



**Horndean Parish Council:** Stolen Benches: In March 3 benches identical to these were stolen from Jubilee Field. They were bought by the Parish Council (our money) and if you see them it would be great to get them back. please visit [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) for more details.



**Rights Of Way Volunteer Group:** Horndean Parish Council have a ROW volunteer group to either help identify areas where there are problems, or help rectify them. If you are interested in helping out for a few hours a month, or have any issues to report then contact the HPC Countryside team on [rowv@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk](mailto:rowv@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk) or on 02392 59776.

**Countryside Team Newsletter:** The Countryside produce a regular newsletter. Visit [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) or the Parish Council website to see the latest news and opportunities for volunteering locally.

### What do I do as a Councillor?

First off, I have a full time career in Construction. this in itself is a busy 50 hour a week job and the District Councillor role is carried out in lunch breaks, evenings and weekends. I spend 30 to 40 hours a week on District Council matters.

**Cabinet.** The Councillors elect a leader who then appoints a cabinet. I am currently one of the 7 Cabinet members and our focus is to look for additional sources of income to offset the reductions in government grants so we do not cut services or increase Council Tax. As well as making sure we achieve the social side of the Council we are transforming it into a business focused organisation.

**Planning.** I have strong skills in Planning from work, and a clear vision that we need to do the best we can to protect our senu rural environment. I do not get involved in Planning Committee meetings so am free to speak very vocally about planning proposals, but do take part in DPP (Development Planing Policy) which steered the Joint Core Strategy and Allocations Plan through the last few years. This can not take away however the immense effort and focus put into these documents by the planning team at EHDC.

**Local Issues.** Dealing with residents concerns like the hoarding that occurred on a property off North Road, building regulations issues, giving advice on planning applications following up items with the County Council or antisocial behaviour are regular activities that occur. I recieve about 30 emails a day on local issues and reply to every one. I also organise other community projects like the Bandstand at Merchistoun Hall which is being built by Highbury College.

**PUSH / Solen LEP.** We have a number of other organisations that we interact with. PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) is focused on housing and infrastructure. Solent LEP is focused on business investment and growing the economy. Currently I represnt EHDC at both organisations and am looking to see if we can apply for funding to for the business side of Land East Of Horndean to improve the local infrastructure and support an enterprise centre or training facility to help our young people improve their skills and get small businesses growing.

**Listen and Inform.** The website [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) takes about 5 to 10 hours a week to maintain with current articles and responding to comments. This was the number one piece of feedback when I was standing for my first election and keeping the community informed is a key part of my role as I see it.

**Challenge and Improve.** If we are going to have development then it is important we stand up for the community to get the best we can. The Land East Of Horndean development, if approved, gives an impressive list of commuity facilities and over the last year local Councillors have put in a tremendous amount of effort pressing the developers for more. our next role will be to ensure it meets all of our expectations.

**Meetings.** Whether it is meetings with Linden Homes and the Surgery to ensure they move successfully into the Gales development, or formal council and Cabinet meetings, I attend about 5 meetings a week on EHDC business.

**Want To Stay Informed?** Horndean Matters has 3 or 4 new items every week and has passed its 100,000 visitor milestone in just 18 months. With over 400 articles on the blog ranging from local history to current EHDC initiatives I hope you find it useful. I am always very keen to receive ideas on what to post next, so please let me know! Thank you for looking! [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com)

**An Election Is Coming...** so it is the time of year when you will get canvassing and the stream of leaflets through the door. Fortunately they are all recyclable... Please though turn out to vote, whoever you support. It is that one chance every 5 years when you can make your view count. This year the polling booth for Downs Ward is in Red Lounge on Drift Road. If you do not wish to be bothered by canvassers, please stick an A4 note in the window saying 'No Canvassers Please' and I will respect that. We are also holding a Street Surgery at the EHDC car park by the Coop on White Dirt Lane on Saturday 2nd May between 10am and 12 noon. I will be there with George Hollingbery who has served as our local MP and other Councillors, Please stop in and say hello or ask any questions.

**New Light Columns:** Works are underway with HCC to get some additinla light columns installed to a footpath between Derwent and Eskdale, and also at the South end of London Road to improve access to the junction and bus stop. this will come with some improved footpath surfacing. HCC have confirmed funding for these projects.

