Guy Shepherd - We Are Downs Ward – Newsletter November 2012


Parish Council. Downs Ward has a new Parish Councillor. Cllr C Gray was co-opted into the post at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 26th November and joins Cllrs Port and Veitch representing the Parish.

Police and Crime Commissioner. Simon Hayes, an independent candidate who had also been a past Chairman of the Police authority was elected as the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Downs ward turnout was 11% with another 8% of postal votes and the police vote was more than 50%.

Christmas Fire Risks. A message from Hampshire Fire and Rescue. Last year there were 2 deaths, and 28 fires from Christmas Cooking which resulted in several injuries. Some of the causes were Christmas lights left on and candles left aglow when houses were empty, wrapping paper building up, overloaded power sockets, and alcohol related incidents.

They ask that everyone takes some time to check the smoke detector batteries, plan ahead for your Christmas lighting with RCD protectors used, and switching off fairy lights when the house is empty or at night. Please also be careful with unattended cooking and candles, and have a great Christmas. To read more visit: www.facebook.com/firekills

Social Housing Tenancy Changes. It is proposed to stop ‘lifetime’ tenancy agreements for social housing and replace these with ‘fixed term’ agreements which are reviewed after 5 years. This is to ensure that housing needs are suitable and free up larger properties that are no longer needed to help fairly distribute the housing stock. For more information visit www.horndeeanmatters.com

Top Brass Visit. Early in the new year, Sandy Hopkins (EHDC Chief Executive) and Cllr Ken Moon (Leader, EHDC) will be visiting the Parish, including a stop in Downs. I am keen to get a group of representatives to meet and give their views. Currently I have in mind better access to leisure facilities, importance of protecting settlement gaps and what the Clanfield community centre will offer us. Please let me know your thoughts on: www.horndeeanmatters.com

Outdoor Gym. There are currently grants available for outdoor activities. Would some ‘outdoor gym’ equipment be useful in the area? Currently there are several items at Jubilee, but little in Downs. Let me know what you would like and where on: www.horndeeanmatters.com

“Coming Up” Dates. (Please visit www.horndeeanmatters.com for up to date events and meeting listings)

HIND AGM. Hind (Horden In The Next Decade) is producing The Parish Plan. The AGM is on Wednesday 5th December at 7:00pm in Napier Hall, and HIND are looking for helpers to take some of the projects in the plan forward. Please visit http://hordeneancommunityplan.org.uk/ to find out more about HIND.

EHDC Council Meetings. These are open to the public, and attended by all 44 District Councillors. If you are curious about how District works, why not attend one? These are held at EHDC’s offices in Penins Place, Petersfield. Next meetings are on Thursday 13th December and 28th February, both at 6:30pm

Horndean Carol Service. Traditional annual Carol Service organised by Horndean Parish Council. Attended by up to 1000 depending on the weather. Hope to see you there. Tuesday 18th December Horndean Square 7:00pm.

Community Forum. Community Forum is where the Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle District Councillors meet to discuss local issues. Parish and County Councillors as well as the police also attend. Like the Council meeting, there is a public section where you can raise any issues. Next meeting is Tuesday 15th January at St Johns, Rowlands Castle from 6:30pm.

Police South Of Butser Surgery. Once a month, the Police are available at Morrisons where they hold a Neighbourhood Meeting / Surgery. The next one is Saturday 15th December from 12:00 to 3:00pm.

What I do for us at EHDC.

I have three roles at EHDC. The first is to represent the residents of Downs, and much of this is about very visible local issues which include planning, services and facilities, some of which are covered in the newsletter and online. There are also more specific local and personal issues which are not appropriate to publicise, but I am here to help if I can.

My second role is in Finance. The District Council has had several cuts in funding now, and the ambition is to maintain the same level of service without any significant impact on the Council Tax. I am a part of a cross party group that looks at how the finances of EHDC can be steered to ensure that EHDC remains financially sound and good value for money.

My third role is in Overview and Scrutiny. This panel is a group of 16 cross party Councillors who review the decisions of the Cabinet. It can call in decisions and make recommendations for changes. It is our role challenge what we do.

Do you need this in a larger print or email as a PDF? Please let me know. You can contact me on guy.shepherd@easthants.gov.uk or 07973 739988. Best Wishes, and a Happy Christmas. Guy.

Dear All,

Following quite a bit of positive feedback from the first Newsletter, here is the second edition. Hopefully it will keep you informed as to what some of the current issues are in Horndean.

In this issue you will find:

NEW - Downs Website: Feedback from last newsletter: Crime maps, 41 (now number 8) Bus; Lovedean solar farm; Cones and road works; SID Results; Other Stuff; “Coming Up” Dates; What I do for us at EHDC.

New - Downs Website: www.HorndeeanMatters.com

Feedback from the last newsletter was that a Downs Website would be a useful resource. Ok. www.horndeeanmatters.com

Here I hope you will find plenty of information about any issues which affect us including, Parish, District, County, Planning, Policing and local interest. Inevitably this will also include much of the information you will read here, but you will find it online first, and up to 3 months sooner, and in more detail with website links where possible.

Current Issues include – Bus revised timetables and links; 32 Acre Solar Panel farm at Lovedean; road works everywhere, and what is being done about them; local events like the Carol and Remembrance day services; Forthcoming local meetings; Information on key planning applications; Crime Maps; Police and Crime Commissioner and more.

