

IT'S ALL IN THE PLANNING

Marge Harvey updates us on what she's been doing recently:

Fellow residents and friends,
It hardly seems possible that six months have passed since you selected me as you District Councillor. How time flies when you're enjoying yourself!! Seriously though, it has been a very busy time for me.

The New year started with a phone call very early on New Year's day to tell me that the Kings Stone had been vandalised yet again. I felt very sad that this had happened after all the hard work that had gone into repairing and rededicating it after the last time it was vandalised. It soon became apparent that the money to repair it yet again was not available and that we would have to try to find another way of funding the repair. I have now secured some money from the Area South Community fund and hopefully this will pay for the repair. We still will need extra money so that we can protect the Stone in the future, because we cannot keep procuring money for the same project. Hopefully when this has been finalised we will not have to.

Planning has taken up a great deal of my time, with site visits and training to help me understand the finer points to ensure that I can do my very best to protect the village. We all must band together to protect our village from Mr Prescott's crazy ideas. The way to do this is that whenever there are plans to develop, we must be sure that it is in the interest of the village. By that, I mean that if the project adversely affects the balance of the village with overdevelopment or will ruin the harmony, in your opinion, then you must be prepared to stand up and say so. Later in the year we will be having a hearing in the Parish Hall about the development in Bowes Hill and hopefully, as many people will attend and have their say. Please do not feel that if you don't live on Bowes Hill that it doesn't affect you because any development will eventually affect you in one way or another. Rowlands Castle will be targeted for development because in the opinion of the powers that be we are able to sustain it. PLEASE BE VIGILANT AND WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD ABOUT PLANNING.

We are still awaiting the inspectors report to be published about the reserve site at The Deerleap and I was involved at many meetings with Planning development to get the best possible outcome for the village. In my opinion, it should not be developed and I have argued on many fronts against it and hopefully we will win. Uplands Road is also being looked at by the Housing Association for the development of the car parking area. This is not yet an application and you can be sure that I will do my very best to represent the residents of Uplands Road, to get the very best outcome for them when, and if it is brought to application stage. I am sure that you all will have heard the rumours about the Police changing their

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY Cllr Eunice Byrom

Eunice gives us her regular updates on what's happening over at Hampshire County Council HQ:

"Spring at last! I thought it had come in February when the snowdrops grew tall stalks and first a camellia, then the azalea and early daffodils burst into bloom, followed by the plum blossom in delicate array. They always take me by surprise, but not as much as the snow did! It just seemed to keep coming, yet it never really lay so I suppose we were lucky, despite the biting cold. Hope it's a distant memory by the time you read this, and the real spring is filling our senses with the delight of rediscovery.

Live artists:

I hope you have enjoyed the entertainment obtained by the Parish Hall Management Committee from Hog the Limelight, organised by the County Recreation and Heritage Department to bring live entertainment to villages. The last evening was, in my opinion, the best so far. It's one of my favourite County PRC's (committees), as it deals with country parks, libraries and leisure opportunities.

Village School:

I recently joined St John's School Governors as I couldn't find anyone to do it who lives in the village. It does seem sad that we cannot find more volunteers from the village to do this interesting and worthwhile job. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have served our children and their school so well over the years. We've always been such a committed community. We currently need another governor too and I hope we don't have to go outside the village to find one. Give me or Chris a ring if you're interested and would like to know more.

Village Policing:

Hurrah for getting a village policeman who walks round the village! Police are also training community support officers as safety is a key aim of the Police Reform White 'Building Communities Beating Crime'. Having our own village policeman however is very reassuring, especially when he's as good as PC Brian Heslin.

The South Downs National Park Inquiry:

This finished on March 18th except for the Inspector's report which is due to go to the Secretary of State in January 2006 with his decision possibly taking another year! It's amazing to think that a year ago I was dashing around The Holt, Havant Thicket, the