

Annual Report May 2008 – April 2009

The Parish of Whiteley

Whiteley Parish is within Winchester District Council.

Two thirds of the parish is woodland and fields, with Dimmocks' Moor to the north east with the railway as the boundary, Stoneyfield Copse, Quindell Golf Course and Skylark Meadows lie on the eastern boundary, Waterclose Copse and Bridge Copse lie on the north boundary.



The western boundary runs from Whiteley Cottages on Whiteley Lane, around Quaveys Copse through to Thyme Avenue, Gull Coppice onto Rookery Avenue and across the motorway to follow the line of the railway around Segensworth North, across Whiteley Lane to join Skylark Meadows to the north.



This encloses the business park, shopping village Segensworth North industrial estate, and residential areas around Leafy Lane,

Marjoram Way, Thyme Avenue, Bluebell Way and Skylark Meadows, approximately 1400 households.

The Parish Council comprises 11 Councillors who are elected every four years. Councillors are unpaid and are governed by a mandatory code of conduct which includes obligations to act in an appropriate manner.

The Parish Council provides a **local voice** for its residents; each Parish Council differs in the work it carries out. The majority of the work carried out by Whiteley Parish Council is through its committees: Strategic Development and Policy, Finance, Recreation and General Purpose, Planning, and Highways and Transport, there are also working parties for specific projects such as the Whiteley Voice magazine

The Parish Council also has representatives for a number of outside organisations: Parish Partnership Forum – a police liaison forum, Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Meadowside User Forum, Rights of Way, Passenger Transport, and new for 2009 two Climate Change Champions

Communication



The Parish Council has notice boards on the Parkway and Rookery Avenue bus shelters, in Thyme Avenue, Leafy Lane, Marjoram Way and outside the Meadowside Centre, it also produces a regular magazine, The Whiteley Voice which is distributed to all residents of Whiteley.

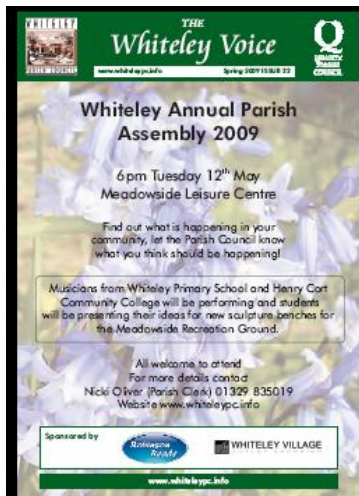
Parish Council website

The Parish Council website has been redesigned and updated to improve accessibility for all users and aims to keep residents up to date with its work:
www.whiteley.pc.info



Whiteley Voice Newsletter

The Parish Council is continuing to develop the Whiteley Voice which is delivered to all Whiteley households.



The Whiteley Voice working party welcomes news from local organisations and has developed close links with Whiteley Primary School and Henry Cort Community College with the aim of promoting our excellent local schools.

The Whiteley Voice is a continually evolving publication and is looking to both increase the content of the magazine and the advertising revenue to eventually become a self funding project. The Parish Council is grateful for the sponsorship of Whiteley Village, Robinson

Reade Estate Agents and local businesses.

Contacting the Council

Residents are very welcome to contact Councillors informally, formal enquiries should be made to Clerk.

Chairman's overview

The Parish Council's aim is to improve the quality of life for its residents by working closely with the community and appropriate service providers. The Parish Council has developed strategies and action plans to allow progress to be monitored, key objectives for 2008/9 included:

Working closely with Winchester City Council to establish infrastructure requirements for proposed new development in North Whiteley, including providing a new primary school as quickly as possible.

North Whiteley is one of a number of areas proposed for development over the next 20 years. It is becoming more and more apparent that waiting for developers to provide road and school infrastructure is not viable for the existing population. The Parish Council has made its views known to Winchester City Council that a contingency plan must be put in place to deliver schools and road improvements in the short term and will continue its campaign until improvements are delivered.

Working with Winchester City Council and Whiteley Village to secure a new village centre to meet the needs of local people.

The Parish Council supports the proposals for a new shopping centre for Whiteley although it has raised concerns about the impact of traffic on the existing inadequate roads.

Parish Plan Review

Following extensive consultation with the whole of Whiteley last year the Parish Action Plan has been updated and a number of new projects proposed

alongside ongoing campaigns for school and transport infrastructure. These include the development of a community hub to provide a library, a focal point for young people and parish offices and meeting rooms for use by the police and community support organisations. Full details of the action plan can be viewed on the Parish website www.whiteleypc.info

Progressing the agreed key objectives for each committee as noted later in the report.

Many other projects are being progressed alongside the key aims of the Parish Council which are included in the committee reports.

Whiteley Parish Council is ably lead by our committee Chairmen: Pat Thew Chairman of Recreation and General Purposes, David Jenkins Chairman of Planning, Colin Bielckus Chairman of Finance and Kairen Goves Chairman of Highways and Transport . Strong leadership skills are developing allowing campaigns and projects to move forward with increasing confidence.

There is currently a vacancy for a councillor, if you are interested in becoming more involved in your community please contact the Parish Clerk.

Whiteley Parish Council has Quality Status and we have demonstrated that we are an active, professional and competent body to work with. This status ensures that we are better placed to influence the decision making process and take on additional services and areas of responsibility from principal local authorities. It is essential that we continue to improve the way business is conducted so that we are able to meet the strict criteria to successfully gain re-accreditation in 2011.

