

**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Annual Parish Meeting 2015

Chairman's Report

THE LAST YEAR

Introduction to current Councillors.

Cllrs. Angela Mayne, Valerie Porritt, Ann Elliott, Ian Lamberton, John Scholtens, Russell Margerrison, John Gilbey
Clerk to the Council Karen Francis

Neighbourhood Plan

See back page of this document for a time line of its development since the last Annual Parish Meeting together with the map showing the allocated sites and the settlement boundary.

Planning Applications

AVDC have changed their procedures in order to reduce costs and so we are no longer provided with paper copies of planning applications unless it is an application for a development of 10 or more houses. We now have to consider all applications using the internet but the system provided is still not working as promised and we do not get our problems answered and resolved.

We have considered 38 Planning Applications in the last year as follows:

No Objection	32	AVDC Decision	25 Approved	4 Refused	1 Other	2 Pending
Objection	7	AVDC Decision	1 Approved	3 Refused	3 Pending	

Horwode Pece Recreation Area

The Parish Council have once again supported Horwode Pece with a contribution of approximately £3500 towards its operational costs. The major addition in the last year has been the teenage shelter. It was successful in getting a grant from Community Chest of £900 towards the total cost of nearly £2900, the rest of which also came from the Parish Council funds.

Donations to local organisations

Also during the last year we have made donations of £250 to the following village and local organisations: Village Hall, Great Horwood and Singleborough Youth Club, Winslow and District Community Bus, Focus, Great Horwood Silver Band, St James PCC, Medical Detection Dogs.

Footpaths

Robert Deuchar has continued to do a magnificent job in maintaining all the village footpaths and the bridleway and keeps the Parish Council fully informed with a monthly report.

Defibrillator

As I am sure you have already seen we have now installed a defibrillator on the front wall of the village hall. The total cost of just over £1800 was funded by the Parish Council together with a donation of £360 from County Cllr. John Chilver.

Winslow Police Office

As you may have read Thames Valley Police suddenly announced, without any consultation, that it would close the police office in Winslow. Winslow Town Council took up the case and offered to provide funding to cover the cost of running the office which is actually manned by volunteers. We have offered to assist the funding with a donation of up to £1000.

Gypsy Site in Nash Road

On 26th November Cllr. Scholtens and myself along with representatives from Nash Parish Council met with the leader of AVDC and many senior officers to discuss the likely outcome of the review of the temporary planning consent for the Gypsy Site in Nash Road when it expires in November 2015. It was clear at the meeting that AVDC expected that the site would be given further temporary consent or maybe even made permanent. It remains to be seen whether the recent tragic event which has apparently occurred on the site will affect the outcome of the review.

Representation on external bodies

During the last year the council has continued to be represented at the following:

BCC Winslow and District Local Area Forum
Winslow Neighbourhood Action Group meetings
North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium
Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils.
Great Horwood Village Hall Committee
Poors Allotment Charity
Horwode Pece Trustees and Management Committee.
AVDC Local Planning Liaison Group.

THE LAST 4 YEARS

Some of the projects and improvements made over the 4 year term of the Parish Council.

Installation of 8 salt/grit bins

2 additional dog bins installed and maintained.

Replaced the old Bus Shelter in Little Horwood Road near The Green and installed an additional one in Little Horwood Road near Townsend Cottages.

The very successful Diamond Jubilee celebrations (largely funded by the Lord of the Manor)

Registration of The Green and the Cricket Field in the ownership of the Parish Council.

Refurbished the Sun Dial which used to stand on The Green and gifted it to the school

Extension of the footway at the top of Nash Road.

Improvements to The Green – paved footpath and wooden bollards.

Contributed to AVDC's project to review and extend the 2 Conservation Areas in the parish.

Installation and operation of the MVAS with 4 locations at the main routes into the village.

5 Planters installed and maintained at all the main entrances to the village.

Installation of 6 metal gates on footpath 9. (Jointly funded by BCC and the Lord of the Manor)

Give Way signs in Singleborough Lane at the junction with Pilch Lane.

Many of these projects were assisted by obtaining grants through the Bucks. County Council Winslow and District Local Area Forum delegated budget. In particular these have included part funding of the MVAS installation, the grit bins, one of the bus shelters, the footway in Nash Road, the pods and beams installed in Horwode Pece and an annual contribution towards the cost of operation of the Great Horwood and Singleborough Youth Club. In total these grants have been worth several thousand pounds over the period.

THE NEXT 4 YEARS

Bucks County Council have advised that over the last 4 years the grant that it receives from Central Government has been reduced by 40% with an additional budget cut of 21% for the current financial year 2015/16.

