

## **Martlesham Parish Council Chairman's Report 2017-18**

In this report I will begin by noting some of the key achievements over the year. More details can be found in the reports of the individual committees which carry out this work, which are available on the website <http://martlesham.onesuffolk.net/welcome-to-martlesham-parish-council/>

**Community Hall Car Park.** This has been troubled by litter, anti-social use of cars which spread to nearby roads and vandalism. Through the support of R G Carter, the builders of Wickes, Patricia O'Brien, a county councillor, and John Kelso, a district councillor, we now have a barrier in place and CCTV to control the area and Tesco now litter pick the car park. The environment is now safer and more pleasant for all legitimate users.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** This has now completed its inspection stage and will go to referendum on 24<sup>th</sup> May. This is the culmination of many years of hard work by a small dedicated team. If passed at the referendum it will mean planning decisions are made by SCDC on the basis of planning policies developed by our community.

**Neighbourhood Plan Plus. (NP+)** As it is a planning document the neighbourhood plan can only affect future developments, while the consultation process highlighted many concerns residents have about the existing situation in Martlesham, for example regarding traffic. These concerns have been captured in the NP+ and will form the basis of further actions to improve the parish.

**Martlesham Common Local Nature Reserve.** For many years the Common has been managed with the help of the Greenways Project to ensure the survival of local flora and fauna associated with the Sandlings landscape. We are pleased that we have been able to recognise this work and formally designate the area as a local nature reserve. We hope this designation will encourage all users to respect the very special and threatened environment which this represents.

**Adastral Park development consultations.** In extensive meetings and written responses, we have represented the interests of residents with the aims of controlling further overcrowding of roads and facilities, protecting the environment, enhancing the parish through development of shared facilities and ensuring new residents will come to a well-designed and welcoming community.

**Village Fete.** We have established a working group to run a fete on 14<sup>th</sup> July, with the support of members of St. Michael's Church, MHHL, The Pavilion and local businesses.

In addition, we have continued our normal range of services

### **We provide and maintain a wide range of facilities for leisure and recreation:**

Play spaces

Centenary, Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee bike trails, Harry Higgins and the Recreation Ground

We manage open spaces

Recreation Ground (including Kronji's Piece) which includes the petanque piste, Martlesham Common Local Nature Reserve, Portal Woodlands, by supporting the work of the Portal Woodlands Conservation Group, Felixstowe Road picnic area, monitoring the condition of footpaths, providing & maintaining benches, bus shelters, litter & dog dirt bins and organising a litter pick.

### **We provide support for local organisations**

1. By financial contributions: The Rotary Club of Woodbridge Deben: £500.00, Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk): £500.00, Greenways Project: £900.00, Martlesham Conservation Group: £135.23, Martlesham in Bloom: £180.00, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service £300.00, MH100: £2,500.00. Total £5015.23.
2. By grass cutting and land maintenance : Martlesham Heath Village Green, Martlesham Youth Football Club, Martlesham Community Hall, Village Hall, Top Street, St. Mary's & St Michael's churches
3. By supplying and maintaining notice boards for the use of community groups
4. By providing free use of the Parish Room for committee meetings of community groups

**We represent the Parish on planning matters** (although final decisions are made by Suffolk Coastal District Council) and by responding to public consultations. This involves:

1. Meetings with planners, developers and key commercial landowners,
2. Responding to planning applications plus associated appeals, referrals and inquiries.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Parish Council could not carry out this work without support from its dedicated volunteers who work with the Portal Woodland Conservation Group, the Neighbourhood Plan team and Village Fete Working Group, those who carry out safety inspections on play equipment, maintain notice boards and help out on work days and litter picks and are organising the wildlife survey on the Common.

We are also grateful to the Greenways Project and its volunteers (including staff from Barker Gotelee), who work on the Common, and to the managers and staff at Tesco who help with our litter pick. The Bowls Club also supports our annual work day at the Recreation Ground.

The councillors who freely give up their time to work on council business, they are:

Mr M I O'Brien Baker, Miss J I L Bear, Mr C Blundell, Mr L Brome, Mr L W Burrows, Mr E Crichton, Mr S Denton, Mr J R G Forbes, Mr A Gartan, Mr M J Irwin (Chairman), Mr J M Kelso, Mr R F Staines, Mr E Thompson, Mr W J Welch (Vice Chairman), Mr H Woldsmith.

During the year Mr Gartan left the Council; we thank him for his contribution while a councillor. This means there is now a vacancy to fill by co-option until the next parish council election in 2019.

Our dedicated part time members of staff: Susan Robertson (Clerk), Diane Linsley (Deputy Clerk) and Linda Woodhouse (Administrative Assistant).

## **Martlesham Parish Council Accounts 2017/18**

The accounts for the year have not yet been finalised and audited so the figures below may be subject to minor change.

**Total income: £135,088.** Approx. 96% of this income was raised through council tax. £4,124 came from successful grant applications to fund the cost of the automatic barrier at the Community Hall car park.

**Total expenditure: £122,172.** The Parish Council categorises its activities as threefold and so the following is how your money has been spent:

- Providing and maintaining parish amenities and recreational facilities 54% of total
- Responding to planning applications and public consultations, including neighbourhood planning 39% of total
- Costs of financial management and administrative expenses 7% of total

Our general reserves will have increased this year but the Council is continuing to build earmarked reserves for projects on play & sport provision and to enhance the enjoyment of our open spaces such as the Common Local Nature Reserve & the Recreation Ground.

## **Our aspirations for the coming year include**

Further developing the Common Local Nature Reserve and establishing a 'Friends Group'.

Providing adult sports equipment.

Completing the Neighbourhood Plan and launching the Neighbourhood Plan Plus to shape future developments, and remedy existing problems for the benefit of all residents, particularly with reference to traffic problems surrounding the retail area and the Adastral Park development.