Mike Evans
Chairman Whiteley Parish Council

Committee Reports

Strategic Development and Policy Committee

This Committee was constituted in 2008 to deal with strategic issues such as overseeing the planning process for Whiteley Village redevelopment and plans for North Whiteley.

It is also working with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council to secure a library and community hub for Whiteley together with development of a facility for young people.

The Committee is exploring the possibility of devolution of the management of Meadowside Recreation Ground, the skatepark and play areas in Whiteley. The running costs for these are currently met through developer's contributions but this fund will be exhausted in the next few years which will result in increased costs for residents.

Planning Committee

Between May 2008 and April 2009 the Planning Committee considered and responded to 43 planning applications in the Parish.



Copies of planning applications are available to view locally by contacting the Clerk - no need to travel to Winchester. Many applications are also available to view online on Winchester City Council's website: www.winchester.gov.uk. (Use the public access link.)

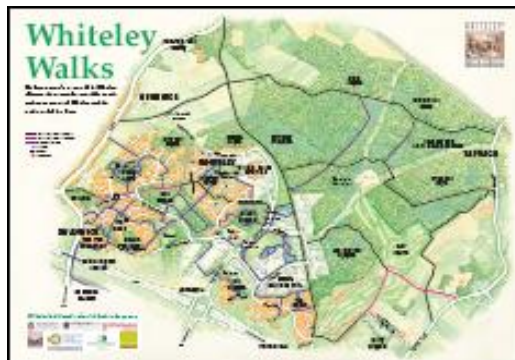
Recreation and General Purposes Committee

The Recreation and General Purposes Committee deals with general maintenance requests which affect Whiteley open spaces and play parks, and holds regular

meetings with WCC officers to discuss issues which affect these areas.

During the last year the Committee has overseen the provision of a number of new dog bins and the installation of the Whiteley Map Boards which may be found on Meadowside Recreation Ground, Mollison Rise play area, Leafy Lane and in the woodlands.

The map is also available to download from the Parish Council's website.



It is currently working on a project with Whiteley Primary School, Henry Cort Community College and artist Russell Jacobowski to create a sculpture bench installation on Meadowside Recreation Ground, the latest news on the project can be read elsewhere in this edition of the Whiteley Voice.



The Committee is also a contact point for the Meon Valley Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP). If you have any community safety concerns which you feel should be addressed please come along to a Committee meeting, or contact any Councillor or Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews the Council's income and expenditure on a regular basis, it also discusses applications from local organisations seeking funding assistance and makes recommendations to Full Council.

The Committee sets the budget or precept for the following financial year; this is the amount of money that the Council requests Winchester City Council to raise on behalf of the Parish Council through the Council Tax.

A copy of the accounts for the year ending March 2009 is included below.

Whiteley Parish Council Receipts and Payments account 2008/09

2007/8		2008/9
	Income	
£20,403	Precept	£26,252
	Training refund	203
	Parish Plan grants	4,750
£1,000	Grants for map board	£1,000
	Grant for sculpture benches	£2,000
	HCC grant made in error	£6,745
£1,250	Whiteley Voice advertising	£2,125
£629	Interest	687
£994	Vat reimbursements	329
£24,276	Total income	£44,091
	Expenditure	
£11,343	Employment	£15,126
£4,678	General Administration	£5,370
Nil	Agency Services	Nil
Nil	S. 137 Payments: Grants	£850
£1,997	Grants	
	Projects	2007/8 2008/9
	Parish Plan	- £6,382
	Map boards	- £3,750
	Dog bins	- £675
	Maintain benches	- £485
	New projects	£1,741 -
	Newsletter	£3,833 £5,150
£6,099	Bus Shelters	<u>£525</u> <u>£630</u>
		£17,072
£803	Councillor allowances / training	£867
£479	Chairman's allowance	£356
£329	VAT	£1,745
	Roundup	6
£25,728	Total Expenditure	£41,392
	GENERAL FUND	
£21,758	Balance at 1 April	£20,306
£24,276	Add: Total Income	£44,091
£46,034		£64,397
<u>£25,728</u>	Less: Total Expenditure	<u>£41,392</u>
£20,306	Balance at 31 March	£23,005

Highways and Transport Committee

This Committee reviews road and street light maintenance issues and ensures requests are completed.

During 2008/9 the Committee has been campaigning for additional yellow lines in Parkway, which should be installed in the coming year. It has made requests to the police to ticket those parking on dropped kerb crossing points, and requested speed monitoring in Yew Tree Drive. It successfully pursued the adoption of the Mollison Rise subway and the connection of the lighting.

Public transport improvements are a key request from residents, particularly from our young people, and the Committee has been pursuing this with Hampshire County Council. HCC has advised that it is looking at new routes to serve Whiteley, substantial funding will be needed and grant opportunities are being explored.

The Committee has prepared a series of suggested improvements to footpaths and local roads to make walking and cycling to school more attractive and is seeking funding to implement the proposals.

It is also pursuing HCC to carry out work to Yew Tree Drive under the Safer Routes to School Scheme to improve safety for pedestrians accessing Gull Coppice. HCC is currently preparing plans for consultation.

The Committee has pressed for an emergency traffic plan to allow traffic to flow in the event of an accident on Whiteley Way. HCC has drafted a plan which will go some way to reduce gridlock and the danger of emergency vehicles being unable to access Whiteley.

Whiteley Parish Council Contact details

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