

# Hook Parish Council



## Annual Report 2006 – 2007

### Chairman's report

The Annual Village Meeting will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the Elizabeth Hall from 8pm. We will continue to follow the successful formula of the last two years and start with a display of exhibits to walk round. In addition to your County, District and Parish Councillors, Hart Community Safety and Recycling, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Highways, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hart Neighbourhood Centre and Neighbourhood Watch will be on hand. The Elizabeth Hall Redevelopment Committee will attend for the last time as construction of the new hall will start just a few days after the meeting!

There will be no speeches, so the time at the formal meeting, which will start at around 8.45, will be spent on answering your questions. Please send questions in advance, either by email to [clerk@hook.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hook.gov.uk) or by letter to the Parish Council office by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, so that we can do any necessary research. Questions that are not submitted by that date or are handed in on the night will be covered if time allows. The number of people attending has increased in each of the last two years which is most encouraging.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is Election Day for the Parish Council and one of Hook's three District Council seats. All twelve Parish Council seats are up for election: a new Council will be elected for four years. The Parish Council is entirely focused on the needs of our Community and almost all our expenditure is met by the Parish Council part of your Council Tax bill. District, County and national government work along party political lines but traditionally we are free from party politics. Please use your vote!

Three Councillors have told us, for good reasons, that they will not stand again at the election in May and sadly I have been unable to persuade them to reconsider. David Ridley, until recently Chairman of our Planning Committee, has an ever increasingly demanding job running a department at Waverley Borough Council. Janet Deller, who has been a Councillor for twelve years, and chaired the Planning Committee for four years, has decided it is time to "move on." Pete Comley, who joined us last year, will also stand down. Many thanks to them all. We will miss their contribution to the Hook Community.

**Antony Hunter**

[chairman@hook.gov.uk](mailto:chairman@hook.gov.uk)

### Development Strategy Committee

The South East Plan continues to make progress through the convoluted system which is the UK planning environment. The very detailed plan that was produced in the summer of 2006 is going through the Examination in Public (EIP) process, which in itself takes a number of months.

Every aspect of the plan is examined in an open public forum by a number of inspectors who at the end of the process have to report as to whether all aspects of the plan are satisfactory.

The number of houses to be allocated to the North of Hampshire remains uncertain. However, it does appear that in the current version of the plan, the number of houses in Hart could be less than originally thought. Regrettably, as mentioned last year, money for infrastructure in terms of road, rail, schools and especially water continues to be a major concern.

Legislation in Europe established a number of Special Protection Areas (SPA) on the heath lands of the Thames Basin. This continues to affect new housing development throughout Hart. As a result little new housing development has been approved throughout the district of Hart in 2006. Housing authorities across the Thames Valley are working with Natural England to resolve the issues.

I suspect that to build or not build in the proximity of a SPA will be an issue for some time and many pages of closely written paper will come through the system before a solution is decided upon. Three proposed developments in Hook are on hold pending resolution of this issue. Watch this space!!

The Parish Plan has finally been given approval to go into print. The delays over the past two years as Government policy has been clarified and the format of the plan agreed, have led to numerous updates and changes to the original draft.

The Parish Plan is our opportunity to influence Hart District Council Local Development Framework, which will replace the current Local Structure Plan. Hopefully Hart will accept the Parish Plan by the middle of this year and then adopt it as supplementary Planning Guidance after due process.

**Nigel Carpenter**

[nigel.carpenter@hook.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.carpenter@hook.gov.uk)

## Amenities Committee

The Amenities Committee looks after all the facilities maintained by the Council – pitches, parks, trees, playgrounds – as well as events and general improvements to the Parish.

### Hook Summer Festival

Last July saw the Hook Summer Festival, organised jointly by the Hook Schools Parents Association (HSPA) and the Parish Council. It was a wonderful event, with schoolchildren from throughout the area attending the Green Roadshow on the Thursday and Friday, and around 5000 people attending on the Saturday. This was in spite of the fact that it was almost the hottest day of the century and England were set to crash out of the World Cup that very afternoon. It's hard to say what the highlight of the day was, but for many it was the Chinook helicopter blowing the portable toilets across the car park. Luckily there was nobody in them at the time.

