



Annual Report 2009 – 2010

Come to the Parish Assembly on 22nd April 2010 in the Clubroom.
Doors open 7:15, meeting starts at 8 pm.

Highlights

Community Plan. Following last year's Parish Assembly a Community Plan Team was formed, comprising Martyn Glover, Joe McCann and Clive Pinder plus Sue Mann and Sheyne Bauermeister from the Parish Council. A questionnaire was distributed to all homes in the parish at the beginning of February.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) continues to be the main issue for the parish. In order to meet the Government's house building target in the South East Plan, Basingstoke and Deane are expected to provide land for 945 dwellings per year between 2006 and 2026, a staggering total of 18,900.

Newnham Parish Council has objected strongly to this level of building, primarily due to the lack of adequate infrastructure (particularly water availability, sewage and road traffic capacity) and the potential irreversible damage to the environment.

Previously the Borough Council had proposed that any major development required would be on the Manydown site, which they part-own, to the east of the town. However, Planning Officers now appear to favour the Lodge Farm and Poors Farm sites between Newnham and Old Basing for a major development, which could eventually total some 10,000 houses, in the environmentally sensitive Loddon Valley.

The Parish Council is working with Country Watch and neighbouring parish councils to oppose the proposal. Country Watch will require financial support to engage professionals which might require further funding from Newnham Parish Council in 2011 or 2012.

Residents who oppose major development between Newnham and Old Basing are urged to support the Save Our Loddon Valley & Environment (SOLVE) campaign.

Villager in co-operation with the Editor, the two other funding parish councils and the Reverend Jane Leese it was decided to give a new look to the Villager. Our thanks to Sue Turner, the editor, who has implemented very significant changes over the last few months, helped by the contribution as a roving news gatherer / reporter / fund raiser of Robin Howard, who took over responsibility from Sally Baker for collecting the Villager from the printers and distribution to the five villages. Our thanks go to Sally for her contribution over many years and to all the volunteer distributors.

Newnham Hill Nursing Home. Construction work started at the end of 2009 and is expected to continue in to 2011. The Parish Council has been in regular contact with the developer in an attempt to ensure the minimum amount of inconvenience (road mud and debris) to residents.

Newfest and Tennis Tournament. On behalf of the community, the Parish Council would like to thank the team which organised the socially and financially very successful Fête and the organisers of the Tennis Tournament.

Parish Council

Your six parish councillors, supported by our Clerk, met six times and organised the Parish Assembly in April 2009.

We have responded to numerous consultation documents from, amongst others, the Borough and County Councils, South East and Thames Water and the Environment Agency.

Councillors have attended meetings of the Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils, Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership (our Chairman was a member of the Board and was Chairman of the Sustainable Communities / Footprint Group), Country Watch, County Council Transport Panel, Natural Environment Forum, Chineham Incinerator Liaison Group, Hampshire Association of Local Councils. In addition, our clerk attended meetings of the Hampshire Association and Society of Local Clerks.

The website continues to be an important communication channel to electors and we have continued to give new residents a Welcome Pack.

Grateful thanks to PC Andy Reid, our beat officer, who has continued to visit the parish regularly combating crime and attending our meetings.

We would also like to thank John Broughton for organising the twice yearly litter picks in Newnham and all those who helped.

Highways. After our campaign over several years, the speed limit in Newnham was reduced from 40 to 30 mph in November in 2008. The Parish Council agreed with the Borough Council for the installation of a gateway on Old School Road and warning signs before the crossroads on Ridge Lane and both sides of the railway bridge in Crown Lane. In order to help assess whether further traffic management measures are required the Parish Council paid the rental for a Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) on Newnham Road in December. The sign resulted in only a small temporary reduction in speeds.

The Parish Council continues to support County Councillor Still's campaign to have the 50 mph speed limit extended down Scures Hill, plus carriageway narrowing on the approach to Blackstocks Lane.

A resident organised a petition for a pavement on Newnham Road from the Green to Old School Road. In discussions with the Borough Council it became clear that funding would not be available for such a large scheme, but a short pavement around the dangerous bend leading away from the Green might be achievable and will be assessed against other schemes in the Borough.

