

MARTLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman's Annual Report 2015 - 16

Current Council (June 2016): Miss J Bear, Mr C Blundell, Mr L Brome, Mr L W Burrows, Mr S Denton, Mr J Forbes, Miss J French, Mr M Irwin (Chairman), Mr J Kelso, Mr M I O'Brien Baker, Mr R Staines, Mr E Thompson, Mr W Welch (Vice Chairman), Mr H Woldsmith.

In addition we must gratefully acknowledge the volunteer helpers, which includes members of working parties, those who help with inspecting play equipment, attending work days and litter picks and working on the neighbourhood plan.

Thanks are also due to our part time staff: Susan Robertson (Clerk), Diane Linsley (Deputy Clerk) and Linda Woodhouse (Administrative Assistant).

We also note with regret the loss, in the police reorganisation, of our dedicated Police Community Support Officers, Justin Moss and Sally Thomas.

The work and key achievements of the Parish Council during the year included:

1. Organised and paid for land maintenance benefitting all users of the play equipment, recreation ground, football pitches, the common, the green, footpaths and open spaces in the parish. The resurfacing of the picnic area in Felixstowe Road was undertaken this year.
2. Consulted on the provision of outdoor sports equipment for which funds have become available as a result of levies on developers.
3. Protected the interests of parishioners in responding to 80 planning applications. Extra effort has gone into background research and meeting with developers and landowners as we are aware of half a dozen major housing projects being floated by developers in addition to commercial developments.
4. Supported the Neighbourhood Plan Group which is consulting and working towards a Neighbourhood Plan to shape developments in the future. Outcomes of our surveys and consultations are already informing parish council activities. This activity has also highlighted many concerns that residents have about current problems outside the scope of the neighbourhood plan, and the council is working towards addressing these in conjunction with other organisations in the public and private sectors.
5. Managing the Recreation Ground and Kronji's Piece which has resulted in a plan for the future of the area. Activities have included a work day and installing cycle stands.
6. With assistance from Greenways we have established a working group and developed a management plan for the Common, particularly necessary with new housing being occupied so close to the area.
7. Maintained the operation of the Portal Woodlands Working Group who not only maintain the woodlands but do some valuable educational work with young people (aged 5 years upwards).
8. All play areas continued to be regularly inspected by volunteers and independently inspected when necessary. There has been some replacement play equipment installed as well as refurbishment undertaken.
9. Assessed trees for which the Council has responsibility taking action where necessary, including tree work on the common undertaken by volunteers from Barker Gotelee.
10. Kept under review and amended as necessary the following: committees' terms of reference and delegated powers, amendments to Standing Orders, policies governing tenders and quotations, risk Management and insurance, remuneration, pensions and other matters concerning the Clerk and employees, Parish Trusts, administration of the Parish Room and office.
11. Drafted the annual budget for the Council and recommended the precept (the amount to be received from Council Tax) needed for 2016/17.
12. Sent representatives on a regular or ad hoc basis as required to the following groups: Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd, Deben Estuary Access Group, Deben Estuary Project Group, Foxhall Landfill Site Liaison Group, Kesgrave Library Forum, Martlesham Community Council, Martlesham Community Hall Management Committee, Martlesham Pavilion Management Committee, Martlesham Village Hall Management Committee, Martlesham Youth Football Club, Parish Paths Partnership, Public Transport Liaison, SCDC Greenprint Forum, SCDC Town & Parish Forum, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC), Tree Warden Forums, 12 Parishes Together (12PT, liaising with the police safer neighbourhood team), Waldringfield Quarry Liaison Group,
13. We regret to have to report that for the first time anti social behaviour has caused the council a significant amount of work and resulted in considerable expense. This has included misuse of the community Hall car park, and of the bike trails, although the vast majority of the users of the bike trails set a good example and act responsibly.
14. Problems have also arisen through the actions of irresponsible dog owners, and we have been trying to engage with responsible owners to help find a solution to these problems.