The cost to our community of the Festival was only £3,000, thanks to sponsorship from Serco and Awards For All. The profits from the event went to the HSPA.

### Christmas Events

Last year we completed phase 2 of the current 3-year plan to improve Hook's Christmas decorations. Most of the lampposts in the centre of Hook have now been fitted with brackets for hanging the decorations and with electricity to illuminate them. By Christmas 2007 this work will be complete and we will have some of the best decorations in the area. However, we're always looking for more ideas, so if you have any, please let us know.

After another very successful Christmas Cracker in 2006, the co-ordinator, Sue Gibson, is moving on to other things – our thanks go to her. Therefore the

search is on for someone to take over for 2007. If you have experience in organisation & management, have some spare time and a commitment to the community, please contact the Parish Council Office. Applicants must be over 18 and like Christmas.

### Youth Facilities

One of the benefits of the housing development that has been taking place in Hook is the "S106 payments" from the developers. These are to be used for the improvement of facilities. Over the past few years most of this money has gone towards the new Elizabeth Hall, but some is earmarked specifically for recreational facilities. Towards the end of last year, a group of Hook's younger residents started talking to the Parish Council about improving the skateboarding facilities in Hartletts Park. Luckily, some £60,000 of S106 money has just become available and we are currently looking at how this can be used for skateboarding. Initial proposals from suppliers have now been received and we hope to be able to install a new skate park within the next 12 months.

### Footpath Map

You will receive with this report a leaflet and map showing country walks around Hook. This shows the main footpaths together with sights, areas of interest and the location of the local pubs. If you're new to the area or fancy getting out and about a bit more, why not try some of these walks? If you need an extra copy of the leaflet, just contact the Parish Council Office.

We're always looking for new projects to improve the quality of life in Hook. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with us.

**Martin Whittaker**

[martin.whittaker@hook.gov.uk](mailto:martin.whittaker@hook.gov.uk)



*An artist's impression of the new Elizabeth Hall: work is scheduled to start in April 2007.*

## Money Matters

The Parish Council share of the Community Charge for 2006/7 came to £274,000 which represents a charge of £1.69 a week for a property in the benchmark Band D. Full audited accounts will be available for inspection in the Parish Council Office and on our website later in the year.

The 2007/8 precept has been set at £290,000 which due to new housing, particularly in Holt Park, will be spread over about 120 more houses than was the case last year. Hook now has 3,200 homes. Parish Councils do not receive any money at all, directly or indirectly, from the non-domestic rates charged on commercial premises, nor do we receive money from any other tier of local government.

We have been able to put £105,000 to reserves to assist in funding the new Elizabeth Hall. Contracts for the build will be signed in April at a total cost of around £1million.

Developer contributions and the precept money we have put to reserves over the past few years will cover the bulk of the cost. A levy of £60,000 from the precept will continue to be necessary for another three years but by using other money from reserves in the meantime we are able to start building in April.

Gardening/park keeping and cleansing continue to be a major cost. Sadly, collecting broken glass and repairing vandal damage to fencing, play areas and other equipment cost £5,000 in 2006/7 which was a significant increase on the previous year.

Money actually spent in 2006/7 can be analysed as follows:

Running expenses (salaries, office rent, insurance, office equipment)	£67,000.00
Youth facilities	£10,000.00
Street lighting/security	£6,000.00
Loan repayment	£12,000.00
Gardening/park keeping/cleansing	£53,000.00
Grants	£36,000.00
Projects: Leisure and Community facilities	£12,000.00
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Total spend	£196,000.00
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Less other income	-£27,000.00
Less developer contributions	£0.00
Add transferred to reserves (for Elizabeth Hall)	£105,000.00
	=====
<b>Precept (raised from Council Tax)</b>	<b>£274,000.00</b>

**Antony Hunter**

chairman@hook.gov.uk

## Elizabeth Hall Redevelopment

### The New Beginning

It was at the Village Meeting of 2003, that Hook Parish Council received the support of the community to evaluate the continuation of the Elizabeth Hall facility. After considerable assessment it was decided that the only viable option was to go for a new build.

It is with great pleasure that we can now present a fully approved design for a stunning new hall (see facing page). There is an established contractor ready to start and that all too important factor, the money, is in place to pay for it all.

