

BT Phone Box. BT will not repair the 22 broken panes of glass or 7 wrought iron glazing beads to the kiosk on North Road and will only do the minimum to keep it working. They will not relocate it in Horndean village centre where it might be better appreciated and used, and in the last year it has made just 10 freephone calls. BT have also declined to gift it to the community, so given the vandalism it attracts BT will be asked to remove the kiosk.

A3M Noise. A series of meetings have been underway with the Highways Agency about noise reduction projects on the A3M, and in the last 6 months a lot of resurfacing has been carried out with noise reducing tarmac. These works are due to continue until the carriageway along Downs is fully resurfaced. We are still pushing for **proper Acoustic Fencing** which is the only measure that will make a significant improvement.

Flooding to local roads. HCC have been carrying out improvements to the drainage to White Dirt Lane following lobbying by **Rev Brian Goldsmith and Bob Davis**. This includes jetting out drains and enlarging an outfall. All going well, the White Dirt Lane flooding should NOT reoccur. They are also going to look at the ongoing flooding on London Road where water runs off the fields opposite in heavy rain. I have asked them to see if the landowner can dig a drainage ditch to stop this.

Grit Bins. Just before the snow we got a grit bin installed at Juniper Road, and I have asked for more at Wasdale Close and South Road following requests. Would your road benefit from a grit bin? Please let me know where.

Community Grants Payouts. A special meeting at HTC saw 10 organisations bid for £2,500 of grant funding which was then voted on by members of the public. Awards were made to: **New Blendworth Centre** for a Summer house and patio area, **St Johns Primary School** Rowlands Castle £1,000 for an outdoor learning centre, **Catherington and Clanfield Mothers Union** £250 for a shed and **Castle United FC**, Rowlands Castle £320 for some football kit.

Information From George Hollingbery our local MP:

One of the irritations of the modern world is unsolicited or junk mail constantly being pushed through doors. I know that many people get fed up with it and most is promptly binned. But sometimes some of this stuff can be quite clever and everyone needs to be on the look out that they might be giving away information that they don't have to. Take, for example, a very official looking letter someone showed me the other day asking a resident to complete a survey about her home and future housing needs. Although this looked like an official letter, it actually came from a private planning company - its apparent objective to determine which kind of new-build housing would be least controversial to local residents. Pretty interesting stuff for certain parties I'm sure you'd agree.



Now this kind of correspondence is totally legal and that these companies are perfectly entitled to promote and carry out their business in this way. But the inconvenience and confusion this kind of letter can cause, particularly to the elderly, is a problem. **The good news is that there is a great deal which people can do to combat these unwanted intrusions.** If the problems are with direct mail, the **Mail Preference Service** is the place to start. This register allows consumers to remove their names and addresses from mailing lists used by advertising companies or pressure groups. The service is actively supported by Royal Mail. You can sign up to the register at the following website: <http://www.junkbuster.org.uk> or by phoning 01603 618185.

You may have received advertising phone calls at some point as well. In fact, my Parliamentary office was plagued for months by automated 'PPI' recovery calls which was very annoying indeed. In this situation, the **Telephone Preference Service 'TPS'** should be your first port of call. This is an official national opt-out register where you can record your wish not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. The TPS can also be used for mobile telephone numbers. Its website is: <http://bit.ly/SVwGrV>. Alternatively, you can call 0845 070 0707 to register.

Hampshire County Council runs a number of schemes which will deter potential sellers from physically knocking on your door. This includes **'no cold calling zones'**. Details can be found on the Hampshire County Council website: <http://bit.ly/YJc44i> or by phoning 01962 833620. Other types of unsolicited contacts may take the form of scam mailings, phone calls or emails which may ask for your credit card number or purport to be from your bank. You are best advised not to reply to these messages and should never give out personal details over the phone or email. Hampshire County Council has a webpage which lists the latest scams. This can be found here: <http://bit.ly/YJ9tqW>

My advice on this is simple: exercise caution, don't panic and remember that just because it came through your door, it isn't necessarily legitimate or worth replying to.

