

# Hook Parish Council



## Annual Report 2017 – 2018

### Chairman's Report

Towards the end of 2017, the Parish Council underwent a change of councillor, as Rob Cowell was co-opted to replace Lee Haddock, who resigned due to work commitments. The Council is keen to understand why so few candidates came forward for election in 2015, but so many stepped up for co-optation later on. A disproportionate balance between co-optees and elected councillors limits the opportunities available under local government regulations. If the Council has at least two-thirds elected Councillors, it can then exercise additional powers such as financing community projects.

Local government elections are being held in May 2019, when all twelve seats on the Council will be available. I therefore appeal to residents who are interested in local community matters to consider standing for election to Hook Parish Council and start a dialogue with the Executive Officer now. We hope that all twelve seats can be filled; to discover what's involved in being a Parish Councillor and the process for standing for election, please contact the Parish Council Office. If there is sufficient interest from residents, we will hold an informal and interactive open evening early in 2019 to provide more detail about this rewarding volunteer opportunity.

Following on from last year, the structure review conducted by HALC (Hampshire Association for Local Councils) has now been fully implemented with the recruitment of Serena Dolby as a part-time Finance Administrator. This has enabled Anne Atkins to achieve a reduction in working hours and to

concentrate on more strategic issues, such as developing the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan, in co-operation with Councillors and officers, together with compiling a 'Welcome to Hook' pack for the influx of new residents.

The launch of the Hook Parish Council App, available free on Apple's App store and on Google Play, for both smartphone and tablet users was achieved at the end of March 2018. Details are on the back page. This Community App, together with the Parish Council's Facebook page, aims to enhance interaction with, and between, residents by providing the latest information on local village happenings. Excitingly, our App is the first and, currently, only Parish Council Community App in Hampshire!

How colourful Hook has looked throughout the changing seasons, due to the wonderful and varied botanical displays all around the village, courtesy of Hook in Bloom. Whatever the weather conditions, the cheery 'In Bloom' band of volunteers can be seen out and about tending the plants which brighten up our locality: volunteers, you are much appreciated!

On behalf of the Councillors and residents, my thanks go to the stalwart officers at the Parish Council, who work so tirelessly to make our village environment amongst the best in Hampshire. In recognition of this, Hook was awarded 'Highly Commended' in the Best Hampshire Village of the Year category at this year's HALC AGM.

**Jane Worlock**  
chairman@hook.gov.uk



The new playground at Wellworth Park

Photo: Pam Mercer

## Environment & Community

It's been another hectic year with several key community projects successfully completed.

The Wellworth Park play area was replaced with design input from Hook's younger residents, resulting in a brightly coloured space full of entertaining play equipment. For local teenagers, a very well attended, hands-on graffiti workshop was held in October at the Skate Park. Participants were given the opportunity to display their own tagged artwork and were taught graffiti etiquette by two expert artists.

The Parish Council has made a number of grants during the year, to beneficiaries including Young at Hart, Teen Engagement, local Victim Support, Hart Citizens' Advice, MHA Hart & Rushmoor Live at Home scheme, Adult Football Club and Hook Christmas Cracker. Another defibrillator and housing cabinet, accessible 24/7, has been installed on a side wall of the Community Centre; in addition, the cabinet in the centre of the village has been replaced.

Maintenance within Bassetts Mead, to include a stretch of the River Whitewater, has involved pollarding willows, repairing the bridge over the culvert and refurbishing several gates. Tree management on Parish Council land is ongoing to provide a safe and green environment.

For those of you who are dog owners, please remember that dog 'poo bags' are available free of charge from the Parish Council office at the Community Centre from 9-12 noon on weekdays.

Hook's Community Christmas Lunch was held at Hartletts Cafe in the Community Centre, with live music, bingo and Father Christmas in attendance! Thanks go to the local businesses who so generously supported this initiative and to Jen Copeland who prepared the most fantastic lunch.

Residents are the 'eyes and ears' of a community, so if you spot anything untoward please either contact the Parish Council office or report the problem on 'Fix My Street' via the Hook Parish Council App or website. We all need to maintain Hook as a caring, vibrant community for everyone's enjoyment.

