



IVER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009



Iver Parish which comprises the areas of Iver, Richings Park, Iver Heath and Iver West has a population of about 10,000 people which is about one sixth of the population of the district of South Bucks.

THE COUNCIL comprises: 14 Councillors (6 for Iver Heath, 1 for Iver West, 7 for Iver and Richings Park); a full time Clerk; 2 part time administrators (40 hours total); Maintenance team – two full time; funding for a full time youth worker; 50% funding for a PCSO; we service Dorney Parish Council (for a fee) and rent the Parish Council office in Chequers Orchard. The Council holds 10 full Council meetings a year and has 4 Committees (3 meet 5 times p.a and one meets every 3 weeks). 1 sub committee (Human Resources) and 4 working groups.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008-09

The Parish Council welcomed two part time members of office staff this year; Amanda Riley and Angela Fisher. There is also a part time highways worker, Nick Fisher, who undertakes the highways work that has been devolved to the Parish Council from Bucks County Council. This is a one year trial in which the Parish Council will undertake minor highways works such as removing flyposting, cleaning signs, trimming foliage and reporting major works required to the County Council. In February the Parish Council office moved from the police station into the house nearby, which used to be a police house. The police have moved out of the police station temporarily whilst it is refurbished so that it can accommodate more police officers. The chairman thanked the team at the office for their work in moving to the new premises at 63 Chequers Orchard.

WHAT DO WE DO?

FACILITIES/AMENITIES

Iver Recreation Ground – now that the development of the old Lea Barton site is substantially complete the residents will benefit from additional and improved parking on the site. The new childrens playground is proving to be very popular with a wide range of activities. Additional playground equipment is to be installed shortly from a grant from the District Council. The Council agreed a budget of £250,000 to meet a proportion of the costs of a new pavilion and it is hoped that this together with a grant from the Football Foundation will result in this project going ahead.

Iver Heath Recreation Ground – improvements have been made to the CCTV equipment on the site and this should result in better coverage as well as better images which will be helpful to the police if there are incidents on the site. The concrete bollards around the tennis court fence have at last been provided by Bisons and prevent damage to the fence from vehicles. The pavilion is used regularly by our youth worker Sally Vigers who meets up with the young people of Iver Heath there every Tuesday evening.

Iver Heath Fields – we remain grateful to the Friends of Iver Heath Fields for their work in looking after these four fields, 41 acres in total. We were sad to hear of the death of Simon Hill who had been a great supporter of the fields and done so much good work there.

Allotments – the allotments at both Iver and Iver Heath are well used and there seems to be a renewed interest in allotment holding – possibly due to the economic situation. There are still allotments available at a modest annual cost.

Millennium Nature Reserve - The work on the Millennium Nature Reserve at Hardings Row (off Swallow Street) continues, being undertaken by the Groundwork Trust under the guidance of the Parish Council which owns the land. Now that the grazing land lease has ended it is intended to put together a plan for the use of the whole area as a nature reserve. This Nature reserve is well worth a visit, preferably on foot, and it will be a useful educational resource to be used by schools and other groups.

Bus Shelters – no new bus shelters have been provided this year but we did solve a problem for residents of Swallow Street by removing the side of the shelter thus deterring youths from congregating in it.

Christmas lights – there was a significantly bigger ceremony this year which was in both Iver Village Hall and the Kings Church hall.

Summer Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets placed around the parish over the summer have again brightened up the shopping areas.

Carnival

Unfortunately the 2008 Carnival had to be cancelled due to heavy rain in the weeks before the event which left the three main location waterlogged and unusable for the event. We have rearranged the carnival for September 12th this year.

PLANNING

Pinewood - Peace Road

The new path through the south of Pinewood Studios land from Pinewood Road into Black Park allowing residents to walk rather than drive to Black Park has proved to be a most popular route into the park and is used by more and more residents on foot or by bike.

Project Pinewood – the proposed plan of Pinewood to use Green Belt Land adjacent to Pinewood Green as a living filming residential site has been one of the most controversial matters of the last year. The Parish Council called a public meeting and the mood of the meeting was almost unanimously against the project. Planning permission has not to date been applied for but is expected to be requested shortly. The Parish Council has made its objections to the plan clear to residents but it awaits the proposal before taking matters further.

Crossrail Plans

Plans for Crossrail have been approved and we will lose dog kennel bridge. Negotiations are to take place to provide an alternative footpath.

