

**HEADBOURNE WORTHY PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

The aims and objects of this council are to represent and serve all sections of the Headbourne Worthy community at this, the lowest rung of local government.

We are consulted by the District and County Councils and by other organisations on many topics, some mandatory, for example; planning and others voluntarily such as the Southampton Airport Users Group. We endeavour to carefully tailor our response to hopefully reflect the view of the majority of the residents, although this can be difficult to gauge.

It is important not to lose sight of the limitations of our statutory position - we can put forward our views and observations, make requests and suggestions, but that is all. No matter how strongly we feel, those who have consulted us do not have to act on our recommendations, but we can hope to influence their decision making.

Planning matters are notoriously difficult and the council's stance has always been to act fairly, transparently and in accordance with our interpretation of current policies. As such, we have had some disappointments; the ongoing sagas of the motocross site and Barton Farm, the go-ahead for a large development off Willis Waye and some infilling in Springvale Road - four dwellings where one existed - which we feel was contrary to clear established guidelines.

However, enough gloom! - some successes. Against stiff competition our website, (a joint venture with Kings Worthy), won an award from HCC - well done to Cllr. Dennis Curling, who masterminds it for us. Our regular newsletter is well received and deserves an award! Well done too to Cllr Jane Rutter, the editor. We have a new and enthusiastic clerk in Hilary, a new venue which we hope might be more convenient and more meetings and new members to the team. Welcome to them and a heartfelt thanks to those standing down - the outgoing chair Cllr Rosemary Stephens and Cllrs David Spurling, Julian Hamblin and Ron Hatchett for their great contribution to the village over many years. We continue to act prudently and to be mindful of the need to curb expenditure - we froze our request for the council's precept at the same level as that of the previous year and it remains one of the lowest in the Winchester District, no doubt in many respects due to our lack of assets such as halls and recreation grounds, but nonetheless is an indication of our intent.

The council does not exist in isolation and liaises with many bodies, including our District and County representatives and gratefully receives their invaluable advice and guidance. It actively supports the village's thriving Neighbourhood Watch scheme and welcomes the input of our dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team, both of which are vital to the well-being of our community.

In conclusion, we look forward to an interesting and challenging year, in which we hope to make the council even more relevant to the life of the village.

Councillor David Pearcey - Chairman 24th May 2010