**Debra Davies**

debra.davies@hook.gov.uk

### Events & Entertainment Survey

A reply-paid questionnaire is included with this report. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it via post (postage paid) to Hook Parish Council, or it can also be found online at: <http://hook.gov.uk/surveys>.

The Parish Council wants to understand the type of activities and events that our residents would like to see taking place here, rather than going elsewhere for entertainment. Tell the Council your preferences for arts and leisure in Hook. The results of the survey will be communicated via Hook Focus and social media.

## Planning & Infrastructure

The year has been particularly busy for the P&I Committee as there has been a steady flow of applications for home extensions, plus some major planning applications to consider alongside commenting on the Draft Hart Local Plan.

Reserved matters applications are being submitted for the 550 homes at North East Hook, detailed applications for 102 homes on the Bartley House site and 124 homes for the elderly on the Rawlings site, plus an outline planning application for 700 homes west of Hook. Also, there are a number of applications for conversion of offices in both the Bartley Wood Business Park and the Village Centre.

As a result, Hook Parish Council has worked closely with both District and County Councillors and their respective officers to ensure that the views of the residents of Hook are taken into account when determining any planning-related applications.

The application for west of Hook (on Owens Farm) is not supported by the Draft Hart Local Plan or Hook Parish Council for a number of reasons. Apart from there being no need for more homes on greenfield sites in Hook and the need to maintain a gap between Hook and Newnham, the provisions for transport infrastructure to support the forecast people and vehicle movements and to integrate this development with the rest of Hook are wholly inadequate.

A Transport Assessment Addendum has been recently submitted but that does not contain any substantial infrastructure improvements.

Hook Parish Council is also working closely with the District and County councils to resolve parking and other infrastructure related issues raised by residents.

## Local Plan & Neighbourhood Plan

The Draft Hart Local Plan has passed the last stage of public consultation and the good news for Hook is that no new homes are currently required on greenfield sites in this parish. The draft is now to be submitted to the Government Inspector in May/June and we hope it will be formally adopted later this year.

The first full draft of the Hook Neighbourhood Plan was published for a public consultation on the 18th January and a positive response was made by approximately 100 residents of Hook.

The Steering Group now has significant technical support from the Department for Communities and Local Government / Locality to prepare the supporting documents and there is also an emerging masterplan for the regeneration of Hook village centre.

The next draft is now being prepared by the Steering Group ready for submission to the District Council and Independent Examination in the summer. Then further formal consultation and a referendum will hopefully be followed by formal adoption by the end of this year.

**John Orchard**

john.orchard@hook.gov.uk



## Money Matters

The Parish Council's share of the Community Charge (known as the Precept) for 2017-18 was set at £330,400. In practice, this was a charge of £99.25 per annum, based on a Band D household.

The Precept covers the running costs of the variety of facilities, land management and services provided by the Parish Council, which include open spaces, such as Bassetts Mead, playgrounds, sports pitches, cemeteries, street lighting, trees, public art, Christmas lights and more. We continue to offer free pre-application planning consultations and to work closely on the development of the Hook Neighbourhood Plan.

We have supported a number of local organisations, events and charities such as The Base Youth Centre, Hook Village Show and Christmas Cracker. Where possible we obtain additional funding to enable enhancements to the facilities in Hook. We strive to maintain a balance between the need to provide the quality of facilities expected by residents whilst keeping a tight control of costs.

At the January Parish Council meeting the Parish Precept for 2018-19 was set at £363,400. This means an average Band D household will pay £105.29 pa (£2.02 per week, equivalent to a pot of tea at a local café). This takes account of all the costs incurred in running the Council's services and assets as well as a number of new and exciting initiatives and events being planned for the coming year.

