



IVER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009 – 2010



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: The council is comprised of 14 councillors, 6 from Iver Heath, 1 from Iver West, 7 from Iver and Richings Park. The council has a full time Clerk and two part time assistant clerks, a maintenance team of two full time maintenance employees and one new part time employee undertaking highways work funded by the County Council. Our clerk is also the clerk to Dorney Parish Council for which we charge them a fee. We moved into a new Parish office at 63 Chequers Orchard, Iver last year. We have 10 full Parish Council meetings a year. In addition we have 4 Committees covering Policy, Amenities and Highways and Partnerships which meet 6 times a year and Planning which meets every three weeks. We also have 1 sub committee and 5 working groups.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009-10

The Council has recently taken a lease from the District Council to take over a piece of Green Belt land in Swan Road, Iver. There will be some cost in securing the land and it will be managed by the Council with a view to it being used either for leisure activities or later as a new burial ground. The Council also aims to improve the appearance of the areas owned by the parish council or looked after by it, forge relationships with young people and find out how to work with them to reduce antisocial behaviour and vandalism. To do all this, the Council pays half the cost of an extra Police Community Support Officer on our streets and, with Iver Educational Trust, pays for a full time youth worker who has been very effective over the last two years. The Maintenance team undertake all parish council work except for St Peter's churchyard and burial ground.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Policy

Parish Guide

The Council produced a new Parish Guide this year which will be a source of information for the two years until 2011.

Paid Councillors

Your Parish Councillors decided unanimously that they would not vote in favour of payment for councillors.

Thorney Park

The Parish Council has advised the County Council that if the County is unwilling to run the park the Parish Council would take it over and run it if the County transferred it without cost to the Parish.

Local Area Forums

In July the Parish Council voted that it would not take part in an Iver and Wexham Local Area Forum (LAF) along with most other members of the South Bucks Association of Local Councils. Despite that the Iver and Wexham LAF was formed under the chairmanship of the County Councillor. A further vote taken in February decided by 8 votes for and 4 against to take part in the Iver and Wexham LAF.

Amenities

Iver Recreation Ground

The development work by Keble Homes has been completed and residents and users of the recreation ground will benefit from additional and improved parking on the site. The children's playground is 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 has planning permission to erect a new pavilion on the recreation ground and it is hoped that 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 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. In the year the Council and IDCA placed a plaque, a Servis tree and a seat in memory 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.

Christmas lights

The turning on of the Christmas lights in late November was very well attended and took place in Iver Village Hall and the Kings Church hall. The Council took the opportunity to consult with the public on the plans for a new pavilion on Iver Recreation Ground and the response was largely positive.

Summer Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets placed around the parish over the summer have again brightened up the shopping areas in all parts of the parish. Last years displays were even better than previous years. The funding of the Christmas lights and the hanging baskets comes from the invested reserves of the Council. Unfortunately in the last year there has been very little interest accrued to put toward those two initiatives and if things do not improve this may not be feasible this year.

BMX Track

The Council was approached during the year by a group which was involved with BMX Bike riding at a very high level. Discussions have continued with a view to establishing a BMX track in the Iver Recreation Ground and it is hoped that this project will be completed in the next year.

Planning

Project Pinewood – the proposed plan of Pinewood Studios to use Green Belt Land adjacent to Pinewood Green as a living filming residential site has been rejected by South Bucks District Council Planning Committee on the grounds that it is on Green Belt land and in Colne Valley Park. 400 people turned up for the hearing. The Parish Council objections to the plan were put forward by Julian Wilson. Mitchell Gears from Fulmer put forward arguments relating to Pinewood's finances. The District Council anticipates that there will be an appeal by Pinewood Studios. A resident has applied for part of the land to be designated as a Village Green. This will no doubt delay the plans.

Pinewood - Peace Road

The Chairman had been informed by Pinewood Studios that the gateway to the path through the south of Pinewood Studios land from Pinewood Road into Black Park has been amended so that it can now be used by people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters. This is a welcome change brought about by discussion with Pinewood Studios. This path has proved to be a most popular route and is used by more and more residents on foot or by bike.

