

Annual Review, April 2019

Cllr Claire Welland, Chair.

Introductions

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council is made up of seven councillors and a Clerk. Our councillors are currently:

Cllr David Barrow: David works full time, and contributes to discussions on traffic, flooding and emergency planning in particular.

Cllr Christine Clarke-Smith: Christine is the Parish Council's Vice Chair, and also hosts the village's annual Litter Pick.

Cllr Claire Duncan: Claire represents the Parish Council on the Kings Barton Forum.

Cllr Gimma Macpherson: Gimma is responsible for footpaths within Headbourne Worthy, and manages the Lengthsman who visits every 10 weeks. Gimma also attends the Affordable Housing working party.

Cllr Jane Rutter: Jane also serves as a City Councillor. Jane attends the Affordable Housing working party, and edits the Parish Council's newsletter, Village News three times per year. We are very grateful to 3rd Winchester (The Worthies) Scouts for delivering the newsletters to every home in Headbourne Worthy.

Cllr Giles Vigor-Robertson: Giles works full time, and contributes to discussions on traffic, planning, flooding and emergency planning.

Cllr Claire Welland: I have been the Chair of the Parish Council since July 2017. I am responsible, along with the Clerk, for ensuring that the website is up to date.

Clerk & RFO: Our clerk, Jill Judge resigned and our new clerk, Belinda Baker started working with us in January after a handover. The Parish Council is very grateful to Jill for all her efforts on our behalf, and we welcome Belinda to the role.

Finances

Precept

This financial year, the Parish Council's precept (the money requested from residents via the Council Tax) was £8,765. For the following financial year, the Parish Council has requested a precept of £8,805.

Grants Given

This financial year, a total of £600 in grant funding was awarded as follows:

- £400 was awarded to the 3rd Winchester (The Worthies) Scout group towards new heating at Pax Hall.
- £200 was awarded to Citizens' Advice.

Reserves

The following reserves are held:

- Election Reserve: £1,000.
- Flood Mitigation Reserve: £1,500
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): £41,420.04
- The Dell Play Area Reserve (Paid by the Developer): £15,871.34

The Parish Council also has an assigned fund from S106 developer contributions to spend towards play equipment of £3,727.83. This is held by Winchester City Council.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Although the building of additional residences on existing residential plots can be contentious, this activity does provide additional funds to the Parish Council (via the Community Infrastructure Levy) which can be used for projects to improve infrastructure in the village. 15% of the levy is passed directly to the Parish Council, and if it is not spent on initiatives that support the development of the village, or if it is not spent within 5 years then it may be reclaimed by the developer. The conditions for spending the funds are tight. They can only be spent on 'funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure'¹ of:

- Roads and other transport facilities
- Flood defences
- Schools and other educational facilities
- Medical facilities
- Sporting and recreational facilities
- Open spaces

Advice from Government states that

This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes and police stations and other community safety facilities.²

With receipts to date of over £40,000, Headbourne Worthy Parish Council is committed to spending these funds within the agreed timeframe of 5 years to get best value for money for our residents.

The Parish Council is aware that any flood defence work may well require parish CIL funding in addition to the flood reserve that we are building up.

Other priorities are always available for discussion, and the Parish Council welcomes suggestions from residents.

Planning Applications

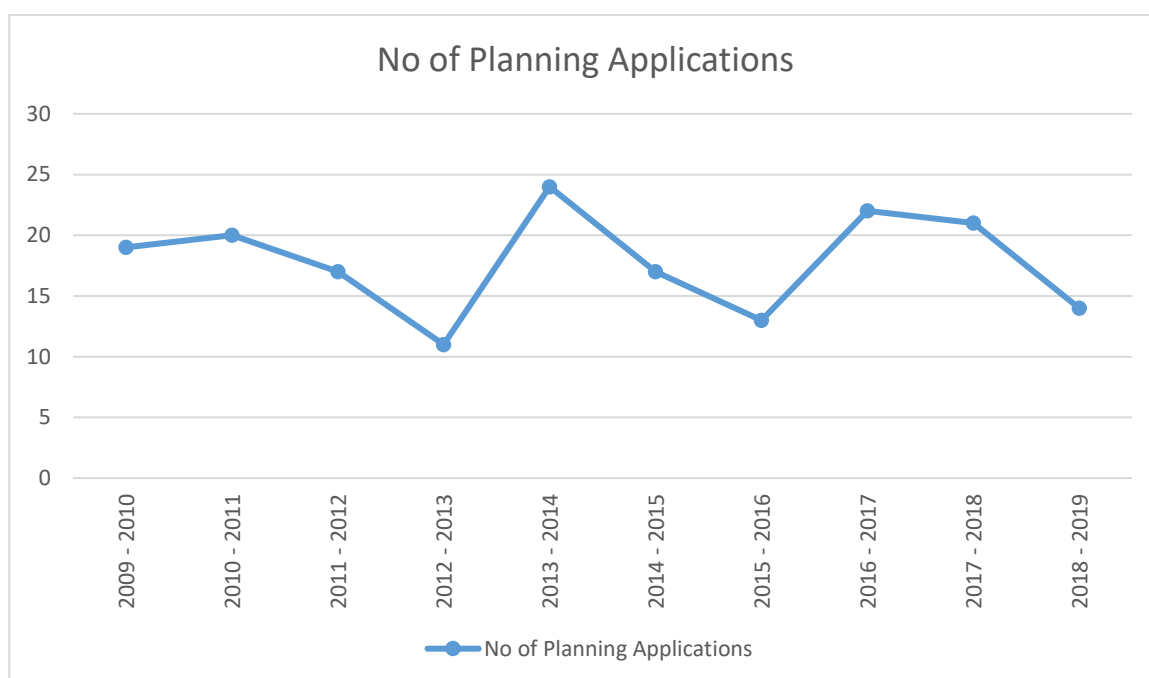
This year, the Parish Council considered 14 planning applications. Of these, 2 involved additional residences on the original plot of land, 4 involved modifications or extensions to existing buildings, 2 involved work on protected trees, and 1 was a conversion to a holiday let. Causing some debate locally was the new car park to St Swithun's Church which was permitted