3rd Runway at Heathrow – the controversial proposals for a third runway at Heathrow were approved by the Government this year. This development will be devastating to Richings Park in particular and to Iver generally; added to by the possibility of a major rail hub between Richings Park and West Drayton.

HIGHWAYS & PARTNERSHIPS

Thornbridge road improvements – the much needed improvement to the parking around the shops in Thornbridge Road has now been completed with the majority of funding coming from the District Council but with contributions from the Parish Council and the County Council. Parking restrictions are expected to come after public consultation.

Richings Park – residents in Richings Park are using a speed indicator device to try to reduce speeding traffic in North Park.

Street lighting – vandalism of whole lights and covers and bulbs has increased this year at significant cost to the Council as the cost of insurance was prohibitive. A knock down or breaking of a light costs £800 each time.

Church Road – following a petition from residents supported by the Parish Council the County Council are about to install a new crossing in Church Road Iver Heath to allow for people to cross from the Parkway to reach the schools and library.

Devolved Highways work – by agreement with the County Council the Parish is now taking on work on local highways previously the responsibility of the County. This is paid for by the County out of their budget for this work amounting to £15,000 per year. Taking on this devolved responsibility has enabled problems to be dealt with more expeditiously.

SECURITY

Iver Heath Village Hall Site Security

Your Parish Council provided a grant of £5,000 to a project to improve security and lighting at the site of Iver Heath Village Hall where there was a problem of vandalism and disruption to activities in the hall. This project is now complete and appears, after a few immediate problems, to be successful in reducing incidents of vandalism at the site.

WEB SITE

The improved Parish Council website provides much information about the parish and the activities of the council. It also has the facility for organisations to advertise their events on the social calendar. www.iverparishcouncil.gov.uk

The chairman expresses his thanks to – the Clerk Glenda Collins, the office staff and the maintenance and highways team. Also Sally Vigers, the youth worker, the Vice Chairman Jeanette Watkins, Chairmen of Committees, Malcolm Bradford, Sylvia Lidgate and Ruth Vigor-Hedderly. All our Councillors: Derek Adlam, Damon Clark, Carol Gibson, Ravi Gidar, Pat Leech, Bill Lidgate, Claire Mowat, Alan Oxley and Pat Roberts and to partners of Councillors who let them out to attend meetings. Thanks also to those District Councillors who have attended to give us information and County Councillors who get our voice heard in Aylesbury. Thank you to the volunteer helpers at the office, working group helpers, the Police and PCSOs and Iver Educational Trust who we work with on Youth services.

HOW IS IT PAID FOR

How the Parish Council spent its money 2008/2009

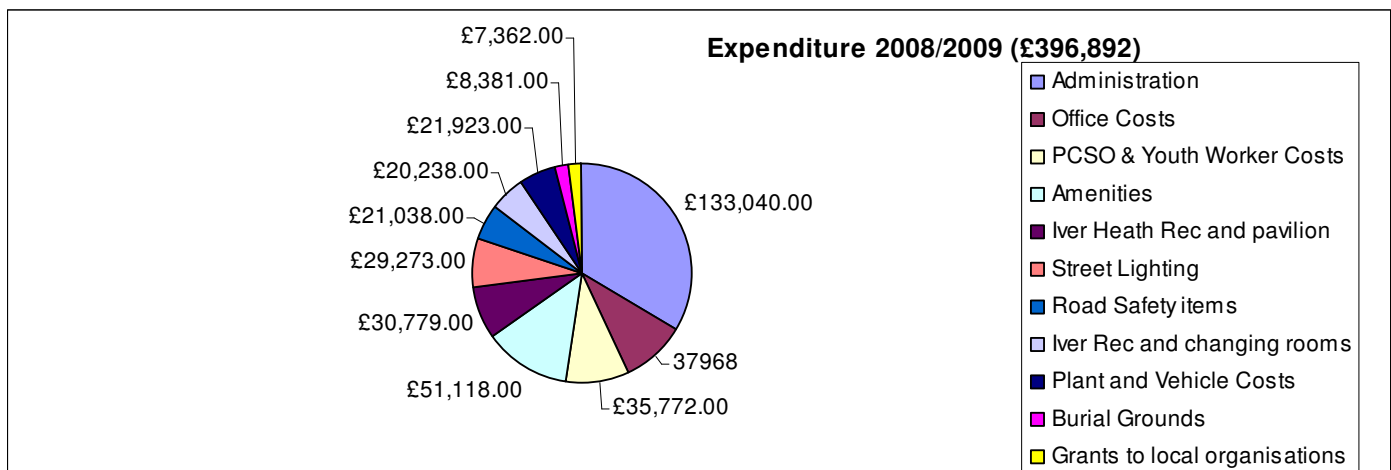
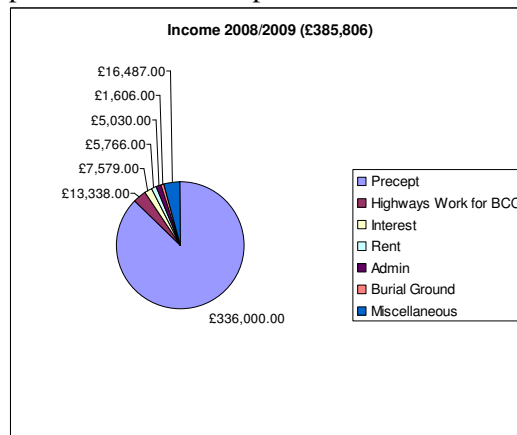
Total expenditure for 2008/2009 = £396,893