For further details on all of these activities see the reports from the committees and working groups of the Parish Council, which will be available on the website <http://martlesham.onesuffolk.net>

For the future we continue to work towards:

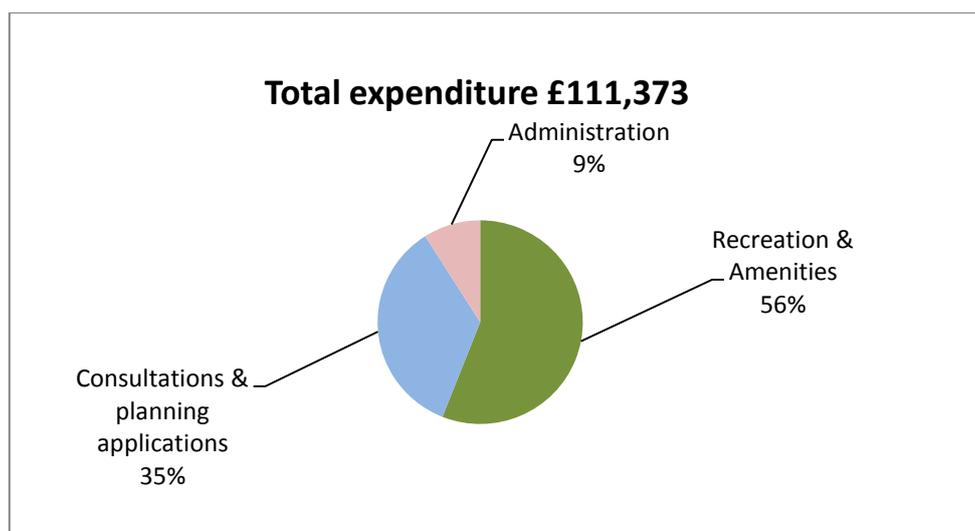
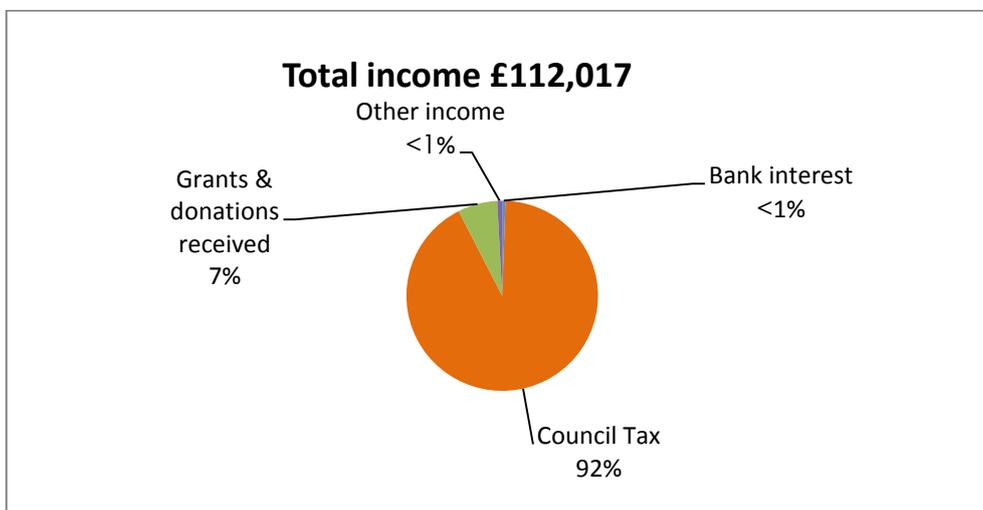
- Completing the neighbourhood plan
- Installing outdoor sports equipment
- Safeguarding the interests of residents in a parish undergoing severe development strains
- Managing the assets of the parish to give maximum benefits to residents

All the councillors can be contacted via the Parish Council office as follows:

Post: Martlesham Parish Council, Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, Woodbridge IP12 4PB
Telephone: 01473 612632 E-mail: clerk@martleshamcouncil.org.uk

Martlesham Parish Council Accounts 2015/16

The accounts for the year are as yet unaudited by the external auditor and may be subject to change. Expenditure has virtually matched income this year which means there will be little change in the total reserves held by the Council.



Grants made during the year: British Red Cross, Suffolk £50; Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk) £500; Greenways Countryside Project £800; Home-Start Suffolk Coastal £300; Kesgrave Town Council (Kesgrave Library Community Group) £350; Martlesham Bowls Club £400.00; Martlesham Conservation Group £272; Martlesham in Bloom £190. **TOTAL: £2,862.**