Full audited accounts will be available for inspection in the Parish Council Office and on our website later in the year. Precept spent in 2017/18 can be analysed as follows in the next column:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Recreation and the Environment	90.4
Youth Provision	20.5
Cemetery	6.4
Street Lighting	4.0
Grants to local voluntary organisations	21.0
Office & Admin	24.6
Professional Fees	5.4
Wages & Salaries	72.1
Project & Capital Costs	94.8
Democratic & Elections	0.0
Other Expenditure	
1 Neighbourhood Plan	1.0
2 Repayments on Community Centre Loan	71.0
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>411.2</b>
<b>Less Income</b>	
Fees and Charges (Cemetery)	-4.0
Interest, capital payments and other income	-3.0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-7.0</b>
Transfer to reserves	-73.8
<b>Precept for 2017/18</b>	<b>330.4</b>

**Anne Atkins – Executive Officer**  
eo@hook.gov.uk

## Hook Village Show

The Hook Village Show held last September battled with wind and rain, but there were events in the arena and an excellent range of stalls around Hartletts Park.

This year's show is on **Sunday, 15th July** from noon to 5pm in Hartletts Park, with the Craft & Produce Fayre, a village halls' fundraiser, in Hook Community Centre. The show is being organised by the Parish Council in partnership with Hook and Odiham Lions Club, supported by Odiham and Hook Rotary Club, to ensure the 2018 event is even bigger and better.

The show has been moved to July this year to improve the chance of good weather and this will enable a full arena programme, including a stage for performers, as well as a good mix of around 50 stalls and other attractions for all ages. Enter your dog in Hook's dog show, see the vintage vehicles and enjoy a glass of beer or two.

### Dates for your diary:-

#### Annual Village Meeting

**Wednesday May 23rd**

**Hook Community Centre,**

**Ravenscroft**

8.00pm

#### Hook Village Show

**Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Hartletts Park & Hook Community Centre**

noon - 5.00pm

## The Hook App

We are delighted to introduce a new App for Hook. This offers a great opportunity for residents to receive the latest information about local events and activities and to communicate directly with local groups, organisations and businesses using a smartphone or tablet. Search for 'Hook Parish Council App on the App Store or on Google Play.

The App will continue to develop as usage increases, so please tell friends, neighbours and family to download it. The main features are:



**Events calendar** – This section will be packed with information about various activities and events going on in Hook and include links to more information about the event or to ticket bookings.

**Places** – This button opens a map of Hook. Click on the place pin to access information about, or communicate with, the organisations shown.

**Fix My Street** – Directly from the main screen you can now report issues from your phone and upload photographs of the problem that you wish to report.

**More** – Here you will find local organisations along with many other features. Click on Local Organisations, select the organisation and you can call, e-mail, get directions or go to their website directly from the App.

A new “Welcome to Hook” pack will be added, to help new residents settle in and become part of the community. Until this is ready, there is a leaflet showing walks around Hook.

If you belong to a Hook organisation that would like their details included, or wishes to advertise an event please complete one or both of the registration forms on our website at:

<http://hook.gov.uk/app>

## Parish Council Personnel: 2017 – 2018



<b>Executive Officer / Clerk:</b>	Anne Atkins	Parish Council Office Hook Community Centre Ravenscroft RG27 9NN	01256 768687 or 01256 768573
<b>Senior Administrative Officer (Environment &amp; Community)</b>	Marian Bright		
<b>Administrative Officer (Planning)</b>	Annalie Hadfield		
<b>Administrative Officer (Community Engagement)</b>	Pam Mercer		
<b>Administrative Officer (Finance)</b>	Serena Dolby		
<b>Chairman of Council &amp; Chairman of Finance, Strategy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	Jane Worlock	Emrys House, 17 Driftway Road	01256 764303
<b>Vice-Chairman of Council &amp; Chairman of Environment &amp; Community Committee</b>	Debra Davies	1 Ravenscroft	01256 760882
<b>Chairman of Planning &amp; Infrastructure Committee</b>	John Orchard	15 Painters Pightle	01256 767521
<b>Members</b>	Jane Bonnin	Church Path Cottage, Church Path	01256 763287
	Jeff Burke	21 Hawthorn Rise	01256 766223
	Rob Cowell	2 Rookwood Close	07707 532787
	Elaine Fordham	91 Rectory Road	07412 747745
	Sue Hinton	15 Selborne Close	01256 763753
	Fergus Kirkham	1 Alderwood Drive	01256 766122
	Barry Myall	23 Lynwood Gardens	01256 764640
	Chris Terrey	3 Stable Close	01256 964597
Angela Yates	23 Driftway Road	01256 761812	



