

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL – 2010/2011

Chairman's Report from Cllr. Dick Hill

I would like to thank the Traffic Committee, West Dean CE Primary School, Mike Hall, Henry Potter, Simon Ward, and everyone else who has taken part in the successful bid to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30 mph.

The Planning Committee has worked well, with Members making a valuable contribution and taking a keen interest in the new South Downs National Park.

Work is well under way with the Lychgate Project, which should be completed in the next month or two, enhancing the main entrance to the Cemetery.

I would like to congratulate West Dean CE Primary School for its continuing success, and in particular, their recent win in the Guardian Classroom Innovators of the Year Award 2011 - a tremendous achievement.

The 2011/2012 Council Year will be preceded by the Parish Council Elections on 5 May. Looking forward, funding and grants will be a big issue, bringing many new challenges as councils strive to keep their precepts as low as possible, whilst trying to maintain a good standard of service.

Traffic Action Committee, including Community Speedwatch and SID – Cllr. Steve Corbett

Thank you to everyone, including Mike Hall, who has helped bring about the reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. The campaign began in 1946!

The recent good news that the group-financed SID had been delivered is most welcome. Those councils in the group have met to discuss the way forward, including a rota system. West Dean already has a trained team of SID operators and agreed sites, whilst others are still preparing. The new device has the capacity to record data, so it will be most interesting to compare results from both 40 and 30mph limits and assess the impact of the reduction on driver behaviour. Mike Hall told us that since the same software is used by WSCC, information gathered can be fed into their data bank, the aim being to improve driver behaviour, which in turn, should increase road safety.

Some funding is left over from the group purchase of SID, which will go towards insuring it.

Planning Committee Chairman's Report – Cllr. Steve Corbett

Planning applications considered over the past Council Year have been mainly straightforward. A TPO has been placed on most of the trees at the Pool House, Binderton.

Financial Report from the Clerk

The accounts for 2010/2011 will be completed shortly after the end of the financial year on 31 March 2011. The current position is:

Balance brought forward as at 1 April 2010	£ 7,745
Overall income to date 2010/2011, including £10,500 Precept	£13,971
Expenditure to date 2010/2011	£ 7,360
Estimated Year-End balance 2010/2011	£12,275

2010/2011 income was boosted by reclaiming £991 in VAT, largely generated by the Cemetery Improvement Works completed in 2009/2010, and £1,305 from the sale of an exceptionally high number of burial plots.

The estimated Year- End Balance includes a pledge of £1,000 from Parish Council funds, and a grant of £900 from the South Chichester County Local Committee, both for the Lychgate Project. The Edward James Trust has promised a further £1,000 towards the Project, which will be claimed in 2011/2012 when the work is done and invoices come in.

Two outstanding bills for 2010/2011 expenditure are expected from WSCC in April or May, for the Street Lighting PFI Contract, and for four months of the new Power Contract, entered into on 1 December 2010. This enables the Parish Council to buy electricity for its street lights at a much cheaper rate than on the open market

The Precept for 2011/2012 has been kept at £10,500, providing scope for further community projects, such as the refurbishment of the Stapleash signpost and depending on costs, replacement of the two wooden bus shelters on the A286 in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday 9 May 2011 in Room 115 at West Dean College. This is the Annual General Meeting for the 2011/2012 Council Year and the first meeting of the new Council after the elections. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak during the public session.