### Facilities

- ❖ The Main Hall will seat 200 people with an improved stage.
- ❖ Two Small Halls of similar size to existing.
- ❖ Toilets to all current required standards and sited at both ends of the building.
- ❖ Kitchen facilities extended with small "Kitchen in a Cupboard" facilities to most rooms for that essential cuppa.
- ❖ Next to the main kitchen is another circulating space which can double as a meeting room.

### Flexibility

Overall detail of the Hall was presented in the January edition of Focus and has been available through Hart Planning Office and their web site. The New Hall will be a truly multipurpose building, allowing three different groups/hirers to use the facility at the same time with minimal contact between each other, whilst having full access to all required facilities.

### Build Programme

During the build, planned for April 2007, the current hall will operate as normal. It is expected that it will take less than 12 months to provide this exciting new facility.

### Thank You

The real thanks go to all of you who live in Hook. All of you have made a real contribution and without this support every year at the Village Meeting, the project could not have even started. Thanks to all of you, we can now look forward to the cutting of the first sod towards the end of April.

**Cedric Bradley**

For Elizabeth Hall Redevelopment

## Planning Committee

This year, the Planning Committee has dealt with 143 applications, a slight increase on last year. The majority were minor domestic extensions, but the year was dominated by eight major schemes.

Four of the housing applications:-

- ❖ an increase in density on part of the Holt Park site which was subsequently refused on appeal
- ❖ the redevelopment of The Bungalow, London Road, which has now gone to appeal
- ❖ forty affordable homes between Whitewater Rise, Holt Lane and the A30
- ❖ redevelopment of Jambonze and Mallows in Newnham Road

have been held up by the SPA directive (there's an explanation of this in the Development Strategy article) and cannot currently proceed. A fifth site adjacent to The Holt, Holt Lane, already had outline permission and was not affected.

Also unaffected by the SPA directive (which only applies to housing development) were:-

- ❖ redevelopment of Wellworths as a tyre fitting workshop, which was allowed by Hart against local objections, though the scale of the operation was reduced and Sunday operating banned
- ❖ rebuilding of the New Covenant Church in Elms Road, which was allowed on appeal, although the size of the building was reduced following local objections

- ❖ redevelopment of the former Case site on Osborne Way, which was allowed on appeal

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications and the Planning Committee endeavours to represent the views of the people of Hook in the planning process. Residents are welcome to attend Planning Committee meetings and can give their views to the committee. The Parish Council Office is open every morning during the week and you can arrange to view planning applications there instead of making the trip to Fleet.

Finally, my thanks go to David Ridley, who chaired the Planning Committee until last September, and to Christine Randall, whose work in the office underpins everything that the committee achieves.

**Jane Bonnin**

jane.bonnin@hook.gov.uk

**Don't forget to come to the**

## **Annual Village Meeting**

**Wednesday 25th April 2007  
in the Elizabeth Hall from  
8pm**

## Parish Personnel - April 2007



<b>Clerk:</b>	Anne Atkins	Parish Council Office,	01256 768687
<b>Deputy Clerk:</b>	Christine Randall	Hook Community Centre	or
<b>Administrator:</b>	Marian Bright		01256 768573
<b>Chairman</b>	Antony Hunter	Moles Meadow, Elms Road	01256 762043
<b>Vice-Chairman &amp; Chairman of Development Strategy Committee</b>	Nigel Carpenter	27 Goose Green	01256 762936
<b>Chairman of Amenities Committee</b>	Martin Whittaker	Foundry Cottage, London Road	01256 765902
<b>Chairman of Planning Committee</b>	Jane Bonnin	Church Path Cottage, Newnham Road	01256 763287
	Tim Colman	17 Bow Field	01256 765434
	Pete Comley	3 Seton Drive	01256 760904
	Janet Deller	9 Chalky Copse	01256 764132
	Fergus Kirkham	1 Alderwood Drive	01256 766122
	Gillian Morgan	14 Garden Close	01256 764214
	David Ridley	24 Bramshott Drive	01256 763571
	Allen Saltmarsh	119 Ravenscroft	01256 764658
	Tony Taylor	45 Middle Mead	01256 762925



Hook Parish Council's website is at <http://www.hook.gov.uk>

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