

## **Martlesham Parish Council Chairman's Report 2016 - 17**

In this report I will give an overview of the range of parish council activities undertaken in the last 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/>.

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

1. Play spaces
  - a. Centenary play space, on the Western Corridor
  - b. Jubilee play space and bike trails at the Black Tiles area
  - c. Harry Higgins play space behind the pavilion
  - d. Play space at the Recreation Ground
2. We manage open spaces
  - a. Recreation Ground (including Kronji's Piece) which includes the Petanque Piste
  - b. Martlesham Common, developing its role as a nature reserve to support wildlife and make the area more attractive for residents
  - c. Portal Woodlands, by supporting the work of the Portal Woodlands Conservation Group
  - d. Felixstowe Road picnic area
  - e. Monitoring the condition of footpaths
  - f. Providing and maintaining benches, bus shelters, litter and dog dirt bins and organising a litter pick

To further enhance these facilities for the benefit of all we have taken steps to reduce inappropriate parking at the Recreation Ground and continue to explore the provision of new sports facilities.

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

1. By financial contributions:  
Greenways Countryside Project £850; Home-Start Suffolk Coastal £450; Martlesham Conservation Group £272; Martlesham in Bloom £180; Suffolk Accident Rescue Service £300. ( Total: £2,052)
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

The car park which serves the Community Hall has been a particular challenge this year due to dangerous and noisy anti social behaviour. We are working with the police and the management committee to define and implement solutions to this. R G Carter, local builder, has agreed to support improvements to the area in exchange for temporary use of part of the car park.

**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, most significantly with the developers of the land to the south and east of Adastral Park
2. Responding to over eighty planning applications plus associated appeals, referrals and inquiries
3. Developing the Neighbourhood Plan through supporting the working group dedicated to this task
4. The most significant public consultation has been related to the East Anglian wind farm project

This has been a particularly busy year for the council with more planning applications than usual, including the massive Adastral park development amongst others and revisions to the District Council's way of working which has imposed a greater workload on parish councils. The neighbourhood plan has also been at a critical stage requiring much work relating to consultations and incorporating the findings in the plan.

## **Acknowledgements**

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

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 supported our 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 Forbes, Mr A Gartan, Mr M Irwin (Chairman), Mr J Kelso, Mr R F Staines, Mr E Thompson, Mr W J Welch (Vice Chairman), Mr H Woldsmith

During the year the following left the Council, Miss J French and Mrs S Howard, thanks to them for their contributions while councillors.

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

### **Martlesham Parish Council Accounts 2016/17**

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

**Total income: £133,334.** 90% of this income is raised through council tax. £11,367 (i.e. approx. 8.5%) came from successful grant applications to help fund work on the Neighbourhood Plan, for new seating and a new barrier at the Recreation Ground.

**Total expenditure: £121,115.** The Parish Council categorises its activities as threefold and so the following is what your money has been spent on:

- Providing and maintaining parish amenities and recreational facilities (£55,712, 46% of total)
- Responding to planning applications and public consultations, including neighbourhood planning (£56,924, 47% of total )
- Costs of financial management and administrative expenses (£8,479 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 & the Recreation Ground.

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

Working with all users of the recreation ground to accommodate conflicting demands on the area

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

Providing adult sports equipment

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