Highways successfully cleared the culvert at the bottom of Crown Lane; carried out the first phase of clearing the culvert in Newnham Road: cleared ditches plus gullies near Lyde Mill; are investigating problems in Tylney Lane and pruned some dangerous trees in Crown Lane.

The vandalised **Telephone box** on Newnham Green was finally removed by BT.

Planning

Local Planning Applications. The Borough Council is the designated planning authority with the power to grant or reject planning applications. The Parish Council is consulted and has the choice of 'no objection'; 'no objection subject to conditions' or to 'object with reasons'. We were consulted on 16 applications and 3 Notifications of Intent to carry out work on trees in the Conservation Area.

Clubroom. The Parish Council has continued to work closely with the Clubroom Committee on the urgent need for a replacement. As there was no possibility of raising over £200,000 to implement the planning permission approved in 2007 to demolish and build a larger structure and as no other suitable site had been identified in the parish, the 2009 Parish Assembly supported the proposal to explore the feasibility of rebuilding a timber structure using the existing concrete base.

A planning application was submitted in February 2010 for a replacement costing less than £100,000. Grant applications for the outstanding funding requirements are being prepared.

The Clubroom Committee still urgently requires a Chairman and committee members.

Finance. The approved expenditure budget for 2009/10 was £6,132. We decided not to increase the precept from the £4,600 of 2008/09, which represented 1.39% of the total council tax. On the 1st April 2009 the funds carried forward totalled £4,044 plus an outstanding VAT refund of £143.

Towards the end of the 2009/2010 financial year we received a £2,000 grant from County Councillor Elaine Still's devolved budget towards

the cost of a pavement on Newnham Road, (to be returned if the pavement is not implemented).

Provisional Accounts 2009/10 (Excluding VAT)

Item	Budget	Actual	10 – 11 Budget
Salaries	1915	1888	1910
Training	150	0	150
Insurance	420	410	425
Audit Fees	160	160	175
Clubroom	600	600	600
Green	800	475	820
Villager	450	430	450
OCHRE	450	450	450
Hospice	450	450	450
Cricket Club	50	50	50
Wreath	17	17	17
Repairs	200	165	200
Subscriptions	320	121	340
Community Plan		220	150
SLR Rental		387	420
Expenses	150	189	250
Pavement			2000
Expenditure	6132	6012	8857
Grant	1100	1100	1100
Precept	4600	4600	5200
BDBC cutting	290	290	290
NGPA	255	93	265
Bank Interest		3	0
Pavement grant		2000	
Income	6245	8086	6855

The resultant excess of income over expenditure of £2,074 for 2009/10 resulted in funds carried forward at 31st March 2010 of £6,148. Plus £114 VAT refund due in May/June. The Council considers that these reserves are appropriate.

Significant deviations from budget:

- HCC grant of £2,000 towards pavement.
- £387 for hire of Speed Limit Reminder sign.
- £220 for printing Community Plan envelopes.
- Total Green costs £325 below budget due to lower than budget frequency of cutting and collection. Our thanks to Richard Fouracre for the complementary cut.
- Training £150 below budget.
- £172 subscription for 2010/11 deferred by the Hampshire Association to April.

The approved expenditure budget for 2010/11 was set in November 2009 at £6857. This was later increased by £2000 for the contribution to BDBC towards a pavement in Newnham Road. Maintenance costs for the Green were set to cover 4 x mowing, 2 x strimming of the verges and one ditch cleaning. £150 was allocated for Community Plan incidental costs not covered by County & Borough Councils and £420 was allocated for a second hiring of an SLR. Consequently the precept was increased to £5,200, which represents less than 1.6% of the Council Tax.

3rd April 2010

Parish Council at 31st March 2010

Clerk: Susan Turner 761 606. **Chairman:** Roger Booth 762 456. **Deputy:** Jeff Ford 762 886.

Councillors: Sheyne Bauermeister 767 855; Nigel Bell 762 104; Sue Mann 768 560; Ian Riley 767 084

www.newnhamscures-pc.gov.uk