



Annual Report 2010 – 2011

**Come to the Parish Assembly on 5th April 2011, doors open 7:15, meeting starts at 8 pm.
MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL**

Housing Development

The prospect of some 9,000 houses being built in the Loddon Valley north of Old Basing and almost to the western boundary of our parish is a major concern. The Parish Council responded to the consultations on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and the *New Homes in Your Area* opposing development in the Loddon Valley and supported SOLVE and Country Watch, whom we thank for their energy and commitment to protecting the Loddon Valley.

The Parish Council considers that appropriate development, in terms of both the number and type of new homes, is essential to sustain the long term viability of our villages. 19 new dwellings have been added across the parish since 2000; at least 10 in the preceding decade plus at least 14 in the 1980s, without seriously changing the character of the parish. Based on the historic rate, 10 – 15 homes per decade would seem an appropriate rate up to 2026. New homes should be individual detached or semi-detached dwellings designed to fit in with neighbouring properties.

Surveys have shown a need for a development of 6 - 8 shared equity affordable rural homes where the land is retained by a Housing Trust to ensure the discount from market rates can be maintained. Part of the 10 – 15 homes per decade should therefore be allocated to such a scheme and homes reserved for people with a proven connection to the parish.

Newnham Road Footpath

In Autumn 2009 a resident organised a petition for a footpath on Newnham Road from the Green to Old School Road. It became clear that Borough Council funding would not be available for such a large scheme but a smaller scheme around the bend near the Green could be feasible. The Borough Council prepared an Option 1, footpath on the verge on the south side of the road costing £17,000 and Option 2, footpath on the verge on the north side costing about £25,000. A conditional offer of the narrow strip of land adjacent to the south side of Newnham Road led to an Option 3, slightly longer but less urban than the other options. The Parish Council supported Option 3 and organised a public consultation. The responses showed a majority in support of Option 3, but also concerns about urbanisation. The Borough Council has agreed to transfer the approved funding to the 2011 / 2012 financial year and decision is expected in early Summer 2011.

Odiham Cottage Hospital

Hampshire HealthCare have given notice that they intend to withdraw nursing services from the 31st

July 2011. The Parish Council is supporting the campaign to maintain nursing care.

Clubroom

The planning application submitted in February 2010 for demolition and replacement was granted in April 2010. Applications were submitted to Veolia (Landfill Tax), Borough and County Councils for funding and have been granted. It is planned to complete the rebuilding and car parking facilities in 2011. Our thanks to the Clubroom Committee for all their efforts.

A Chairman and additional committee members are still urgently required.

Community Plan

The drafting of the plan has been delayed.

Villager

The 8 page format introduced in February 2010 has been well received. Our thanks to Sue Turner, the editor; Robin Howard, roving news gatherer / fund raiser and main distributor to the five villages; all the volunteer distributors and contributors.

General Parish Council Matters

Your six parish councillors, supported by our Clerk, met six times and organised the Parish Assembly in April 2010. As the Clubroom closed in Autumn 2010, two meetings were held in the Pavilion, Old Basing, and one in Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall.

Councillors have also attended meetings of the Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils, Country Watch, County Council Transport Panel, Natural Environment Forum, Chineham Incinerator Liaison Group, Hampshire Association of Local Councils and the Chairman continued as Chairman of the Sustainable Communities / Footprint Group of the Area Strategic Partnership.

We have responded to numerous consultation documents from, amongst others, the Borough and County Councils, South East and Thames Water and the Environment Agency. The main items being the Borough Council consultations on housing development.

The website continues to be an important communication channel to electors and we encourage residents to visit the site regularly.

A Welcome Pack is given to all newcomers and we ask neighbours to tell the Clerk when somebody new arrives.

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

the twice yearly litter picks in Newnham and all those who helped.

