Police Surgeries Next Meeting: The Neighbourhood Policing Team have a new location for their surgeries – Horndean Library and the next one is on the 15th April between 4pm and 6pm

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 row@horndeane-hants.gov.uk or on 02392 59776.

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

Want To Stay Informed? Horndean Matters has 3 or 4 new items every week and has passed its 140,000 visitor milestone. With over 500 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!

County Issues: For County Issues contact Cllr Marge Harvey on marge.harvey@hants.gov.uk

To report fly tipping, litter, hedges overgrowing paths, missed bin collection or anything else please call EHDC Customer Services on 01730 266551 or email info@easthants.gov.uk

More on The Blog: Police Surgeries and call for volunteers to sit on their panel as well as future beat surveys. Land East Of Horndean Section 106 and listing of community facilities and consultation, Countryside issues led by Horndean Parish Council and the Horndean Biodiversity Group

George on the Fire Service: George met with Dave Curry, Chief Officer of Hampshire Fire & Rescue, to hear about the service’s plans to cope with the reduced funding available to all public services over the next few years. “I was hugely impressed. Under Dave’s leadership, Hampshire Fire & Rescue continue to be innovative and forward-thinking. Faced with a need to save some £12m, Dave and his team have come up with a plan that not only saves money, but actually improves the service offered.”

“This plan is a leaner, more efficient and, crucially, a more effective Fire Service. He and his team deserve huge congratulations and have demonstrated that, when run by the right people with the right attitudes, the public services can equal and in fact better the private sector in the way they do business.”

George is always happy to hear from constituents and has a dedicated team who will process your correspondence as quickly as possible. You can contact George By Email: george.hollingbery.mp@parliament.uk By Telephone: 0207 219 7109 or 01962 734 076 By Letter: George Hollingbery MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A OAA

Who Do We Think We Are? Over the last 8 months evidence of people living in the local landscape has come to light – it seems that Horndean has been found to be home to small groups of people living in makeshift shelters and survival off the land for millennia. This, unsurprisingly, is in areas very much outside of the Settlement Policy Boundary! The clues that have been found dating back to Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and up to modern times and show a fascinating insight into how Horndean and the surrounding area was lived in a long long time before we came along!

In July 2015 Chris Healey, an archaeologist, and his (long suffering and budding archaeologist) wife Pauline, found some bits of pottery in a field after some agricultural works took place. At this time we are keeping the location confidential as ‘Night Hawking’ is a serious problem, where treasure hunters raid and steal from interesting sites at night and sell them if you do know where the field is please do not make this common knowledge. All finds belong to the landowner and he is the only person who can give permission to explore the field.

The initial finds have led to some organised field walking, a drone survey and support from Hampshire based organisations and to date well over 200 items have been found. Between them they give some clues as to how our early ancestors, perhaps 400 generations ago, lived in Horndean.

To see the full article and images please visit www.horndeanmatters.com and search for ‘Who do we think we are?’

Dear All! Here is the 13th Newsletter for Downs Ward! In this issue Devolution (Yes, No, Yes, No) Local Surgeries, Grant Funding, the Horndean EU Conference, Lindern Car Park, Litter picking and the Bandstand Fire Service Restorations. Council Tax, CUT! all get a mention – and more! But first...

Planning Generally: Our local plan – part one (how many homes we needed) was approved about 18 months ago now. The second part – the Allocations Plan (where the housing goes) has recently been approved by the planning inspector which is excellent news.

Thank you to the officers at EHDC who have worked incredibly hard to turn this around so effectively and with excellent public consultation especially Julia Potter and Simon Jenkins who have led this process with their teams.

Locally we have beaten off White Dirt Farm, Chalk Hill Road, Blendworth lane, Crookley Park, Downhouse, Lovedean Road and many more. I can now say there were a further 4 or 5 large development sites that were not even in the public domain (they were at Pre-Application Stage) and the land owners have now quietly dropped as a waste of time and money. In the last week we also heard that the Crookley Park appeal (Blendworth fabrics) has been dismissed. This takes our success rate in defending appeals to 85% - 90%.

If anyone felt minded to thank the team for their hard work (including supporting us defend against White Dirt Farm) then here is the email address and I would be grateful to anyone who takes a few minutes to acknowledge the work of the team in protecting our environment: planningdey@easthants.gov.uk

Land East Of Horndean: A key part of my vision for our local housing was that if we went for one large development we could use it to secure the sort of facilities we just do not have and the final list of S106 items for LECH is truly impressive and I am especially proud as I have personally led these negotiations with the developer.

