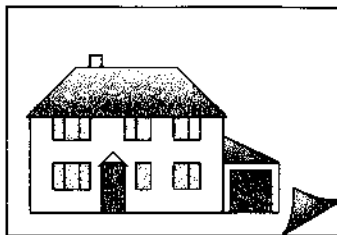
The election to fill the vacancy will fall due on Thursday May 4th.

## Planning Committee

**D**uring the last year, there have been significant developments on the strategic planning front.

The Inspector's report following the Inquiry on the Hart District Council Local Plan was published in the late autumn. The Parish Council was disappointed that, despite the strong counter arguments, which it felt had been well presented, the inspector had supported the allocation of 200 houses to Holt Lane.

Additionally, the Inspector advised that the District Council should enlarge the Holt Lane site to accommodate an extra 20-30 houses and add two development sites near Owens Farm.



The District Council now has to decide what changes to make to the Local Plan proposals in the light of the Inspector's report. Any proposed changes will be made public and there will be public consultation. However, as the Inspector has endorsed the District Council's proposals for the original Holt Lane site, a full development brief is now being prepared. The Parish Council will make every effort to ensure that the interests of the village are represented as fully as possible in that process.

At County Council level, Hampshire County Council and the two unitary authorities of Southampton and Portsmouth finally agreed a response to the report of the Examination in Public into the Hampshire County Structure Plan (Review). The approach adopted in relation to housing is to have a base-line figure, with an additional provision which will only be taken up if there is a proven need. Obviously, Hart and Hook must hope that the additional provision is not required.

At Parish Council level, it has been another busy year for planning applications, with yet again a rise in the number processed. As is usual, many are for straightforward domestic extensions, but some prove more significant or contentious.

About this time last year, an application was submitted to demolish Wrens in Elms Road and replace it with five four-bedroomed houses. The Parish Council fought hard against this proposal and a later one which reduced the number of houses to four. However, although the District Council refused the applications, sadly permission for four houses was granted at an appeal.

On the commercial front, the final buildings at Bartley Wood are under construction, as are the first units on Phase 2 of Murrell Green Business Park. Plans have also been submitted for further new units at Murrell Green.

When consulted about such applications, the

Parish Council tries to ensure a very high standard of design, whilst minimising impact on the local community, both visually and in relation to traffic that may be generated.

The Parish Council does not, of course, actually decide planning applications - that is the role of the District Council. We are asked to comment on applications and when doing so, it is helpful if we are aware of local views. We have to submit our comments within a similar time limit to that given to neighbours and, depending on the cycle of Planning Committee meetings, we may consider an application within a very few days of its receipt. If you have concerns which you wish us to take into account, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Planning Committee meetings take place on most alternate Wednesdays at the Community Hall - details are posted on the Parish noticeboards. Do come along if you want to know what is being planned for our village.

**Janet Deller**

## Amenities

**T**he new BMX and in-line skating facility in Hartletts Park is making good progress, but there has been a small hiccup caused by a lamp post, which is in the way, but can only be disconnected by the Electricity Board. We are hopeful that work will be completed in time for Easter.

Street lighting in Rectory Road has been improved, partly by the Housing Association and the remainder by the Parish Council. The Parish Council have also upgraded the lighting of the Elizabeth Hall grounds.

Tarmac has been laid on the footpath from the Elizabeth Hall to the A30 and also at the rear entrance to the Junior School.

**Dave Deadman**

Don't miss the  
**Annual  
Village Meeting**  
Wednesday April 19th  
8.00pm Elizabeth Hall.

# Hook 2000

The aim of Hook 2000 is:-

*"To unify the village of Hook in a family commemoration of this special festival, with the Churches, Parish Council and other organisations in the village, working to celebrate and affirm that faith is alive today, 2000 years on; and in its celebration of past and present to look to the future with hope."*

The following events and projects have been put together by **HOOK 2000** and the village organisations represented on the group.

**Millennium Sculpture** - considered perhaps to be one of the more enduring and commemorative Millennium projects. We have now had the artists' impressions from the two artists commissioned to come up with a sculpture depicting Hook and its history. **Full details at the Annual Village meeting.**

**Village pond restored** - this continues to progress well, Hampshire Wildlife Trust are working with us. **Full details at the Annual Village meeting.**

## TIME CAPSULE REQUEST

If any village organisations have a contribution for the time capsule, please contact Shirley Clancy on 760578 (evenings).

## Firm Dates for the Hook Millennium Year are:

Hook Players	
Spring Production	13/14/15 April
Winter Production	24/25/30 November
	1/2/3 December
Hook Choral Society	
Summer Concert	8th July
Social - Barn Dance	20th May
Fun Run Committee	
Fun Run	21st May
Geffery's House	
Garden Party	May
Local History Group	
Through the Ages Exhibition	last week in July
Hook Gardeners	
Special Show	2nd September
Bowling Club	
Quiz Evening	October

Details of venues, and so on, will appear later. We are sure that there will be many more events, so please, if you or your organisation want to join the Village Millennium Group, or you know of other confirmed dates, let us know.

Let's continue to have a great year 2000 in Hook.

**Martin Rudd**  
764677

**John Lambert**  
763546

## Parish Council Personnel to May 2000



<b>Clerk</b>	David Deadman	16 Bellmeadow Road	762237
<b>Members:-</b>			
<b>Chairman:</b>	Peter Jennions	Cedar Court, Reading Road	762178
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Tony Taylor	45 Middle Mead	762925
<b>Chairman of Amenities Committee:</b>	Colin Brown	1 Oakhanger Close	760089
<b>Chairman of Planning Committee:</b>	Janet Deller	9 Chalky Copse	764132
<b>Chairman of Village Garden &amp; Cemetery Committee:</b>	Jane Bonnin	Church Path Cottage, Newnham Road	763287
	David Burke	41 Goose Green	762776
	Michael Clark	31 Oaktree Drive	766409
	Antony Hunter	Moles Meadow, Elms Road	762043
	Peter Moore	69 Middle Mead	764467
	Gillian Morgan	14 Garden Close	764214
	Allen Saltmarsh	119 Ravenscroft	764658
	Martin Whittaker	Foundry Cottage, London Road	765902

**Parish Council Office: 768573 (24 hour Answerphone)**

Edited by Jane Bonnin

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