¹ Planning Act 2008, Part 11, Section 216, available online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/216>.

² Guidance: Community Infrastructure Levy, available online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy#spending-the-levy>.

after going to Planning Committee. 12 of the planning applications were permitted, 1 was refused, and 1 was withdrawn. This compares with previous years:

Year	Number of Planning Applications
2009 – 2010	19
2010 – 2011	20
2011 – 2012	17
2012 – 2013	11
2013 – 2014	24
2014 – 2015	17
2015 – 2016	13
2016 – 2017	22
2017 – 2018	21
2018 – 2019	14



Parish Website & Communications

Our website, www.headbourneworthy.org.uk continues to grow, with new information added. The Parish Council also has a Twitter account which links with our website. We aim to publish on our website all information required of parish councils before the next Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Jane Rutter continues to edit our Parish newsletter, Village News, three times per year. Each edition is also available online on the website. Headbourne Worthy Parish Council is very grateful to the Kings Barton Residents' Association who have delivered the most recent newsletter to properties in Kings Barton, and to the 3rd Winchester (The Worthies) Scout group who deliver the newsletter to the remaining residences in the parish.

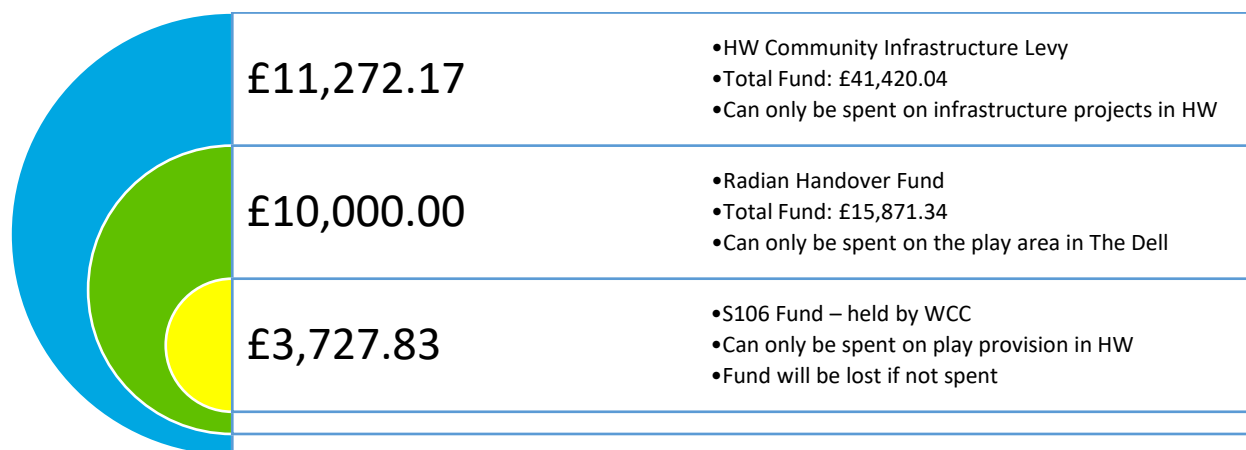
We welcome other suggestions for methods of communication from our residents.

Ongoing Events & Projects:

The Play Area at The Dell

Headbourne Worthy can now boast its own children's play area. In the past year Winchester City Council have provided a mixed-use bin, regular grass-cutting and maintenance has commenced, and the Parish Council has asked residents local to the play area for their views on how it could be improved.

At the February meeting of the Parish Council, it was resolved to invest £25,000 into upgrading this play area. Finances are allocated from council budgets and reserves as follows:



Residents have been looking at options with this budget in mind, and the Parish Council will be guided by their views. Councillors are very excited at the prospect of significant improvement to this community resource.

In addition, the Parish Council has been investigating the original provision of the play area: a £17,000 investment was required in the S106 agreement signed by the developer and Winchester City Council. When the Parish Council took over the play area the estimated value of the equipment for insurance purposes was £5,373³. Headbourne Worthy Parish Council has been in correspondence with various departments at Winchester City Council to try to determine what has happened. This work continues.

