

BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

During the year 2014/15 the Parish Council has:

- Worked throughout the year with the Village Hall Management Committee to undertake all the necessary repairs to the hall resulting from flood damage and enhancing the interior with extra refurbishments
- Discovered significant flaws in the original French drain outside the village hall and arranged for it to be completely renewed
- Introduced amendments to the license with the Village Hall Management Committee so that profits from village hall bookings can be used for external as well as internal maintenance priorities rather than the costs of all external works falling only on parish precept payers
- Minimised the disruption caused by the installation of a new water main in Greenway Lane by working with the water company and local landowners and by securing a free shuttle-bus service to take parishioners to and from Petersfield
- Worked hard to successfully retain the bus service despite a programme of cut-backs as the County Council reduced its subsidy levels
- Assembled evidence to ensure that Parish Council applications to include both the Five Bells and Maple Inn on the District Council's list of Assets of Community Value were successful
- Arranged a special public meeting to discuss a range of significant planning applications at Buriton Manor to help inform parishioners and to help identify issues to be included in the Parish Council's response
- Presented evidence to meetings of the National Park Authority's Planning Committee in July 2014 and January 2015 to object to development proposals at Buriton Manor which were duly rejected
- Organised a public meeting to discuss proposals to change the use of the Maple Inn (and to build two new houses in the car park) and then objected to the proposal which was subsequently withdrawn. The Parish Council also reported potential breaches of planning regulations at these premises
- Studied all other planning applications in the parish and submitted comments to the District Council, drawing upon the Buriton Village Design Statement and Local Landscape Character Assessment which continue to help to deter out-of-character development proposals
- Objected to proposals in the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan to allocate land for development in surrounding parishes – resulting in the subsequent withdrawal of this proposal in the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Considered a request for a 'call for sites' for Gypsy & Traveller sites but could not identify anywhere suitable

- Responded to consultations about the content of the first ever Local Plan for the South Downs National Park (including comments on potential SHLAA sites) and arranged a special briefing meeting for nearby residents
- Approved the idea of up-dating the community's Village Design Statement and other related initiatives during the forthcoming year 2015/16
- Submitted objections to Government proposals to quash local authorities' abilities to collect contributions from small scale residential developments to help provide new affordable homes in the district
- Organised a number of community litter-picking events during the year – with particular thanks due to the Parish Clerk for making all the arrangements
- Arranged for McDonalds to commence free monthly litter-picks along Greenway Lane and Bolinge Hiill Lane thanks to liaison with the National Park Authority
- Arranged for ground level scrub and over-hanging branches to be cleared from alongside the pavement in the High Street
- Oversaw the successful transfer of the Chalk Pits Local Nature Reserve from EHDC to HCC so that it should now have a safe future for many years to come under the management of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park
- Satisfied all the terms and conditions of the Heritage Lottery Award for the Buriton Chalk Pits project: producing more benefits and outcomes than initially proposed in a particularly cost-effective manner
- Completed the restoration of the old pond at the top of the Chalk Pits site (with the provision of seating and disabled access arrangements) thanks to an award of a small grant from the South Downs National Park Authority
- Supported events in the Chalk Pits Nature Reserve during 2014/15 including:
 - dawn chorus walks
 - evening birdsong walks
 - a major BIOBLITZ Open Day
 - regular working parties of local volunteers to help manage and maintain the site
 - regular monthly monitoring walks
- Published a new book about the history and heritage of the Chalk Pits with a free copy distributed to every household in the parish in April 2015
- Conducted a consultation exercise about improvements to play facilities in the parish and obtained ideas from contractors for a range of options
- Introduced new clauses into the contracts with football teams using the Recreation Ground to address bad language and litter
- Continued to request the County Council to address problems of motorised vehicles using BOATs in the parish and identified a new approach to this problem to be taken up with the County Council during 2015/16
- Responded to County Council consultations about proposals by Network Rail to extinguish part of Footpath 3

- Continued to press for the early provision of superfast broadband and welcomed the new service at the beginning of 2015
- Facilitated dialogue between local residents and staff at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park about potential adverse effects of events held on Head Down and agreed a series of new arrangements for 2015
- Took part in the County Council's consultation process to replace all street lights in the village and monitored the implementation closely
- Successfully pressed for the provision of 'quiet tarmac' on the A3 through the parish (identified as a priority in the Parish Plan) when re-surfacing took place early in 2015
- Reached agreement with QECP about repairs to the grass triangle at Halls Hill
- Pursued the provision of double yellow lines in the High Street to replace the white T bar near to the entrance to the village hall
- Obtained improvements to the surface of the traffic-free route along Bolinge Hill Lane to / from Petersfield
- Agreed a natural planting scheme for the roundabout at Greenway Lane subject to the success of the first tree planted
- Worked closely with the Weston Residents Association – particularly on a number of Highways and Rights of Way matters
- Wrote to express support for the National Park's application for International Dark Skies Reserve status, recognising that the beauty and tranquillity of our dark skies (with the lowest light pollution in the South East of England) are a particularly special quality worth protecting
- Provided a number of talks to other communities in Hampshire and Sussex about Buriton's Parish Plan as it continues to be seen as an exemplar
- Continued to enhance the community website with the addition of details about the Neighbourcare service
- Continued to provide small grants towards the costs of the Parish Magazine and St Mary's Church
- Supported the community's evening of poems and prose to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.