George Hollingbery
Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

George Hollingbery holds a **monthly surgery at Waterlooville Precinct**. The next dates are 20 April, 18 May and 15 June. Please be aware that dates are subject to change due to Parliamentary business, and you can call his team on 01962 734 076 to check beforehand, or get in touch through his website: www.georgehollingbery.com



Dear All; Here we have the third Downs Newsletter. Feedback from you is that it is being very well received, so I will keep on getting them out every 3 or 4 months. If you have any content you would like to see in it, please let me know and feedback is welcome.

In this issue you will find:

Housing in Horndean, Bus Stops, Grit Bins, Street Light renewals, Council Tax bills, BT Phone Box, Flooding, Community Grant Awards, A3M Noise, Youth Facilities, County Elections, Gales Roadworks, NEW Column from George Hollingbery MP and more...

Picture right: Fantastic Igloo and Snowman on North Road this winter. Planning department and Council Tax office notified of the new property and Snowman added to Electoral Roll!



Website. In the last issue I told you about the Downs Website www.horndeanmatters.com and the response has been astonishing.

In the last 5 months there have been over **2,300 visitors**, peaking at **675 in March and at 70 a day**.

Most of the issues covered in this newsletter appear first online but in greater detail and articles often have maps, web links or other useful resources to provide more information. At the time of writing there are **63 articles** on the website and you can find links to the **Gales brewery plans**, EHDC including **planning, bus and train time tables** and anything on **local development**.

Please do visit when you get a chance and let me know what you think, and how it can be improved. This newsletter and the website are funded for by me and are about the local issues that are important to us all.

Youth Facilities. I am putting together a register of the Youth clubs and organisations in Horndean, or with Horndean in their catchment area, which will then be posted online. A quick count up of the ones we know of totals over 50 and we know there are more out there. If you are a member of a club that takes members up to 18 then please get in touch by email and I will be pleased to make sure you are on the register. guy.shepherd@easthants.gov.uk

Street Lighting Overhaul. Hampshire County Council are replacing all street lighting across the county in a 'supply and maintain' deal with a contractor which will run for 25 years. In areas where the columns are recent and in good condition, just the heads will be changed. Where new columns are erected these will be repositioned at the back of the footpath. The new lights will be 'white light' instead of the older sodium yellow. They will also be more directional to reduce light pollution and lower energy with dimming features that will cut down on the electricity bill. The replacement programme is already underway, but for us **will start in September this year**. For more information on the changes in your road visit www.horndeanmatters.com where you will find a map of the plans.

County Elections. The Hampshire County Council elections are on the 2nd May 2013, and all 78 seats are up for election. County looks after our **Schools, Libraries and Highways** amongst other major services and takes **72% of our Council Tax**. In the last year our current County Councillor has not been seen at Parish meetings nor Community Forum, and we are currently poorly represented. It is time for a County Councillor who will take a local interest and I hope you will consider supporting **Marge Harvey** in the role. Marge has an extensive track record as a District Councillor working in the community, is a past chairman of EHDC and Chairman of Community Forum. You can contact Marge on margieanddave@aol.com if you would like to ask her any questions. There is a Question and Answer session with **George Hollingbery MP** and Marge Harvey at Horndean Technology College, Barton Cross, PO8 9PQ in SF/2-3 on **Friday 12th April 7:00pm to 8:30pm. All members of the public are welcome.**

"Coming Up" Dates. (Please visit www.horndeanmatters.com for up to date events and meetings)

- ❖ **Police South Of Butser Surgery.** Beat Surgeries Morrisons 10:30 to 12:00 Sat 5 May, 2 June
- ❖ **EHDC Council Meeting** 9 May Penns Place 18:30
- ❖ **Horndean Parish Council Annual Meeting** Jubilee Hall Monday 29 April 20:00
- ❖ **Discover Horndean in the 21st Century** Public Meeting 17th April 7:30 Merchistoun Hall See Website for details

Advance Warning: London road in the centre of Horndean will be closed for Night Works on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th May for the carriageway to be finally resurfaced.