Council Tax in The Dell

A resident approached the Parish Council to query their council tax charge – despite being on the electoral roll for Headbourne Worthy they were being charged Council Tax for Kings Worthy, which is a higher amount. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that not only are residents charged the appropriate Council Tax, but also that a refund is given for years when an overpayment was made.

Noticeboards

The Parish Council has historically maintained three noticeboards in the village: at Taylor's Corner, and the corner of Nations Hill and Springvale Road, and at the corner of Bedfield Lane and Springvale Road. The noticeboards have all been renewed or refurbished during the past few years.

³ See 'Annual Inspection Report (with maintenance & asset valuation) for the play area at The Dell, Headbourne Worthy, Hants for Headbourne Worthy Parish Council' by Nick Adams, dated 14 July 2017.

As Kings Barton lies within Headbourne Worthy parish, councillors requested that CALA Homes installed a noticeboard for community use within the development. This was installed in September 2018 and is used regularly by the Parish Council and residents.

Litter Pick

Every year, volunteers turn up to pick up litter in the parish, and this year was no exception. Christine & Bevis Clarke-Smith hosted again, sending us off with a hot drink and a biscuit. This year a contingent from Kings Barton also participated collecting litter from the new estate. As always, it is alongside the roads through the village that the most litter is left – mostly thrown from passing cars. PLEASE make a note of the number plate if you see anybody doing this and pass the information to the police or the Parish Clerk.

Bus Stops & Shelters

The bus stop at Worthy Down that has been progressing for some time has now been installed, and residents are now able to use it. The Parish Council remains uncertain as to the responsibility for maintenance. The Clerk is progressing this issue with Skanska.

Maintenance

An area of overgrown scrubland at the top of Nations Hill was identified by some residents and the Site Manager at Kings Worthy Primary School as requiring urgent attention. The Parish Council engaged with the company that provides the Lengthsman service to cut back the vegetation.

The Worthys Conservation Volunteers have offered their services to renovate the two areas of wildflower planting in Headbourne Worthy: one at the corner of Nations Hill and Springvale Road, and the other at the junction of Bedfield Lane and Springvale Road. The Parish Council is hopeful that the assistance provided by the group will be of significant benefit. The Worthys Conservation Volunteers are particularly in need of new volunteers to help with their worthwhile efforts across the Worthy parishes. Please get in touch with them at enquiries@worthysconservationvolunteers.org.uk for more information.

Community Emergency Action Plan

With regard to flooding, I have been meeting occasionally with other local Parish Councillors, Cllr Jackie Porter from HCC, as well as HCC staff working on flood prevention strategies. A consultation event took place last Autumn to explain to residents the work undertaken so far.

While these discussions continue, we are using our Lengthsman to keep the culverts, drains and gullies clear where Down Farm Lane meets Springvale Road. However, the throughflow contains not just water but also dirt and vegetation. The current arrangement is not as effective as it could be.

The Parish Council is informed by the Environment Agency of groundwater levels. These updates can be obtained from the Environment Agency – any resident can opt in to receiving them. For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk>.

Cllr David Barrow has spent some time updating the Parish Council's Emergency Plan which will be coming to the Council for review.

Affordable Housing

The Social Housing Working Group comprises Cllr Jane Rutter, Cllr Gimma Macpherson, Mags Wylie (Action Hampshire) and Andrew Simpson (Winchester Housing Trust). The group began in April 2015 to discuss the possibility of providing additional affordable housing within the village, particularly aimed at people with a local connection to Headbourne Worthy.

The past year has been spent in taking this project further. A call for sites was published, and the Parish Council resolved to continue its support for this initiative. One site was identified, and the landowner was keen to progress, however this work is currently paused due to his ill-health. The Working Group reports back to the Parish Council at every meeting.

Kings Barton

Development on the Kings Barton site continues. As well as the 17 homes developed by Bargate Homes at Barton Farm off Andover Road, approximately 180 residences on the Cala Homes site are now occupied.

An active Residents' Association meets regularly, and often are present at Parish Council meetings for updates.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, CALA Homes have (as requested by the Parish Council) provided a noticeboard for residents. As the development grows, further noticeboards will be required.

The Parish Council has begun the work required to increase the number of councillors on the Parish Council – as recognition that there are now many more residents in the parish. This work is ongoing and may take some time.

Village Design Statement & Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council grows more aware of the need to define what makes Headbourne Worthy a special place – we look at lots of planning applications over the year, and we sometimes struggle to articulate why a particular scheme does or doesn't fit. One of the ways in which we can formalise this is to engage in a Village Design Statement process. This needs a group of residents, supported by the Parish Council to begin work. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Clerk.

Headbourne Worthy is considering working in partnership with neighbouring Kings Worthy to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a supplementary planning document to the Local Plan adopted by Winchester City Council. The development of the plan takes some years, but has many benefits to the parish. If you would like to become involved please get in touch.

Conclusion

Headbourne Worthy faces some significant challenges: not only as the traffic levels increase due to the building at Kings Barton, but also with the more unpredictable weather patterns. The Parish Council must rise to meet these challenges, using our influence and our budget where we can to improve the lives of our residents.