

BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

During the year 2011/12 Members of the Parish Council have:

- Stood for election in May 2011 – with a new Parish Council taking office from that time
- Commissioned a special study to explore ways of introducing high speed broadband into the village – with continuing liaison with the County Council on this matter
- Commenced a major piece of work to try to improve access to affordable housing for people with a close connection to the parish. Although there is a relatively large supply of affordable homes in the village (about 25% of dwellings) the Parish Council is trying to improve access arrangements
- Worked with Hidden Britain and local businesses to try to help the community take advantage of opportunities from the new National Park whilst minimising threats
- Worked with East Hampshire District Council to find the cause of the leak in the village pond and to explore ways of funding necessary repairs
- Sought expertise to address a problem of rats near to the village pond
- Installed new seats by the village pond, on pond green and along The Links
- Installed a series of steps down the public footpath into The Links on the Right of Way from North Lane – much appreciated by local residents and walkers
- Continued to replace stiles with kissing gates: on the footpath between Petersfield Road and Greenway Lane; from the Chalk Pits Nature Reserve onto Dean Barn Lane; at Weston; at Halls Hill; on Seddens Lane and along The Links into the bluebell woods
- Made arrangements with the landowner of The Clays to replace a series of stiles later in 2012
- Received sincere thanks from the Buriton 'Walking to Health' Group for improvements made to local Rights of Way following the removal of stiles and other enhancements
- Received a number of Awards for enhancements to local Rights of Way and for environmental improvements to the village High Street
- Organised a consultation exercise to develop proposals for the section of the High Street near to Buriton School
- Arranged for an extra street light to be installed at the corner of Glebe Road and Petersfield Road
- Removed overgrown vegetation from around street lights in the High Street
- Learnt that footway and highway re-surfacing in the High Street is due to take place in 2012/13 – something which the Parish Council has been pressing for over the last two-three years

- Studied all the planning applications made in the parish and submitted comments to the District Council, drawing upon the Buriton Village Design Statement which continues to help deter out-of-character development proposals
- Liaised with the local bus company about a number of service quality issues, obtaining improvements for bus users
- Lobbied strongly against cuts in our local bus service, being successful in getting the late afternoon journey (which leaves Petersfield at 5.42 pm) re-instated
- Improved the surfacing of the Village Hall car park
- Undertaken repairs and maintenance in the children's play area on the Recreation Ground
- Initiated regular meetings with staff and governors of Buriton School
- Worked with Buriton Nursery School to plant new hedgerow trees
- Worked closely with the Weston Residents Association – particularly on a number of Highways and Rights of Way matters
- Arranged a meeting with Damian Hinds MP and representatives of SouthWest Trains to explore ways of reducing the volume of train horns; and continued to make representations on this matter
- Continued to manage the major Lottery Funded 'Chalk Pits' project with developments during 2011/12 including:
 - holding a successful 'Open Day' with a wide range of activities in May
 - other events during the course of the year: birdsong walk; flora & fauna; fungi foray
 - installation of small steps on the woodland path
 - installation of way-mark posts on both the new footpath walks
 - publication of two new leaflet guides to the site: highlighting the natural and industrial heritage
 - installation of the first of the interpretation boards (at the village pond)
 - provision of a set of waterproof outfits for children at Buriton Nursery School so that they can continue to enjoy access to the site in all weathers
 - reductions in levels of unauthorised uses and littering
 - liaison between QECP Education Officers and local schools, helping to devise lesson plans with teachers, linked to curriculum requirements
 - formation of a new partnership with the Petersfield Museum to help deliver educational benefits more widely
 - formation of a group of local volunteers to help manage and maintain the site
 - installation of wooden animal sculptures (and a seat) on the woodland trail – to the delight of young children
 - and, most recently, the installation of the heritage 'truck' feature – recalling the history of the site as a working environment
- Organised popular and successful community litter-picking events in October and March, with particular thanks due to the Parish Clerk for making all the arrangements and coordinating all the volunteers
- Encouraged the continuing development and use of the Community Website – with kind assistance from Ali Martin

- Continued to provide small grants towards the costs of the Parish Magazine and St Mary's Church
- Offered support to Butser Ancient Farm to help the charity develop its facilities and to enable all parishioners to have a free visit to the site during 2012
- Supported the Parish Plan team in its innovative project to produce a special book about activities in the parish during 2012 – with a copy to be made available free of charge to all households
- Coordinated planning and preparations for a day of activities and celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012 – working with representatives of St Mary's Church, Buriton School, Buriton Events and other local groups
- Lobbied the authorities and organisers to try to get the route of the Olympic Torch to pass through the village
- Welcomed the appointment of one of our Parish Councillors as a Member of the South Downs National Park Authority
- Agreed an unchanged precept for the fourth consecutive year.