

Compton Parish Council

Chairman: Dave Aldis

Clerk: Sarah Marshman

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Monday 30th April 2018 at 7:30pm in the Wilkins Centre, Burrell Road.

Those present: Councillors D. Aldis (Chair); L. Moss; M. Pinfold; R. Pinfold; K. Simms; A. Strong and I. Tong.

In attendance: The Parish Clerk; District Councillor Virginia von Celsing; Dr James Cave – The Downland Practice; James Dawson – Beeswax Dyson; Chris Prosser – Headteacher, The Downs School; Peter McGeehin – Flood Warden; Joe Clerkin – Downland Volunteer Group. 19 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M. Birtwistle and P. Burnett.

2. Introduction by the Council Chairman

DA welcomed those present.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2017

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record. They were then signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th May 2017

There were none.

5. To invite Dr James Cave from The Downland Practice to address the meeting

Dr Cave explained how the retirement of two doctors, along with another doctor leaving and a further doctor on maternity leave had resulted in a challenging period for the practice. The Practice had received no applications for the vacancies but has now been successful in finding two doctors to join, however, the practice is still missing around 36-40 hours of doctor time which will currently be covered by a locum. Dr Cave confirmed that the Compton surgery will continue to be manned each morning and that there is a move to use Compton more in the future as the increase in part-time staff leads to a need for more space.

The two sections of the Chieveley pharmacy are due to be merged, with all people using the pharmacy for prescriptions. The pharmacy will be shut for a week towards the end of May and a portacabin will be in place during this time to ensure there is no disruption to the service provided.

Dr Cave highlighted that it is a time of immense change in the NHS, with an expectation that practices will merge to form 'super-practices'. However, this may not be the right solution for rural practices. Practices are supposed to open seven days a week from next year, and although a government grant will be provided, it will not cover the full costs of this.

6. To invite James Dawson from Beeswax Dyson to address the meeting

James explained the various improvements that have been made to the Compton Estate including new hedging, fences and gateways. Renovation work on the various cottages are coming to an end

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

and these will soon be available to let. Planning permission has been granted for a new grain store and landscaping work will soon start around the building. Planning applications are currently under consideration for domestic self-storage on the Mayfield Farm site and for holiday lets at Sunrise Hill in East Ilsley. Beeswax Dyson has provided raffle prizes to both schools and students from The Downs School have been involved in laying some of the hedges on site.

Joe Clerkin from the Downland Volunteer Group was invited to address the meeting at this point. He gave his report on the Handybus which is at Attachment 1.

7. To invite District Councillor Virginia von Celsing to address the meeting

Virginia gave her report on her activities as District Councillor, which is at Attachment 2. The Parish Council thanked Virginia for her support.

8. Parish Council Reports:

The **Chairman** gave the following report:

Another busy year has passed, seemingly in no time at all. The major item in the past year has been the launch of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), including the formation of the Steering Group. As a result of that, a number of drop in events were held with a good level of interest by members of the Parish. This has recently culminated in the survey, delivered to every household. Thanks to the efforts of members of the Steering Group, an unprecedented level of response to a Compton village survey was achieved, with a return of approximately 65%! The Parish Council is delighted with the level of interest demonstrated by this number and our data analyst is currently working through the returns to present the findings. It is our intention that we will have a display at the village fete, to outline the issues that have been raised by the survey and display the data.

The next stage is the formation of working parties to study the issues raised and we will be looking to recruit further members to those groups at that time. Not all issues can be affected by the Plan but we intend to include all the data, some as appendices to the Plan, to demonstrate the breadth of concerns and the amount of research carried out.

Certainly, the biggest issue will be future development. This Plan will be targeting the next West Berkshire Local Plan to 2036. The unpalatable truth is that, despite a number of responses suggesting a desire for no development or very limited development, the Government will impose a number on West Berkshire Council that would at least equal the last target and is likely to be higher. Therefore, it is likely that the number imposed upon Compton will at least match the current SPD allocation for the IAH site of approximately 150.

The data regarding this issue is not yet available but, looking forward, I believe that we should examine the possibility of increased housing on the IAH site, rather than look elsewhere. Further development, other than on the IAH site will go outside of the settlement boundary, which could be redefined by West Berkshire Council. At least the using IAH site, which is currently a Brownfield site and developed, rather than opening up for use a Green field site, say, along past the Church, along the Ilsley Road or on other undeveloped sites around the Parish, seems a good idea.

However, the Parish Council is keen to see the Cricket Ground retained as a green space for the parish and the NDP group will bear this in mind during the process.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

This does highlight another issue for the Parish Council. The annual precept has been held at the same level for the last few years, because the increases were met from reserves. This could not continue, hence the increase this year, which has caused adverse comment. Clearly, taking on maintenance of the cricket ground, would have further implications for our precept.

Also pending is the provision of the new burial ground, with associated costs. These have been inflated by, in my view, unnecessarily onerous conditions imposed by the planning authority.