**Dear All;** Here is the 11th edition of the Downs Ward newsletter and the last in my current post as your District Councillor. I hope you will consider re-electing me and if so these will continue with information on [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com). This newsletter covers housing, an epic story that is now drawing to a close with our preferred (or least disliked) site recommended for approval, White Dirt Farm looking like they will not even appeal and other sites like Chalk Hill Road looking like they have been beaten by the Allocations Plan. There are issues outside of housing though. Litter has been a major concern, we are looking at how we can bring in new bus routes, community facilities from Green Lane are about to start being built, the Police are restructuring and in case you had not noticed, there is an election coming...



### Council Tax:

This year there will be minimal change to the Council Tax. Horndean Parish Council put their share of Council Tax DOWN by 10% and the Police raised theirs by 2%. EHDC, HCC and Hampshire Fire and Rescue all made no change.

### Land East Of Horndean:

The Land East Of Horndean planning application has been recommended for approval and by the time this has been printed and delivered will have gone to the Planning Committee meeting and been decided. You will need to visit [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) to see the outcome of the decision. Assuming it is approved this will effectively determine Horndean's housing need until 2028 and limit any further development to the already approved sites and smaller development inside the Settlement Policy Boundary.

After some baiting on Streetlife on what guarantee would I give the community facilities will be delivered, I stated that if they were not, I would not stand again. So there. If re-elected the next 5 years will be about making sure we protect against future development, and get the best facilities we can out of Land East Of Horndean (if it is approved).

The development has immense community support with a poll on [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) recording over 86% in favour with 619 votes for and 89 against.



### Green Lane Community Facilities:

The Barratts / Taylor Wimpey development is nearing completion and the final plans for the community facilities have been brought together. A planning application for the community facilities was approved and the Parish Council will be taking on the new facilities. Some work still needs to be done to determine the location of the sports pitches but the intention is to resolve this within the next few weeks.

As well as a community sports facility, the village will also benefit from two tennis courts, a junior sports pitch, a multi-use games area, a playground and allotments. These community facilities are part of the Section 106 agreement for the development of the site and a legal obligation for the builders to deliver. They will be accessible by all members of the community, not just residents of Clanfield.



### “Coming Up” Dates. (Please visit [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) for up to date events and meetings)

- ❖ **General Election** 7th May
- ❖ **VE Day** 8th May
- ❖ **Horndean Parish Council** Annual Meeting 20th April
- ❖ **Horndean Parish Council** First meeting after the elections 18th May
- ❖ **EHDC Council Meetings.** 21st May, 2nd July, 10 September, 22nd October at Penns Place 18:30
- ❖ **Southern Parishes Community Forum.** 9th June, 13th October location TBC



### White Dirt Farm:

EHDC delivered us a terrific Christmas Gift with White Dirt Farm being refused without even going to a planning committee. For those who said it was a "Done Deal" and made other suggestions of improper behaviour I hope it has fully restored your faith in the planning system that when something is just so wrong the local authority will do what is right. From the date of refusal Taylor Wimpey have a 6 month period in which to appeal, but so far nothing has been submitted.

In the 4 months since the plans were refused the Draft Allocations plan has been through its first public consultation and the EHDC 5 year land supply has been more than met so the grounds for an appeal are very weak. Maybe the sowing of the fields in March is a sign that Taylor Wimpey have quietly conceded defeat and are focusing their efforts elsewhere...



### Chalk Hill Farm:

... Ah, Yes, Taylor Wimpey... Again... So, Chalk Hill Road was another Taylor Wimpey application and again in a strategic gap, with landscape value and down a narrow access which is not suitable for vehicular access. The scheme they submitted was for 67 houses and (getting the feeling there was a lot of resistance to the development) Taylor Wimpey reduced this to 50 homes. At the time of writing the decision has not been made but the feedback on the consultations and the fact that it is not in the allocations plan makes this one seem very unlikely to be considered for approval. Keep watching [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) where the decision will be posted as soon as it is made.



### Allocations Plan:

The EHDC Allocations Plan (the document that shows where the housing will be allowed between now and 2028) has gone through its first round of public consultations with very little adverse feedback, except from the land owners of the excluded sites. This means it now has some greater weight in planning decisions and will be evidence of the community view to support Lane East Of Horndean and to refuse any other applications outside of the settlement policy boundary (WHF, Chalk Hill Road etc). The Allocation Plan is now entering its second round of consultation and the community, developers and land owners have a 6 week period to view and make comments on the plan. Public comments will be accepted from the 10th April until 5pm on the 22nd May. Please visit [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) for more information and how to comment.

