

## Business As Usual

On top of all the special projects, the parish council continues to maintain street lighting and street furniture; care for 3 play areas and the recreation ground; operate and maintain the sports pavilion; produce PPP and communicate with you via our notice-boards, web site, Facebook pages or Twitter account; offer allotments for tenancy; clean litter and dog refuse; maintain trees and hedgerows; maintain Pitstone Hill car park; run the youth café and liaise with other partners to work on joint initiatives such as footpaths and cycleways.



Herts County Council assessed three possible options for the foot/cycle path along Northfield Road to Tring station. The off-road link, formalising the existing footpath track, has been determined the preferred route. However, this is a complex option requiring land purchase and hedge removal. They have categorised the project as having a 3-5 year timescale.

Work continues with Marsworth Parish Council and the Local Area Forum to scope and formalise plans for a foot/cycle path between the two villages. A financial contribution has been set aside and we hope to see some progress on this project within the next financial year.

The youth café has been open for its first full year of operation. This has been a great success and attracts between 30-50 young people each week. We have also seen a marked reduction in anti-social behaviour in the village as a result. Our thanks to our partners, AVYFC, and all our volunteers as the café couldn't operate or offer such wonderful workshops & experiences without them.



## Westfield Road

The parish council has reserved funds to install two bus shelters at the new stops along Westfield Road, and also extend the mVAS service to this location. However Taylor Wimpey (as the current landowner) is currently withholding permission for these facilities until the road is adopted by Bucks County Council, which can't occur until the roads have been brought up to adoptable standard and maintained as such for a period of 12 months.

## Charities

The council acts as trustees for the Recreation Ground charity and the Pitstone Parish Charity. Neither of these charities hold any finances or generate any income at present. Annual reports are available on the web site.

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# 2012-13 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

The parish council froze their element of the council tax for both 2012/13 and 2013/14 at £61.39 per Band D property (approx. 18p per day). This is the 4th year with no increase. We are also pleased that in January the council became eligible to use the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011, providing more flexibility for us to help our residents.

## Financial Position

	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£98,430	£97,777	£128,732	+29%	+32%
Expenditure	£93,001	£161,437	£99,627	+7%	-38%

At the close of the year the council holds £160,169. £106,662 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £53,506 of retained reserve. The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts.

## Thank You

The council would like to thank all the organisations that have supported us with grants or donations during the financial year including: £24,000 grant from Community Chest towards the skate park, £2,550 Community Leaders Grant towards the play space and skate park; £2,000 grant from Local Area Forum towards the skate park, £500 grant from Ivinghoe Entertainments to the skate park users group for skate park floodlights; £200 corporate sponsorship towards the skate park and £895 of various donations and grants towards the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

We would also like to thank the army of volunteers that helped during the year at the Jubilee Party, by planting daffodil bulbs, helping at the youth café or being part of the leisure development & Pitstone Development Area working parties. You have all done an amazing job! The council is very grateful for your expertise, devotion and support.

## Grants to Community Groups



During the course of each year, the council awarded grants to a number of local groups including: £3,750 start up grant to Beacon Villages Community Library, £3,000 to Pitstone Memorial Hall, £1,000 to Party in the Park, £1,000 to the I&PUCC, £500 start up grant to Pitstone Community Cinema and £166 start up grant to the Silver Surfers Club & £60 to I&P Scouts. If your organisation would like to apply for a grant, please contact the clerk.

**Key Projects this Year**

The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations were a great success, despite the weather, and raised thousands of pounds for the local charities that supported these events.



The parish council has been working with AVDC, the private landowner, Pitstone Parish Charity, the Charity Commission, the Secretary of State and a Town Planner to secure a favourable redevelopment of the Pitstone Development Area outlined in the Pitstone Comprehensive Plan of 2005. A Development Brief is almost finalised which will act as a guideline to potential developers. It is anticipated that this land will be brought to market in the summer/autumn of 2013.



An indicative layout is shown to the left. The proposals extend the leisure facilities in the village to include a challenging and modern play space, a sprayed concrete skate park, a multi-use ball games court, shaded picnic areas (possibly with some fruit trees and sensual planting), foot and cycle path access and additional facilities at Pitstone Memorial Hall.

The brief still welcomes a Public House etc should the developer identify partners that would find such opportunities viable.

We hope to deliver the leisure and community facilities ahead of the residential properties.

The design for the new play space has been identified following a rigorous public procurement and consultation exercise. Views were sought from children of all ages including those attending the toddler group, pre-school, Sure Start Centre, Brookmead and the Youth Café, as well as views from parents. The play space will be jointly funded by the parish council, S106 funds from Taylor Wimpey and a number of grants. Work continues to obtain the necessary RoSPA and planning application approvals with an anticipated installation date in September 2013.



AVDC has been commissioned to procure a spray-concrete skate park for Pitstone following complications with the initial tendering. Installation is anticipated in March 2014 after completion of the play space. The multi-use ball games court and picnic areas will hopefully follow later in 2014/2015 but are dependant upon the sale of the Pitstone Development Area land.



Mobile Vehicle Activated Equipment has been purchased to help slow traffic through the village. Once the ground-screws have been installed into their locations along Cheddington Road, Vicarage Road and Marsworth Road, the scheme will get started. The sign will rotate around each of these three approach roads, spending one month in each location.

4,500 daffodil bulbs were planted along the grass verge in Marsworth Road. Now spring has arrived we are treated to a stunning display sure to soar your spirits. Our thanks to Bucks County Council for granting permission and to all the planting volunteers including the Beavers, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for helping create this wonderful legacy.

