

Shalfleet Parish Council News

By John Whitney-Clerk to the Council

In October the Parish Council circulated a questionnaire to all electoral households in the Civil Parish which has produced some interesting and useful results. The Council is grateful for the assistance received from electors. Over 90% of replies received were in favour of better access to rural services and a similar statistic applied for the provision of a formal Community Outreach Centre and Parish Council Office. A number of people were concerned that the cost of such items might be borne by a rise in the precept, on this point I am able to advise the precept is mainly used for the general administration of the Council's function and not normally used to fund large capital projects such as a community center. These are funded by grants, donations, and partnership arrangements with service providers such as the IWC, Police, Charities etc. Of course there will always be exceptions but these would be widely debated and promulgated.

One concern, arising from the questionnaire were the number of people saying they were not aware what local services Shalfleet Parish Council provides, so I will try to list some here. The Council owns and manages two recreation grounds and childrens play equipment at Newbridge and Bouldnor, additionally grass cutting and management services at Bouldnor, Newbridge, Shalfleet Withyfield, and Ningwood recycling Centre, all owned by the Council. Also it assists in the grounds care of other areas that include Wellow Millennium Green and St Michaels Church graveyard. Other services include the provision and maintenance of public seats throughout the Parish, the recycling Centre at Ningwood and provision of some waste bins and dog waste bins. The Council meets once a month (excl August) to consider matters of local concern, representing the interests of local electors as a consultee of the Planning Authority regarding all planning applications throughout the Parish. The Isle of Wight was the first County to change to the Unitary system of local government and with this change has come a greater role for Parish & Town Councils at grass roots level representing local people and being a channel of communication with the Principal Council. All Parish Council meetings are open to the press & public, minutes when confirmed, are posted on the Council's website www.shalfleetiow.org.uk where meeting dates and venues for 2009 will be listed.. Contact details for Councillors and the Clerk are also on the website **and** published monthly in the *Village News* magazine. Christmas will soon be upon us and as usual the Parish Council will be singing carols in aid of IOW Hospice funds. Dates, times and venues are as follows; 19th December 2008 Horse & Groom PH at Ningwood 7-30pm and 20th December 2008 at the New Inn PH at Shalfleet 7-30pm. All are welcome to join us and help a worthy cause. **The Council wishes all readers a Happy Christmas.**

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