AVDC's net budget for 2015/16 will be £15.7 million which is down from £20.7 million for 2010/11 and it has stated that if the Government Grant is removed completely by 2020 it will need to find another £7 million.

We have already seen some minor examples of the ways that these cuts of government grant to both Bucks CC and AVDC have affected the services that they are able to provide.

e.g. AVDC now charge for the provision of the village freighter service and for Play Around the Parishes and after much discussion the Parish Council has decided not to subsidise these events in the current year due to lack of support in previous years.

Bucks CC have already stopped providing funding for Youth Clubs and the Winslow Library was only saved from closure by agreement to run it with a team of volunteers. It has also tried to devolve the service of providing grass cutting, hedge trimming etc. within the village speed limit boundaries and has already cut down the frequency with which it carries out these services with the plan to reduce it still further in the coming years.

Thames Valley Police have also suffered cut backs in its funding and has proposed to close the Winslow office. The only way that this will be kept open is if it is paid for by funding from the local town and parish councils in the area.

So in the next 4 years we will need to decide which services the parish wish to retain and how much it is prepared to pay to continue to provide services that are valued by the community and which services can continue to be provided by volunteers acting on behalf of the community.

We will also need to work with AVDC and the landowners to see the successful implementation of the developments agreed as part of our Neighbourhood Plan. We must also continue to state our case against Great Horwood being classified as a large village as AVDC continue to develop the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.

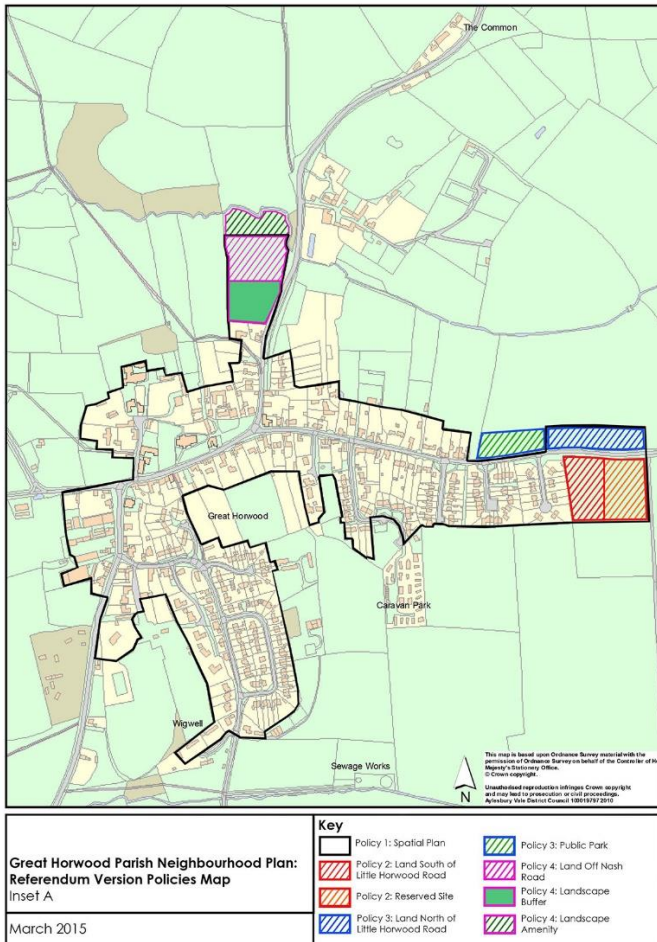
We will also continue with the use of the MVAS's to try to exercise some form of control over traffic speeding through the village.

John Gilbey

Chairman - Great Horwood Parish Council

April 13th 2015

Time Line for the preparation of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan 2014/15



The Pre-submission version of the plan was approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 14th April 2014 and was available for public consultation from Monday 28th April to Monday 9th June 2014. At its meeting on 14th July the Parish Council approved the plan for submission to AVDC. The plan was then made available by AVDC for comment from Monday 21st July until Monday 8th September 2014. The hearing by the Independent Examiner Julian Jackson took place in the Village Hall on 27th November 2014. The examiner published his report in the first week of January. The referendum on the plan took place on Thursday 5th March 2015 with the following result: There were 815 residents of the parish entitled to vote and 491 did so with 87 using a postal vote. There were 447 votes cast in favour of the plan with 44 voting against. This meant that 91% of those voting were in favour with 9% against. The turnout of 60.2% was the highest of any of the 60 Neighbourhood Plan referenda that have so far taken place in the whole of England. Also with 447 votes being cast in favour it meant that an absolute majority of those entitled to vote had voted in favour. The plan was made by AVDC on 16th March 2015 and now forms an integral part of the development plan for the district.