While Local Councillors played a key part in pressing for the local "Where to build" consultation which was held at Merchistoun Hall and subsequently used as a template across the district to quickly progress the plan, it is essential to promote the very hard work and focus of the entire EHDC Planning Policy Team in making the plan come together so quickly and ensuring the community view was incorporated so thoroughly. You might like to give them some positive feedback on [planningdev@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:planningdev@easthants.gov.uk)



### White Dirt Lane Closure:

Last year Hampshire County Council held a series of consultations into how to make White Dirt Lane safer. Options included closing it, road safety improvements and to do nothing. The most popular outcome was to close it, so HCC held consultations with the emergency services to get their view. They objected to this citing emergency response times, so HCC have now opted to go with the second most popular choice which was to do nothing. Personally I feel this is a shame and that some safety improvements would be of benefit and Cllr Marge Harvey (our County Councillor) is trying to organise this with HCC now.



### Other Planning:

The developers who saw their applications at Lovedean and Blendworth Lane refused shortly before Christmas have both appealed. Keep watching [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) to find out how this goes.

### Grant Funding:

Each year we have a fund of £3,000 to use on local community projects and organisations. This year I have been very pleased to support 6 great causes:

- The newly formed Ladies Shed which runs out of Merchistoun Hall received £500 to fund their activities. £500
- HOPE (Horndean Older Persons Enabling) £300
- Horndean Football Club for grounds improvements £473
- Butser Home Start who support families with young children who are struggling to cope £250
- Horndean Biodiversity Action Group with a wildlife camera, field microscope and young aspen trees £499
- Horndean Parish Council improvements to the Downs Park play area, new planters and picnic bench £978

This financial year the Community Forum grants are being diverted to the Councillor grants, so (if re-elected) I will have a fund of £4,500 to spend. I am always very keen to hear ideas from the community. How about a VE day 70th Anniversary celebration on Downs Park? If some local people come forward to help organise this then I am game. What local charities and clubs need support? Good causes that help a large number of people are of the greatest interest.



### Litter:

Litter has been a problem this spring. EHDC and other Councils carry out an undergrowth cutback early in the year which is quickly followed by a litter pick. This takes place twice a year but following a series of fatalities amongst litter picking crews nationwide the work had to stop while new working practices were agreed with the local authorities concerned, the HSE and unions. As a result the A3m, and our local roads have been a mess for a number of weeks. Early in March these new working practices were agreed and EHDC has been focusing on the A3 and major trunk roads, progressing through the more minor roads. While we are very sorry this has taken time to resolve we hope the community will understand the safety of the people who work for us has to come first.

EHDC are also putting effort into tackling this head on. We are appointing a number of patrols to tackle dog fouling and littering with offenders receiving £75 on the spot fines. It's simple, pick it up and don't drop it. EHDC have also appointed a full time road side cleaning operative to work in the South of Butser parishes and if you have any litter hotspots to report then please call EHDC Customer Services Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on 01730 266551 and they will follow it up.

### Bus Service Review:

Hampshire County Council manage the bus network and we feel we can do better so are investing in a study to look at how smaller operators with smaller minibus size vehicles could offer a competitive service locally. This could include looking at routes that were stopped by First, eg through Catherinton, or provision of services to Morrisons, local leisure centres and take in the new development at Lane East Of Horndean if it is approved. This will be the subject of a local community forum and we will need your views on the services we need to see if we can lay on an effective service. Keep watching [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) for more information.

### Police Structure and Survey:

Hampshire Constabulary have restructured and each policing area has the same boundaries as the local Councils. Instead of our resources being run out of Waterlooville our local neighbourhood and prevention team is policed out of Petersfield where Chief Inspector Beth Pirie now runs the region. The response team, roads policing unit, dog unit etc will still respond from the nearest car whether this is from Waterlooville or Petersfield.

The police in the last months have also caught and charged two prolific burglars. 56-year-old Albert Ian James from Chichester with 51 counts of burglary and 46-year-old Andrew Gareth Woods of Portsmouth with two counts of burglary. Woods has asked for a further 10 burglaries to be taken into consideration by the court.

The police are also keen to get your views on what the current policing issues are and there is an online survey you can give your views on. Visit [www.horndeanmatters.com](http://www.horndeanmatters.com) and click on the article 'Police Priorities Survey'.