Precept (Council tax) income = £336,000

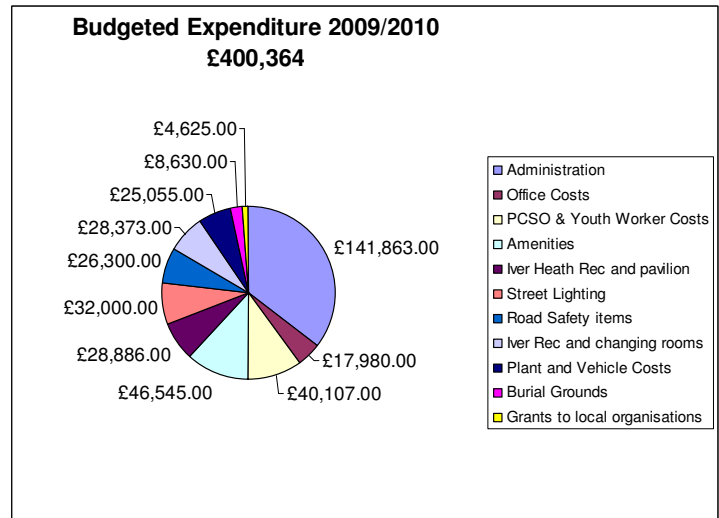
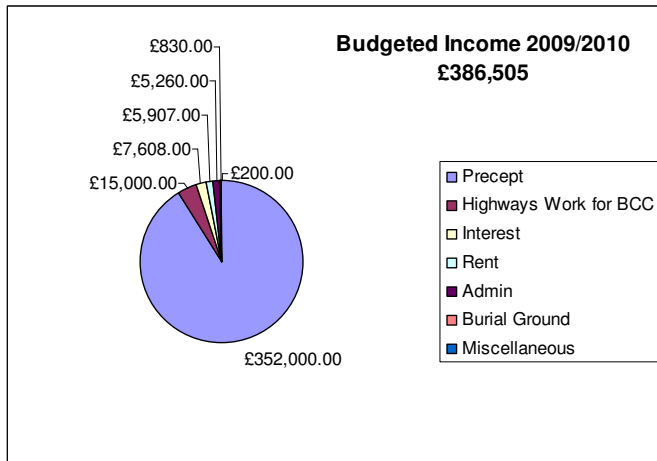
Other income £49,805

Budget 2009-09 The Council performed substantially in line with budget

Budget 2009-10 £400,364 net expenditure Precept £352,000



The expenditure budgeted for this year covers the one off costs of moving the office due to the police wishing to occupy the whole of the police station; there will also be ongoing costs of occupation of the new office due to having to meet the costs of fuel, cleaning etc not previously incurred. The Council also aims to improve the appearance of the areas owned by the parish council or looked after by it. It will seek to forge relationships with young people and find out how to work with them to reduce antisocial behaviour and vandalism. Amongst other costs, the expenditure pays for half the cost of an extra Police Community Support Officer, which the Council considers to be an effective presence on our streets. The Parish Council pays Iver Educational Trust the cost of a full time youth worker who has been very effective over the last year in reducing the vandalism suffered in the past. It also pays for a maintenance team who look after the recreation grounds, all other property we own or manage and their role helps to improve the parish appearance and also saves on work by contractors, as our team undertake nearly all of the work on parish council property.



Parish Councillors elected 3rd May 2007

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Julian Wilson Chairman Iver Parish Council