

NITON AND WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ELECTORS 2010/11

1. PLAY EQUIPMENT

The new play equipment was installed in Niton Recreation Ground in April 2010 and was widely welcomed. Sadly, due to the slope of the land, the equipment supplier was unable to propose a scheme for the cable way without the need for considerable additional groundwork. This resulted in the Parish Council placing a contract for a 40m cable way with an alternative supplier in October 2010. The required groundwork is almost complete and the cable way should be installed before the school summer holidays.

Most of the equipment has been purchased through the award of a Playbuilder grant of £50,000 but the Parish Council has also given a grant of £2,500 from its reserves.

The search for land suitable as a playground site for young children in Whitwell continues.

2. NITON YOUTH CLUB

The Council is committed to supporting the retention of the Youth Club and its premises.

3. NITON LIBRARY AND PUBLIC TOILETS

The impending closure of Niton library and toilets was discussed at a special meeting of the Parish Council on 17th January 2011. It was agreed that the Parish Council should facilitate the running of the library but not run it directly.

A similar resolution was passed for Niton public toilets with the intention that the facilities should be maintained by a charitable trust. However, after the closure of the toilets by the Isle of Wight Council on 1st April 2011, the Parish Council passed a special resolution to operate the facilities under a Tenancy at Will agreement; the toilets were re-opened by the Parish Council on 20th April 2011.

4. BERT SPRAKE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The clearance and re-planting of the Bert Sprake Memorial Garden in Niton is now complete. A bench seat is being purchased and will be sited in the garden within the next few weeks.

Planting of bulbs and shrubs opposite Whitwell Village Hall and at the southern entrance to Whitwell village is planned for summer and autumn.

5. PLANNING

The Council commented on 36 out of 42 planning applications in the Parish. During the year, three planning applications were granted by the Isle of Wight Council against the recommendation of the Parish Council.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Under the Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme, a list of all documents available to the Public is posted on the website. Copies of the list are held by the Clerk and at Niton library. Notices and agendas are placed on the village notice boards. A file is

currently available in Niton Library with information about the Parish Council including the annual report, minutes and agendas, and will continue to be available for the foreseeable future. This information is also available from the updated Council website at: www.iwight.com/council/parish_councils/nitonwhitwell.

Written reports are provided monthly for the Connections and South Wight Beacon magazines.

7. PARISH PLAN AND VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS

The Council is looking to update the Parish Plan (2004) over the next 12 months. The work is to be undertaken by a task group including Councillors and local residents commencing summer 2011.

8. PRECEPT

The Council, through prudent housekeeping, was able to keep the Parish precept for 2011/12 at £12,200. There has been no increase since April 2008 and, at £12.38 per Band D household, the Parish precept is one of the lowest on the Island.

9. MEETINGS

The Council meets on the fourth Monday in the month (except August and December), with the venue alternating between Niton Primary School and Whitwell Village Hall. In addition there is a Planning Committee meeting on the second Monday in each month if any planning applications have been received. The press and public are welcome to attend and there is a public question time before the formal business commences.

W C Arnold
Chairman of the Parish Council

V J Ford
Clerk to the Parish Council