



OXTED PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

March 2021

CHAIR'S REPORT 2020-21

I am pleased to report that your Parish Council have had a productive year working at the grass roots of the local community. We have maintained a full schedule of meetings online which any member of the public is welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The pandemic has caused many hardships. We have helped by:

- Providing COVID aid and grants to local organisations.
- At Christmas, providing food vouchers and hampers for some less well-off families and the elderly on their own.
- Getting the right support from various organisations for needy residents
- Reduced Parish Council funding requirements from Tandridge District Council by 10%

PROJECTS

We are currently working on the following initiatives to improve road safety and the town centre:

- Speed watch in Hurst Green
- Larger bins to stop the overflow problems.
- Station underpass ceiling repair
- Safety and look of the roundabout at Master Park
- Master Park funding towards the new pavilion which includes rooms for hire and a café

GOING FORWARD

In addition to community support and projects:

- We have funds available from the levy that St William had to give to TDC to build the town centre flats. This is known as CIL.
- We are supporting the re-opening of the Chichele footpaths right of way.
- We are keen to address some of the issues caused by the Chalkpit Quarry lorries.

Reg Hull
Chairman

Finance Report

Income this year was from the precept, Government COVID Grants, the burial ground, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The majority of CIL has come from the construction of the Courtyard Gardens development by St William on the former gas holder site. Maintenance of the burial ground and the Parish Council's other assets is a significant part of our expenditure. We continue to support local organisations and charities through Grant Aid, which we increased this year. In addition to the Government COVID Grants we received we added Parish Council funds, distributing this to organisations that are helping the local community during the pandemic.

We have allocated £90,000 of CIL money to the planned new pavilion for Master Park.

	Actual	
	&	
Income	Forecast	Budget
Precept & COVID Grants	58,000	55,500
Burial Ground	32,795	19,500
Interest	329	20
Total Income	91,124	75,020
Expenditure		
Administration	-26,707	-30,015
Burial Ground		
Maintenance	-34,260	-26,000
Grant Aid, COVID, Master		
Park	-14,200	-10,000
Special items &		
Maintenance	-2,500	-6,000
Election reserve	-3,000	-3,000
Total Expenditure	-80,667	-75,015
Community Infrastructure		
Levy	290,126	
CIL Allocated	90,000	

Peter Giles
Chairman - Finance Working Group

Do you enjoy walking?

Have a look at Walking in Surrey

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/surrey>

my website, which has hundreds of FREE walks to download and print plus details of all the walking clubs in the country and loads more information.

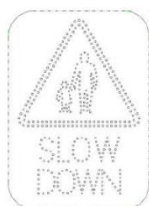


Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Funding for Local Projects - The Parish Council has available an amount of funds raised from the Community Infrastructure Levy to be used to support local projects of community benefit. The types of projects that the Council will consider for support with CIL funds included developments or improvements to 'community infrastructure' in the form of social, community and cultural facilities, sport, and recreation facilities, play spaces, parks and open spaces. Contact the Clerk at Oxted Parish Council for a proposal form on clerk@oxted-pc.org.uk

GRANT AID FUNDING - 2020

The Parish Council is delighted to have been able to provide grant aid funding to the following organisations:

St Mary's Church	£ 400.00
Citizens Advice Oxted & District	£ 750.00
St Catherine's Hospice	£ 800.00
Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield & District	£ 500.00
Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance	£ 250.00
The Woodhouse Centre	£1,100.00
Tandridge Voluntary Action	£ 550.00
Kings Church Oxted (£600, £100, £100, £100)	£ 900.00
Creative Community	£ 750.00



Vehicle Activated Sign - Wolfs Hill

Oxted Parish Council is delighted to be funding the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the bottom of Wolfs Hill. The sign has been requested by residents to assist in reducing the speed of vehicles on this road and therefore also helping to protect pedestrians. The sign will be installed in the next few months.