Crossrail

Crossrail plans were approved last year and as a result the parish will lose the ability to use Dog Kennel bridge. Negotiations are to take place to provide an alternative footpath. In addition there have been moves to create a roadway alongside the railway with a view to creating a by pass for HGV's and connecting up to the Ridgeway estate and the new estate adjacent to the railway. This is referred to in the South Bucks Core Strategy with the main thrust being to reduce the impact of HGV movements going through Iver High Street and Richings Park.

3rd Runway at Heathrow and Heathrow Rail Hub

The controversial proposals for a third runway at Heathrow were approved by the Government last year. This development would 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. Whether these proposals will be upheld after the next General election is a matter for conjecture. It does though appear likely that a new rail line through South Bucks will be put to consultation.

Core Strategy

South Bucks Core Strategy has been the subject of two consultations this year. I am pleased to say that the area south of Iver has received attention in the strategy and reference has been made to the need to reduce HGV movements and redevelopment of the Court Lane estate, although it is still not considered necessary to have a relief road.

Road Safety & Partnerships

Thornbridge Road improvements

The much needed improvement to the parking around the shops in Thornbridge Road was completed in early 2009. It has been suggested that parking restrictions are appropriate in this area to restrict all day parking. It is expected that proposals will be put out to public consultation.

Street lighting

As a result of the snow a number of street lights have been damaged beyond repair. Unfortunately those who drive into your street lights do not tell us of the damage they have done and as a result the cost of replacement falls to the Parish Council and the lights are not insured due to cost being prohibitive. Replacement costs £800 each time.

Devolved Highways work

By agreement with the County Council the Parish has taken on work on local highways previously the responsibility of the County. This is paid for by the County out of their budget but enabled problems to be dealt with more expeditiously. The budget for this work was £15,000 per year. This has proved to be a successful venture.

459 Bus Route

The County Council announced that it wished to remove the 459 bus route earlier in the year. This caused much consternation to the residents of Iver and Richings Park. After much hard work by the County Councillor for Iver and Richings Park a more satisfactory solution was reached and a bus is still available.

Website

The 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

Iver Carnival

After the disappointment of having to cancel the Carnival in September 2008 we held the event in September 2009 and it was a great success with more floats than ever before and events that went on into the evening.

National Association of Local Councils

Earlier this year we had an article printed in the NALC journal focussing on the youth work funded by the Parish Council and showing the benefit achieved by employing an outreach youth worker and the positive side of that work in communicating with the youths of the Parish.

The chairman expressed his thanks to – the Clerk and Assistants and the locum clerk, Maintenance and Highways teams, Youth Worker, Vice Chairman, Chairmen of Committees, Councillors, Partners of Councillors who let them out to attend meetings. He also thanked those District Councillors who have attended to give us information and County Councillors who get our voice heard in Aylesbury. The chairman went on to thank helpers at the office, working group members, Police and PCSOs and Iver Educational Trust.

Community Service Awards were given to the following people in recognition of their service to the community:

Jackie Griffiths for work with the Community Libraries and Cornerstone; Janet Beale for Iver Heath Village Hall Committee; Jack and Jean Beeston for litter picking in Iver Heath; Alan Carey as editor of the Iver Parish magazine; Mary Clark for Iver Village Hall; Paula Entwistle and Lynn Goodliffe for running the Iver Parent Carer and Toddler Group; Sylvie Lowe for the Pinewood Action Group; Bob Mack for Kings Church and his work with the elderly in particular; Mary Mack for her work at the Kings Church over 50s club; Wendy Matthews for Richings Park NAG; Diane Christie-Rundle for work with Kings Church and Jill Sands as editor of Iver Heath Contact magazine.

HOW IS IT PAID FOR? (See also pie charts on next page)

How the Parish Council spent its money 2009/2010

Budgeted Net expenditure for 2009/2010 = £400,364 (£51,000 less than 08-09)

Precept (Council tax) income = £352,000 (£336,000 in 08-09)

Budgeted Other income £41,505

Budget 2009-10 – The Council performed substantially in line with budget.