The plans for the care home side of the site are being worked on now and we expect the developer to come forward with proposals towards the end of this year. The development will take about 7 or 8 years to build out and the community facilities are to the right will be delivered Fire Services first.

Importantly the land for the school is handed over up front so that the school can be built very early on in the development relieving local pressure.

There will be a number of consultations coming up to get more ideas about how we use the land and ensure that it is fully integrated for us all to use.

Total community benefit in excess of £17,750,000

Council Tax – CUT AT EHDC: East Hants for some years has been building up a business portfolio to offset the reduction in government grants and with cost saving measures we have been able to save several million each year and weather the reducing grant funding without cutting any services (very few councils have been able to achieve this). We have been looking further ahead and between 2019 and 2024 plan to progressively reduce our share of the council tax to ZERO which means planning enforcement, street lighting, verge maintenance, bin collection and all of the other services we perform will be FREE. This is being funded through property investment, new business ventures and selling services to other Councils.

This year we have been able to start this earlier than planned with a 2% cut in council tax and this will be the first of many. We understand that we are the ONLY Council to have cut council tax this year.

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

- Horndean Parish Council Meetings 18th April (Normal), 25th April (AGM), 3rd Council Meetings, 3rd April, 12th May, 9th June, Penny Pavilion, Petersfield 18:30
- Southern Parishes Community Forum, 14th June location TBC
- Neighbourhood Policing Team Surgery at Horndean Library 15th April 2016 4pm to 6pm
- Police and Crime Commissioner Election 5th May 2016 and EU referendum 23rd June 2016
Bandstand Progresses: I am a keen supporter of Merchiston Hall and also support Highbury College in promoting their skills and training for their construction department. About a year ago we embarked on an exciting project to build a large bandstand that Merchiston could use for events, clubs, Amateur Dramatics and as an added tool to support income from weddings. The key angle here though would be that the structure would be built by students at Highbury College as a part of their training and skills development and result in a permanent structure in the grounds of the building.

So far I have managed to secure nearly 30 sponsors for the project who have donated their time and materials for free. This includes HGP who have designed the structure, Reuby and Slagg who have carried out the engineering role, Bourne Steel who made and gifted the steel frame, Bouygues who donated the bricks and blocks, Brymoor and Covers who have gifted the roofing timbers, Linden Homes who have donated the roof tiles, cement and sands, NACW who are providing the window glazing and installing the roof, Ainscough Crane Hire who lifted the steel frame into place, RBS Scaffolding who are providing the scaffolding to work from, Wellian and Grant for donating the steel reinforcement, Midwest for the concrete for the foundations and slab with more from Elliot's, Poly-pipe, Benlee, Cowplain Turf, Deborah Services, Structural Steelcraft and EHDC.

Thank you to the sponsors who have gifted about £75,000 worth of materials in total to this local project! And particular thanks to the staff and students at Highbury College for building this fantastic structure!

Gales Car Park: The Gales Car Park was not built to a good enough standard or in line with the approved plans so for the last 2 years we have been pursuing Linden Homes to get this put right. To their credit they put their hands up and acknowledged the faults but it has taken them too long to progress the remedial works. In the last few months the revised plans were agreed and approved by EHDC and Linden Homes now have 4 months to implement them.

The steps by the SPAR will go. The 4 trees that resulted in narrow spaces were removed last year. Two new small islands giving access to the surgery building back in the original garden access. Cylindrical planters, waste bins, tree planters and more cobble strips will be fitted. The large bland wall with the cheap railings get removed and a smaller brick and flint wall with wrought iron railings installed instead. To see the plans in full visit www.horndeanmatters.com

Local Surgeries: We have two local surgeries in our area and at the moment there is national pressure on surgeries from an ageing population and this is a different lowly where resources are stretched. The Green Lane development brought in £87,000 worth of funds for local improvements to NHS infrastructure to make sure patient capacity in Clanfield could increase to match the demand. The change in NHS structure from PCTs to CCGs has meant that dealing with NHS England has been very challenging - and for a while they would not even take the developers contributions we had secured from the developer as NHS England did not know what to do with them!