Your Fund Surrey £100m

The £100m Your Fund Surrey allocation is designed to help empower communities to deliver **big, place-changing** projects that local areas need and will improve opportunities and quality of life for residents.

Specifically the fund aims to empower communities by:-

- Connecting residents and community groups to build ideas.
- Stimulating local engagement and involvement
- Providing the financial backing for community-led projects
- Delivering benefits that match local need.
- Build local resilience and sustainability by helping people help themselves.

The theme is to THINK BIG.

Burial Committee Report

The members of OPC Burial ground committee have been encouraged by the number of visitors we see at the burial ground who compliment us on the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds. In addition to the work done by our groundsmen, Parish Councillors have regular working parties to pick up litter, remove dead flowers and maintain plots that are not visited.

Like everything else this year, we have had our trials and tribulations, but we have stayed focused and completed any outstanding projects and are now looking to make further improvements by extending the path to enable wheelchair users to access plots at the back and have purchased 2 extra green waste bins. We will also be removing all the overgrown shrubbery on the roundabout to replace with Lavenders to encourage bees.

Whilst leaving flowers at a graveside is a time honoured tradition, we ask that grave decorations should follow our guidelines as we are unable to guarantee their safekeeping, as we have sadly had reports of items such as lanterns going missing. We are pleased to let everyone know that the vehicle access gates at the entrance have been newly painted and refurbished and will now be closed from 3:30pm until 9am the following morning. However, visitors may still access on foot via the newly installed pedestrian gate situated along the path to the left of the main entrance.

Coping with the loss of someone you love is one of life's biggest challenges but OPC hope that we have provided a beautiful and peaceful resting place for loved ones no longer with us.

Denize Wallace - Chairman



Planning Committee Report

Oxted Parish Council (OPC) is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the Oxted parish area. The OPC Planning Committee of five Councillors meets every three weeks to review planning applications and to submit comments on these to Tandridge District Council, the local planning authority responsible for granting (or refusing) consent.

Despite the impact of the pandemic and restrictions over the past year, it is notable that there has been a sustained flow of new planning applications in the Oxted area. Over the period from June 2020 to January 2021 the Planning Committee reviewed over 130 planning applications. The majority of these were for residential property extensions or conversions of various kinds, reflecting continued widespread interest and activity among Oxted households in improving and enlarging their homes.

On another front, the Planning Committee has reviewed several applications for changes of property use in the town centre, typically from retail to a different use, which have raised some wider planning issues. Certain of these applications have fallen foul of the current local plan policy that at least 70% of retail frontages in all primary retail frontages in the town centre and 45% of secondary retail frontages must be maintained in retail (class A1) use. The objective to maintain a vibrant retail presence in the town centre is clear but retailing generally is undergoing major structural change with the shift to online sales, greatly accelerated in the pandemic. Property demand in town centres is being reshaped. Planning Committee Councillors have questioned whether rigid adherence to current rules on the proportion of retail frontages that must be in retail use will serve the town centre well or prove a recipe for more empty and unwanted shop units. The Committee's comments on certain applications for changes of use have reflected its view that more flexibility over property uses in the town centre could be desirable.

Peter Damesick - Chairman

YOUR OXTED PARISH COUNCILLORS

Oxted North

cldr.reg.hull@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.peter.giles@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.matt.sapsford@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.anne.rivers@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.denize.wallace@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.peter.damesick@oxted-pc.org.uk

Oxted South

cldr.liz.parker@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.katherine.saunders@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.debbie.shiner@oxted-pc.org.uk
cldr.alan.feeseey@oxted-pc.org.uk
[cldr Barbara Harling – 01883 723034](tel:01883723034)
[cldr Paul Whitehurst – 01883 717043](tel:01883717043)

Your District Councillors

Oxted North

cldr.catherine.sayer@tandridge.gov.uk
cldr.david.stamp@tandridge.gov.uk
cldr.jackie.wren@tandridge.gov.uk

Oxted South

cldr.elizabeth.parker@tandridge.gov.uk
cldr.chris.langton@tandridge.gov.uk
cldr.lynn.mills@tandridge.gov.uk

Your County Councillor

cameron.mcintosh@surreycc.gov.uk

Your MP

claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk



MASTER PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Review for the Year 2020

On behalf of the Master Park Trustees, and before mentioning anything else, I would like to say how:

- *Happy*
- *Grateful*
- *Appreciative*

we are with the incredibly generous CIL donation that Oxted Parish Councillors awarded to the Park for the building of a new pavilion for the community.