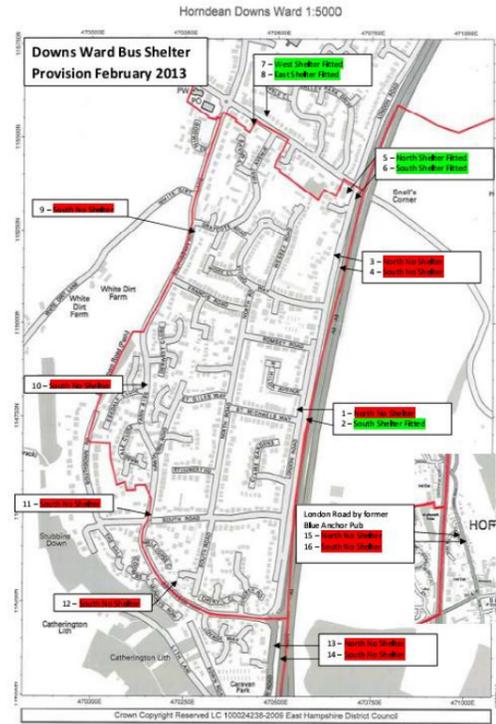
Bus Shelters:

A number of residents have asked if we can get more bus shelters in Downs, and in the last months I have been looking into the supply and ownership of these. To cut a long story short, this has been challenging, and no one has the funds in place or budget to buy any. Permissions are complicated and the responsibility for ongoing maintenance is a contentious subject with no-one willing to take them on. Of particular worry is the bus companies who profit from the service will not contribute to or maintain them which is wrong.

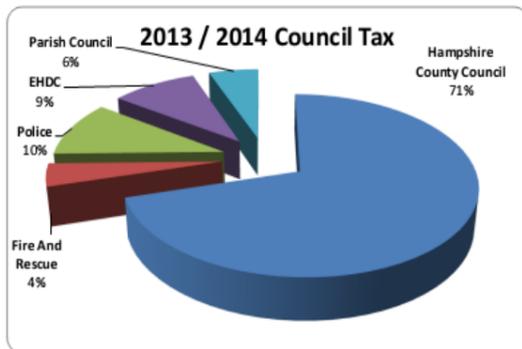
Regardless of this, parts of Horndean are well provided for, and we are not, especially along Downwood Way, Tarn Rise and Southdown Road where there are none. The map to the right shows where bus shelters are located. See website for a larger version.

We CAN apply for funds through 'Transport Developers Contributions' (money developers have to hand over in return for planning permission). Each shelter will cost £2,500 to £4,000 depending on the style, so we cannot justify placing these at all 11 points. We also need to find an organisation who will own them.

I would however be very grateful to hear which ones you think would benefit most, and hopefully we might get 3 or 4 installed and evenly spaced out. Please let me know by emailing where you think the greatest demand is. Visit www.horndeanmatters.com and search for 'bus shelters' in 'recent posts' for a colour map and more info.



Council Tax:



The 2013 / 2014 Council Tax budgets have been set and work out at a 1% increase. Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Fire and Rescue managed to keep their budgets the same as last year. E HDC increased theirs by 2% (5p per week for a Band D home). Hampshire Constabulary increased theirs by 3.4% (10p per week for a band D property). Horndean Parish Council increased theirs by 9% (14p per week for a band D property).

A band D property contributes £137.30 per house to E HDC in the council tax. For just over £2.60 per week, the bins are emptied weekly, we operate Planning, Building Control and Enforcement, Housing needs and benefits, Sports and Leisure and lots more.

The overall increase for a Band D property is £14.30 per year and £17.48 for a band E property.

Gales Site Roadworks:

The roadworks in Horndean have been a major issue for all residents since September last year when the gas pipes under the roundabout had to be replaced in a 10 week activity. Unfortunately, these works were carried out very slowly with only one area worked on at a time despite large areas being coned off, and an overtime ban from SGN prevented weekend work which slowed the works down further. Electricity cable repairs in January resulted in a second series of 4 way lights for 2 weeks, and the current road works for Gales have resulted in more 4 way lights which are due to be in place until the end of April (8 weeks in all).