Highways

Although the speed limit in Newnham was reduced from 40 to 30 mph in November 2008, speeding in the village is still a concern. The trial with a Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) on Newnham Road in December 2009 resulted in only a small temporary reduction in speeds and was considered not to be cost effective. The mean speed on Newnham Road recorded continuously over 7 days in February 2011 was 33.6 mph, but 15% of the vehicles exceeded 39.6 mph and over 7% (about 160 vehicles per day) were doing between 41 and 51 mph. The Parish Council is working with Hampshire Constabulary on the recently announced Community SpeedWatch initiative.

The Parish Council continues to support the campaign to have the 50 mph speed limit extended down Scures Hill plus the introduction of a carriageway narrowing scheme that is consistent with the needs of residents.

Local Planning Applications

The Borough Council is the designated planning authority with the power to grant or reject planning applications. The Parish Council is a consultee with the choice of 'no objection'; 'no objection subject to conditions' or to 'object with reasons'.

We considered 18 applications, not including multiple applications for the same development, such as Listed Building Consent. We objected, on the grounds of over development of the site, to the proposed development at only one property in the parish. In addition, we objected to the proposed allotments in Up Nately because of the impact of increased traffic on residents of Blackstocks Lane and the lack of on-site parking.

The majority of applications were considered to be appropriate development of the property and 'no objection' returns were submitted. We also supported the Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust's application to enclose part of Hook Common.

Finance

The approved expenditure budget for 2010/11 was set in November 2009 at £6857, later increased by £2000 for the contribution from County Councillor Still towards a footpath on Newnham Road (returnable if not used for a footpath). Gross maintenance costs for the Green were budgeted at £820; £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. To cover the budgeted expenditure the precept was increased by £600 to £5,200, which represented less than 1.6% of the Council Tax.

Funds carried forward at 31st March 2011 are estimated at £4,866, excluding the £2,000 grant.

Provisional Accounts:

Item	Budget 2010/11	Actual 2010/11	Budget 2011/12
Salaries	1910	1933	1991
Training	150	53	150
Insurance	425	423	435
Audit Fees	175	160	165
Clubroom	600	600	600
Green	820	750	860
Villager	450	430	450
Donations*	967	967	967
Repairs	200	138	200
Subscriptions	340	240	265
Community Plan	150		150
CW / SOLVE			470
SLR Rental	420		
Expenses	250	241	250
Hire of Hall		132	128
Footpath	2000		2360
VAT	132	134	210
Expenditure	8989	6202	9651
Grant	1100	1100	1100
Precept	5200	5200	5200
BDBC cutting	290	290	290
NGPA	265	230	285
Bank Interest	0	3	
Pavement grant			
VAT Refund	113	113	134
Income	6968	6936	7009

* £450 Odiham Cottage Hospital; £450 St Michael's Hospice; £50 Hook & Newnham CC; £17 British Legion

Significant deviations from budget:

- Footpath expenditure of £2,000 plus £360 for legal fees deferred.
- £420 hire of SLR considered not cost effective.
- Total Green costs were £70 below budget due to lower than budgeted frequency of cutting / collection and verge strimming. Ditch clearance not required around the Green, but the pond on Tyne Lane cleared.
- Training and Community Plan both £150 below budget.
- Expenditure of £132 for meeting room hire following closure of the Clubroom.

The approved expenditure budget for 2011/12 was set at £9,561 including the £2,000 grant for the Newnham Road footpath. In view of the pressures on local government expenditure, the precept was maintained at £5,200. A grant of £450 towards possible legal costs to fight development in the Loddon Valley was included in expenditure.

Elections 2012

Parish Council elections will be held in Spring 2012. At least 4 of the current councillors will probably not be standing for election.

PLEASE CONSIDER STANDING FOR ELECTION.

RHB 25th March 2011

Parish Council March 2011

Clerk: Susan Turner 761606. **Chairman:** Roger Booth 762456. **Deputy:** Jeff Ford 762886.

Councillors: Sheyne Bauermeister 07525 749034; Nigel Bell 762104; Sue Mann 768560; Ian Riley 767084

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