Other costs borne by the Parish Council include grounds and play area maintenance, provision of footway lighting, waste bins and dog waste bins. This last item is particularly tedious as, in spite of the provision of bins, dog fouling remains a serious issue. I am staggered at the arrogance and ignorance of some owners, who manage to tar all responsible dog owners, with the same brush. Following a serious incident in the Recreation Ground where a loose pair of dogs, not under control, injured a member of the public and their pet, the Police are involved in this matter, the Parish Council will be monitoring the situation closely and may increase the use of CCTV coverage in that area, which would be regrettable.

However, there is much to be proud of in Compton and the community spirit, not always overtly evident, is clearly growing through events held, such as the Christmas events, the fete and most recently, the litter pick. I was amazed, and extremely grateful to the large number of people who attended, including many children. This enabled us to cover the whole village and we collected quite a bit of waste. We are doing another one in June, so watch out for the publicity and join us to keep our Parish clean and tidy.

We have all seen the good work that is happening in the hedgerows and fields of the Dyson estate, with hedge laying and new planting. This is certainly tidying up an area that has been neglected for years, enhancing the appearance of the Parish.

This is an interesting time for the future of the Parish, but I am sure that the community will meet the challenges appropriately.

Finally, the list of people to thank has grown so large that I am in danger of offending someone by inadvertent omission, so I have to say thanks to you all - councillors, the clerk and all the parishioners - our community is the better for all your hard work.

The **Clerk** then gave a financial report which is at Attachment 3.

9. Reports:

Reports were given by local representatives as follows:

Peter McGeehin – Flood Warden

Peter presented his report which is at Attachment 4.

Peter also provided a report on Heritage and History which is at Attachment 5.

Chris Prosser – The Downs School and Compton Primary School

Chris presented reports on The Downs School, which is at Attachment 6, and Compton Primary school, which is at Attachment 7.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

The following reports were provided to the Parish Council in advance of the meeting:

Compton Pre-School – Attachment 8;

The Downlands Sports Centre – Attachment 9;

Compilations – Attachment 10.

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Pam Scott for her work on editing Compilations and to Patricia Burnett for all her work both with the Autumn Group and the parish in general.

10. Questions from members of the public

There were none.

11. Items for information and consideration

There were none.

Meeting closed 9:02pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

Attachment 1:

Handybus Presentation

Hopefully you are all aware of the Downland Volunteer Group, the DVG, which has been in existence since the early eighties. It was set up to help residents in the Downland villages who had problems attending appointments at the hospitals in our area, the surgeries and dentists. We have a team of some 40 volunteer drivers using their own cars to drive the patients to their appointments.

In recent years we have also managed the day to day running of the Handybus service by recruiting volunteer drivers for this vehicle and scheduling trips mainly to the Newbury, Wantage and Didcot. The Handybus was owned and maintained by the West Berks Council. As part of their re-structuring and cost saving plans they have requested that the local charities, like the DVG, take over full control of the Handybus service. From the beginning of April the DVG has taken full responsibility for this vehicle and we are expected to fulfil our obligations to the Community Transport Services.

This twelve-seater Mercedes bus makes schedule trips on certain days from the main villages in the area. Whilst it is ideal for older residents, anyone can travel on the Handybus, although it is not equipped to carry children. It is particularly useful for anyone temporarily incapacitated and unable to drive or carry shopping. For just £3.00 return the passengers are driven to the shops, either Sainsbury's or Tesco's, the driver will load up their shopping and will even carry it to their front door. The difference between the Handybus and a normal bus service is that you would need to book yourself on to it in advance - a bit like a taxi service! Bus passes cannot be used on the Handybus.

We believe many more people could benefit from the Handybus service. We want to increase passenger numbers and we will not raise the £3.00 fare this year and hope that with grants and sponsorship the Handybus service will be a self-financing operation in the near future. To book yourself a trip simply phone the Handybus coordinator on **07437 543 098** to find out when we are in your village, at what time you will be collected and what time you can expect to be home.

For Compton residents the Handybus collects passengers every other Wednesday and travels to Sainsbury's in Wantage. On the fourth Tuesday of the month the Handybus travels to Tesco's in Didcot. The pick-up time and location will be advised when you book your seat.

Attachment 2:

Virginia von Celsing, Ward Member, Compton on West Berkshire Council

BUDGET

I with my fellow members have been busy this year dealing with a diminished budget, making difficult decisions that affect us all. West Berkshire Council passed its 2018/19 budget at its full council meeting on 1 March 2018. This year's budget sees investment in a number of areas including highways, education and infrastructure as well a Council Tax increase of 2.99% from West Berkshire Council, with a 3% Adult Social Care precept. The Council Tax increase will raise £2.7m and the precept will raise a further £2.7m, which will be ring-fenced to meet growing the demand for adult social care.