Hook Parish Council's website is at [www.hook.gov.uk](http://www.hook.gov.uk)



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## HOOK PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT SURVEY

Hook is growing and the Parish Council is keen to understand the type of activities and events residents would like to see taking place within the village, rather than travelling elsewhere for entertainment. We would appreciate a few minutes of your time in completing the following questionnaire. You can also complete this online at: [www.hook.gov.uk/surveys](http://www.hook.gov.uk/surveys)

**Please note: this survey is per person, not per household. Additional copies are available from the Hook Parish Council Office.**

**Q1. Below are examples of types of events or activities which you may like to see provided within Hook:**

PLEASE CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE SCORE, WHERE:

**5 = DEFINITELY ATTEND, 4 = FAIRLY LIKELY TO ATTEND, 3 = POSSIBLY ATTEND,**

**2 = UNLIKELY TO ATTEND AND 1 = DEFINITELY WILL NOT ATTEND. 0 = DON'T KNOW.**

<b>FILM VIEWINGS:</b>		<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b>		<b>THEMED EVENTS:</b>	
5 4 3 2 1 0	Childrens' cinema	5 4 3 2 1 0	Classical music	5 4 3 2 1 0	American line dancing
5 4 3 2 1 0	Evening cinema	5 4 3 2 1 0	Indoor live music	5 4 3 2 1 0	Ballroom or Latin dance
5 4 3 2 1 0	Foreign language	5 4 3 2 1 0	International music & meal e.g. French	5 4 3 2 1 0	Comedy night
5 4 3 2 1 0	Movie and a meal	5 4 3 2 1 0	Jazz festival	5 4 3 2 1 0	Disco night (60's-90's)
5 4 3 2 1 0	Nostalgia films	5 4 3 2 1 0	Outdoor live music	5 4 3 2 1 0	Scottish country dancing
5 4 3 2 1 0	Outdoor cinema	5 4 3 2 1 0	Picnic in the park	5 4 3 2 1 0	Talent contest
5 4 3 2 1 0	Weekend cinema	5 4 3 2 1 0	Roller disco	5 4 3 2 1 0	Village barn dance
<b>MISC ACTIVITIES:</b>		<b>GROUP LESSONS:</b>		<b>SEASONAL EVENTS:</b>	
5 4 3 2 1 0	Badminton	5 4 3 2 1 0	Crafts	5 4 3 2 1 0	Christmas market
5 4 3 2 1 0	Table tennis	5 4 3 2 1 0	Dance	5 4 3 2 1 0	Craft fairs
5 4 3 2 1 0	Bumps and babies groups	5 4 3 2 1 0	Fitness	5 4 3 2 1 0	Summer fetê
5 4 3 2 1 0	Literary lunches (Meet the Author)	5 4 3 2 1 0	IT	5 4 3 2 1 0	Food festivals
5 4 3 2 1 0	Meet & make craft group	5 4 3 2 1 0	Language	5 4 3 2 1 0	Pamper/beauty nights
		5 4 3 2 1 0	Music	5 4 3 2 1 0	Street party in the park

**Q2. Please give below, details of any other specific event or activity you would definitely support:**

**Successful events are best organised by people with enthusiasm for the activity. If you are willing to assist in organising any of the above in Hook, please give your contact details below.**

**Print Name:**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone:**

Thank you very much for taking part in this questionnaire. Please return your questionnaire by **30<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. In providing your contact details we will only use these to communicate with you in respect to this survey or other Hook Parish Council matters where your permission has been given. We will not share your data with any third party without your prior consent.

**NO STAMP  
REQUIRED**

**Hook Parish Council  
FREEPOST NAT14766  
HOOK  
RG27 9BR**