This £90,000 was the first donation we received and was so important for many reasons, not least for putting us in a position to encourage others to donate (including Tandridge District Council).

Because of OPC and TDC we are now looked at with credibility and confidence from other bodies and we can't thank you enough for "*starting the ball rolling!*"

Our New Pavilion: The current building is unfit for purpose to meet the demands of both the community and sports clubs combined and so, with this in mind we have designed a multi-use facility.

We have created a café within the new design which will be the main Hub of the Park and will be used by Pavilion users as well as the general public visiting the Park.

We also have designed disabled and able bodied public toilets (with baby-changing facilities) and all areas will be wheelchair accessible.

The new building will have space for lettings, such as Yoga, Pilates, Bridge Art Classes, Book Clubs etc. and rooms for Meetings and Gatherings this is in addition to meeting the sporting requirements for the Football and Cricket Clubs.

We still have close to £1½ million to raise, which is a daunting prospect, but we feel it will be well supported by the Local Community as well as Local Businesses and large benevolent corporations.

What has become *glaringly apparent* in the difficult year of 2020 (and continuing to be difficult in 2021) is just what a **VITAL ROLE** the Park has played for peoples' health whether it be physical, mental, spiritual or emotional and how *lucky* we ALL are to have this beautiful green space in the *Heart of the Community* this is, surely, something that is worth working hard for!

Pammy McNaughton
Chairman, Master Park

Oxted United Charities 2019/2020

Registered No: 200056

The Charity provides help to the poor, sick and elderly in the Ancient Parish of Oxted, that is Oxted and Hurst Green. Our main source of income is the Henry Smith Charity, although small amounts are received from a number of other charities.

Throughout the past year we have continued to assist the poor, sick and elderly in the Parish by making grants to individuals and families and issuing vouchers for goods.

We commenced the year with a cash balance of £6629.95. As at the date of this report we have received income of £5413 62 and made payments of £4625.98, the account balance at 5.2.2021 being therefore £7417.59. By our financial end-of-year (28.2 2021) we expect further income of £103.48 and we may have further expenditure. We issued 34 Christmas Vouchers to people in Oxted and Hurst Green, and to-date, have helped 8 families in need, and purchased a laptop computer for Hurst Green School in order to assist disadvantaged children.

This has been a particularly difficult year. In April we had to temporarily suspend operations due to the pandemic and the fact that not only are all the trustees over 70 but several have had to shield. We recommenced operation in late July and, although communication and administration have presented difficulties, we have been able to give a number of grants whilst observing all regulations and have also been able to make use of Zoom in this regard. We are currently applying for online banking facilities which will considerably assist administration, particularly with payments and account balances.

The Chairman and the Clerk would like to thank their fellow Trustees for all their hard work during the year. Additionally, we thank the retail outlets in Oxted and Hurst Green for their courtesy in accepting our vouchers and dealing with them so efficiently. Donations and bequests to the Charity are always gratefully received.

Trustees: The Rev'd Prof. Mary Seller – Chair (715675)
Mrs Margaret Bamford (714852),
Mrs Barbara Harling (723034)
Mrs Sheila Steele (712527)
Mrs Tricia Whyte (370204)
Mr Chris Berry - Clerk (818549)

Contact Oxted Parish Council via phone on 07510 226989 or email at clerk@oxted-pc.org.uk

All meeting dates are on the Parish website although are, currently, being held virtually via Teams.

Keep in touch via the Parish Facebook page or via the website on www.oxted-pc.org.uk