I will not say that was the funds would be used by the Clanfield surgery who would install an additional consulting room to cope with demand. This was in fact created in 2012 at very low cost by reusing the building layout. NHS England are making a retrospective contribution. The practice also increased the number of GPs in October 2013 to cope with 600 to 700 additional patients. So far the patients’ list has grown by approximately 200 so they have capacity to take on more.

One important issue is making sure the S106 funds are spent soon otherwise the developer can ask for them back and that is something we do not want to happen. I am working at EHDC to ensure this money is spent locally and does not get lost or just put into the general pot of NHS England funds.

In the meantime I am also working with the surgery in Horndean to help Dr Coombe with the move from their current premises on Blendworth lane to new ones in the Gales development. This would increase their capacity from 5,000 patients to 10,000 patients and alleviate local pressure while also catering for all new future development in the area. This has been fraught with difficulties dealing with the Gales developer, and also NHS England.

I am confident that we will get a new surgery in Horndean and with Julia Potter, one of our executive Directors at EHDC, we are in the final stages of what might be a workable plan to achieve this. Hopefully the Practice will be able to announce something soon. (Current Horndean Surgery Left).

I have also invited NHS England to attend a Community Forum locally to present to us all their plans for coping with future demands on healthcare locally as this is a topic I am frequently asked about and would also like to know too!

Litter Picking: Horndean and Clanfield have a newly formed litter pick group! This is being led by Sally Thomas and volunteers are welcome. We meet at Morrison's about one Sunday every month at 9:30am where all equipment is provided and the bags are taken away afterwards. If you would like to join the group and help make a difference locally then please email me and I will put you in touch with Sally. Litter picks are announced on www.horndeanmatters.com and also the local paper.

A few weeks ago a group of 14 of us ‘Cleaned for the Queen’ and collected 30 bags of rubbish, 2 large gas cylinders, 2 tyres 40 used nappies and a large pile of rubble. One of the agenda items at EHDC is how we use modern cameras and other technology to catch and then prosecute fly tippers. The EHDC fines for littering are also about to go up so hopefully people will get the message!

Combined Authorities: The last 6 months have been interesting at EHDC. We were given a promise of new devolved powers and set about with other local authorities through Hampshire with a blank piece of paper. The intent was to structure a new arrangement of local government that devolved powers from central government. The key principal were that there would be 1) no additional housing in EHDC beyond our local plan, 2) no new tier of government locally and 3) none of us liked the idea of a directly elected Mayor with executive power across all of Hampshire. We were going to design a lightweight simple organisation.

The reality is that with Portsmouth and Southampton (Unitary cities) Isle of Wight (Unitary) 11 boroughs / districts, 2 Local Enterprise Partnerships, Two national parks and a County Council the simple principles were not the same everywhere, and the County who were leading the bid were very much putting their mark on it. The resultant proposals would have resulted in a new layer of local government (very much against our principal of simplifying and cutting costs) and an increase in housing so in March EHDC was one of the first of about 7 Councils to step away from the County bid.

You may have seen in the press and on TV statements from various local authorities on a Solent led bid with housing numbers that are the same as our local plan and direct control over investment, business rates, infrastructure, roads and planning. If this bid is successful (and talks are underway with DCLG and The Treasury) then it could be in place as early as May 2017. I believe this is the basis of a good bid for us and we will look at this closely.

One thing is clear. The government is going to impose a change on local government structures by the end of this parliament and the intention is to be leading the change and new structure rather than have it dictated to us. With the EU referendum, the parliamentary boundary review, Devolution and restructuring of local authorities the political shape of the UK is changing over the next 4 years. Just what it will look like remains to be seen.

Councillor Grant Funding: Great local causes I have been very pleased to support include: Horndean Parish Council £1,000 to fund a network of Defibrillators across Horndean at Napier Hall, Jubilee and Nicos. Merchiston Hall £400 towards new furniture and £500 for displaying “Horndean at War” - currently at Oh So’s. Butser Home Start £500 to support struggling young families in the Horndean area (supported by colleagues too). Horndean Befriending Service – HOPE – which is run from Merchiston and helps elderly people £1,000. Horndean Troop Army Cadet Force £1,000 for new equipment to support their expanding unit with First Aid equipment (Anatomical Anne), personal equipment, training tools and more. Colleagues also supported this great organisation.

The Horndean EU Debate: George organised a debate on the EU which was held at HTC and attended by 450 people. Visit www.horndeanmatters.com to read the views for and against staying in the EU.