The website takes quite a bit of time to maintain, and feedback from the 20 or so people who have been asked to give a view is very encouraging, so if you can do one thing to help me do a good job for you, then please visit it, let me know what you think, and what information and links you would like to see added in to make it better.

Visit the website for more details on a competition about this photo of White Dirt Farm taken near White Dirt Lane. Thanks to Cllr Sara Schillemore for the photograph. Do you have a great Downs photo to share? Please get in touch!

“www.HorndeeanMatters.com”

Feedback from the last newsletter:

BT Phone Box, North Road. There is no love for this redundant phone box, and immediate neighbours associate it with vandalism, neglect and dog fouling. I am following this up with BT. If at all possible I am hoping to ask if it can be gifted to us to us sell, with the funds used for something locally. This might be a bench in the park, or some outdoor gym equipment. Any thoughts? Please let me know!

Speeding. There is a significant concern about speeding, especially from households that front Downwood Way, Tarn Rise, White Dirt Lane, South Downs Road, Drift Road and London Road. Understandably there is less concern from people who live inside the ward. Particular concern lies with people driving through the ward, not people who live in it. There was minimal interest in encouraging people to use Drift Road and London Road instead, but there was also a lot of concern about excessive road calming measures or fears that speed humps, islands and a lower speed limit might start to appear. Please turn over for the SID article to read more.

Youth Facilities. There is interest to know more about the Green Lane Community centre and what this might offer to Downs. This is not a short term project, but I will let you know more as the plans develop.

Residents Association. The 1 response that it might be worth considering was swamped with feedback that it was not, so that idea has been placed into long term storage for now!

Other Items. Dog Fouling – EHDC Dog Wardens contacted. Broken Railings to Wasdale Close / Downwood Way repaired, Gales site queries, Green Lane Queries, Damaged play surface to Downs Park reported to HPC.

Promoted and published by N Lander-Britkley on behalf of Guy Shepherd, both of the Conservative offices, Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, SO24 0QT

Guy Shepherd - We Are Downs Ward – Newsletter November 2012

Guy Shepherd, Deerleap Cottage, Lith crescent, Horndean, Waterlooville, PO8 0XR 07973 739988 guy.shepherd@easthants.gov.uk
SID (Speed Indicator Display):

For the last year, a group of volunteers has been maintaining and relocating these two units and have now gathered data from 16 key roads in the Parish. Here are some samples of the information:

- On the 30 MPH roads, 5 of the 16 roads monitored recorded speeds in excess of the Motorway Limit.
- Downwood Way – just 22% of drivers were within the speed limit.
- On Southdown Road – less than 10% of drivers were within the speed limit.
- Drift Road has 67 Vehicles Per Hour compared with Southdown at 36 Vehicles Per Hour.
- The SID unit reduced speed by up to 22% when it was in position.

Here is a table of the results from across the Parish.

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Down Wood Way, Tarn Rise, Southdown Road, White Dirt Lane, Drift Road and London Road are all primary feeder roads and emergency vehicle access routes. We are not going to see these changed to a 20MPH limit, nor speed humps along the route as these slow emergency vehicles down. We will also not see permanent enforcement cameras. It is important, however, that we get the speeds down significantly, whether these are people passing through, or people who live in our community.

The photo left is on Downwood Way where one home has been hit three times by vehicles, all travelling at excessive speed. If you are interested in joining the SID or Speedwatch teams, then please let me know. It involved perhaps 2 hours activity each month. If you have any views then please let me know on the survey on www.horndeanmatters.com where there are two entries on this subject.

Bliming Cones Blimming Everywhere:

For most of September and October we were caught in a pincer movement between the Highways Agency on the A3, developers at Green Lane, and Southern Gas Networks in Horndean. The cones in Horndean probably had the greatest effect with 4 way alternate traffic lights for an estimated 6 weeks of road works that eventually over ran to 9 weeks. Contact has been made with SGN to express frustration that this was not carried out 7 days a week, allowing them to have finished 3 weeks sooner, and with more than just one of the coned off areas being worked in at any time. (SGN advise that this was not possible for safety and logistics reasons).

Similar discussions have been held with Hampshire County Council who discuss these activities with the utility companies. In the next 18 months there will be electricity, gas, water, telephone, TV, drainage and drainage connections for the new Gales site to make, on both sides of the road in Horndean. There will inevitably be disruption, but hopefully significantly less than we have recently experienced. The expectation has been that these are planned in to allow multiple connections at the same time, and that the sequencing and planning is to be more considerate to the residents of the Parish. More on www.horndeanmatters.com where there are two entries on this subject.

Lovedean Solar Panel Farm:

There is currently a planning application under consideration for a 32 acre solar panel farm at Lovedean. This is behind ‘The Bird In Hand’ public house, and the application is for a 25 year installation. If approved, it will generate 5.76MW of electricity, enough to power 1,660 houses, and is due to be decided by the 1st January 2012. My concern about this application is that it is on farmland, and this sets a dangerous principal for the future, possible closer to us. Personally I feel this sort of installation is important, but should be confined to the roof areas of B-Q, ASDA, Cash n’ Carries and other large buildings which do not then compromise farmland. There is more information about this, including pictures of the panels, security fencing and transformers on www.horndeanmatters.com. Image to the left shows the location and scale of the installation.

Crime Maps:

There is a new police website that gives a clear picture of crime in the community, and if you are concerned or have been affected by crime, then this is well worth a look.

SID team are presenting the findings to the Community Forum at the next meeting, and there will be a discussion on how the results and actions forward (15th January 2013 St John’s, Rowlands Castle 6.30pm).

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