We all accept that roadworks need to be carried out and are generally understanding to this provided they are carried out efficiently and quickly, When 4 way lights are necessary which are highly disruptive to the community it is particularly important they are worked efficiently.

After pressure the roadworks were taken down for Easter, the use of 4 way lights will be minimised with manual operation in the day and all of the roadworks to the Gales Site will be completed by Mid May. The website has more information and updates will be posted.



Housing in the next 15 years:

The Local Plan: At the moment planning decisions are made using the Local Plan. This was first prepared in 1993, and then reviewed in 1998 and the current working document (the second review) was published in 2006. With the formation of the South Downs National Park we are working on a joint plan for E HDC with the National Park which will cover all of E HDC and take into consideration the different planning policies that the park will have protection under, and is called '**The Joint Core Strategy**'.

This Local Plan or Joint Core Strategy needs to be reviewed and updated every 5 to 8 years to accommodate changes which are largely population driven, but are also based on the economy, employment and work in the district and social needs. None of us want our rural environment to change, it is why many of us chose to live here, but the reality is that while families have 2.4 children, while we live longer, and while more homes have single occupants than ever before, our own housing need grows. Everyone knows a family who would like their own children to live nearby in housing they can afford which is why we put a requirement in the plan for medium and large developments to have 40% affordable housing.

The Joint Core Strategy was prepared and issued to the planning inspector last year, and allowed for a total of 8,750 homes to be built across all of E HDC to cater for our own housing needs in the 15 years between 2013 and 2028, or 585 a year across all of E HDC. Two things have since happened. The first is that the planning inspectors have been rejecting the planning authorities local plans across the country and insisting on more housing being added in. E HDC are one of these, and the number put to us was 2,850 more homes across E HDC. The second is the poor economy has meant that house building slowed significantly and the government decided to suspend the rigid requirement for 'affordable housing' and stated that developers should only build what they could afford. Suddenly, every developer is looking to maximise on the large expensive properties which generate maximum profit, and the work we put in to arguing these is now considerable. **Fact - in the last 10 years just 252 homes have been built in Horndean averaging 25 a year.** I thought that would have been much higher. (Figures based on 2001, 2011 census and new house completions).

SHMA: At the moment E HDC is carrying out a SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) which will understand what housing needs we do have and put evidence back to the planning inspector on what our needs really are. Hopefully this will be less than the current suggestion. This will be completed by the end of April and will confirm what our needs are.

SHLAA: Land owners register the land they would be happy to be seen put forward for planning, and these sites are then assessed by the planning authority for their suitability for development, and are known as SHLAA sites or **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment**. The map to the right is the current 2012 version and in recent months sites have been put forward which will be considered soon. The updated map will be posted on www.horndeanmatters.com

Land being put forward as a SHLAA site does not mean it is suitable for planning, but it gives the land owner an early guide as to the key acceptance criteria. Applications for large sites can cost tens of thousands of pounds to prepare documentation for, so this process helps land owners gauge their chances early on. White Dirt Farm (HD018) is our closest site and is in a **settlement gap** which is to prevent Clanfield and Catherington from merging. This is protected in our local plan and also in the joint core strategy.

Housing in the right place: A key part of our role as Councillors moving forwards is to ensure that the housing that is allowed goes in the right places, and one better option is Hazleton Farm (HD020) which does not then add traffic to any one community, has its own good motorway access, and gives the opportunity for leisure and employment facilities to be built hand in hand with the housing due to the size of the site.

For a higher quality copy of the current SHLAA sites visit www.horndeanmatters.com and click on 'Development - SHLAA Sites' in the useful links toolbar. There is also a longer article 'Horndean Housing to 2028' which covers this in more detail. When the SHMA is finalised the website will be updated with more information, and at some point the SHLAA sites will be 'allocated' to identify which we do take forward. this will be a key event for Horndean and expect some public consultation where options are laid out for review.