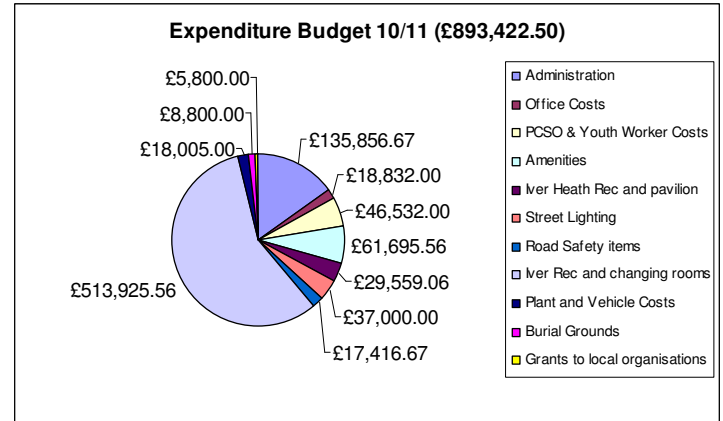
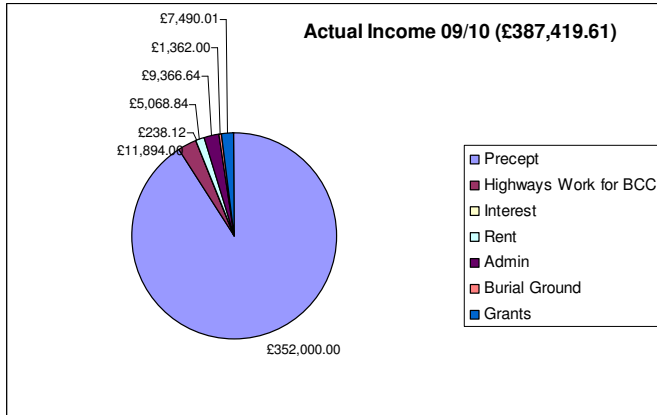
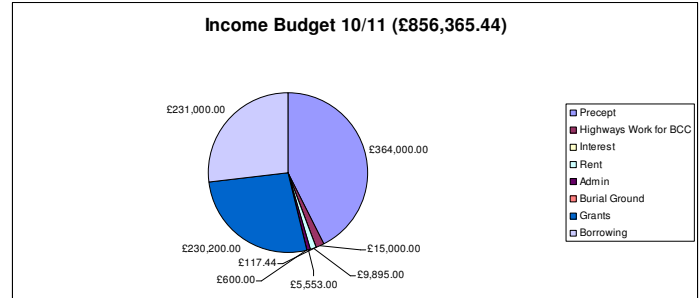
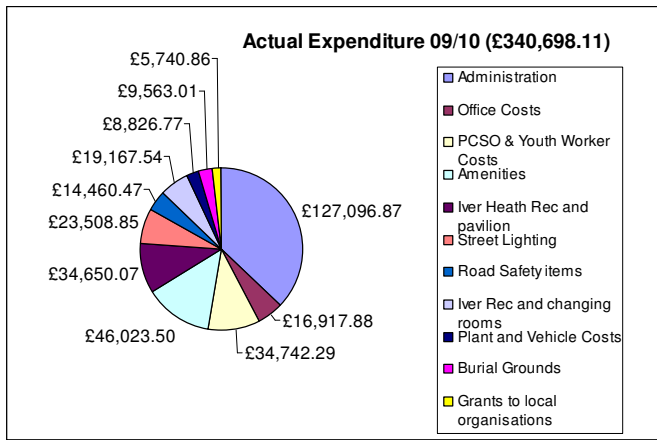
Budget 2010-11 – The Precept in the year 2010-2011 will be £364,000. Gross spending may well be much higher as the Council is planning to build a new pavilion on Iver Recreation Ground; this is likely to cost up to £500,000 which it is intended will be part funded by the Football Foundation. The parish will if necessary borrow up to £250,000 towards the cost of the building and will also put £52,000 of its reserves into the project.

There will be some cost in securing the newly acquired land in Swan Road and it will be managed by the Council with a view to it being used either for leisure activities or later part of it as a new cemetery.

Julian Wilson Chairman Iver Parish Council

Contact details for the Parish Council office

The Clerk, Iver Parish Council, 63 Chequers Orchard, Iver, Bucks SL0 9NJ Telephone 01753 655331 Fax 01753 654922 e-mail clerk@iverparishcouncil.gov.uk web address www.iverparishcouncil.gov.uk The Parish Council office is open to the public from 10 am – 1 pm and 2 pm – 4 pm on Tuesdays and during most other normal office hours Monday to Friday but it is suggested that you telephone first at other times if you are making a special journey to check that there is someone available to assist you.



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