Graham Jones, Leader of West Berkshire Council, said: "To put this budget into context, over the past five years we have faced increasing demands on our core services, coupled with reduced funding. In 13/14 our grant from central government was almost £24m. That grant is now virtually zero. Taking inflation into account there has been a real terms reduction in our spending of £10.5m each year compared to 2013/14.

"Our budgets are particularly under strain as a result of the spiralling cost of adult social care, which represents almost 40% of the council's budget. It is estimated that within 20 years there will be two adults of working age for every one retired. We must address this as caring for our most vulnerable is the most important thing we do as a council."

Our MP Richard Benyon has been working hard over some years to enable West Berkshire to retain our business rates. He has at last been successful which means this year we can retain a further £2million. However this sum is already used up in the current budget.

As a result of difficult decisions, it has been decided that green waste bins will be charged for at a rate of £50 per year. This is in fact in line with neighbouring local authorities but I appreciate is not a popular move.

PLANNING

I sit on the Western Area Planning Committee and planning and the environment continue to be key interests to me. I and colleagues are aware of the numerous housing issues within West Berkshire and work with the council and Richard Benyon to facilitate more affordable homes, as well as homelessness. Compton Parish Council continues to fight for the wellbeing of the village and its environment and does a superb job safeguarding this.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

During the year I attended a Speed Review at which the case for speed reduction to 20mph past Compton Primary School and into the village was approved. This has to go through various legal hoops but will come into force later this year.

BEESWAX DYSON

I joined the Parish Council and many in the village to attend an excellent presentation by Beeswax Dyson at the Downs School at which the MD explained their rationale and future plans. I think we were all impressed and it is good news for the village that such a dynamic

innovative operation has taken over two local farms. Richard Benyon MP has also visited their operations in Compton and met with their MD to understand further what they are doing.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

I recently attend a seminar at West Berkshire Council on building stronger communities - helping the vulnerable, keeping older people involved in the community, as well as awareness of crime and litter. Rural crime has dropped dramatically as the proceeds of this crime have become less attractive. However fly tipping is definitely on the increase and Thames Valley Police officers based in Newbury were at the meeting to explain what they were doing to combat this. Please note that anybody picking up household waste for you must show a license to operate as a waste collector - please always ask to see this.

DOWNLANDS NHS PRACTICE

I have attended, with Parish Councillor Alison Strong, a number of meetings of the Downlands Practice Patient Group. I don't use this practice myself but am impressed with their understanding and commitment to the community. I realise that there are complaints from Compton about this service at times, but I feel that Dr Cave and his colleagues are doing their best in a difficult environment, where also new technology is coming on stream all the time. They are much aware of Compton's needs and the village is well represented by Alison and others on this panel.

COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Compton continues to have a superb and professional parish council to represent its residents. I have much enjoyed with working with them and their clerk during the year. I thank them for their support.

Virginia von Celsing
Ward member, Compton
West Berkshire Council

March 2018

Attachment 3:

Compton Parish Council Financial Report to the Annual Parish Meeting for the Financial Year 2017/18

<u>Budgeted Expenditure</u>	2016/17 Actual Spend	2017/18 Budget	2017/18 Actual Spend	Year end Actual vs Budget
1 Street lighting	4,628	4,900	4,841	99%
2 Employment costs	7,645	7,500	9,528	127%
3 Administration	4,759	4,350	3,172	73%
4 Grounds maintenance	7,600	5,000	6,622	132%
5 Allotments/footpaths	885	700	1,526	218%
6 Village Scene	2,261	2,950	1,467	50%
7 Office	613	720	720	100%
8 Meeting rental	360	360	460	128%
9 Compilations	3,574	3,600	2,991	83%
10 Burial Ground	2,792	5,000	145	3%
11 Sec 137 donations	2,298	2,000	1,713	86%
12 Grants	350	500	500	100%
13 Planning Matters	640		263	
A NORMAL SPEND	38,405	37,580	33,948	90%

<u>Expenditure from Reserves</u>		2017/18		<u>Expenditure from Reserves</u>
Cantilever swing	4,905	3,000		Street lighting replacement
WW1 plaque base	655	2,000		General
Housing needs survey	260		1,661	Neighbourhood Development Plan
Flower bulbs	8		4,977	VAT
VAT	5,015		5,880	Football Pavilion Repairs (insurance claim covers majority of expenditure)
			2,847	Solicitors fees
			436	Printing footpaths leaflet
			91	Xmas event
B Spend from Reserves	10,843	5,000	15,892	Spend from Reserves
C TOTAL SPEND (A+B)	49,249	42,580	49,840	117%
				TOTAL SPEND (A+B)

<u>INCOME</u>	2016/17	2017/18		<u>INCOME</u>
Precept	29,000	31,320	31,320	Precept
CIL	7,389		0	CIL
Village Hall loan repayment	480	480	480	Village Hall loan repayment
Council tax reduction grant	316	0	0	Council tax reduction grant
Scout Hut loan repayment		150	300	Scout Hut loan repayment
Compilations	4,684	2,500	4,480	Compilations
Allotments	709	600	754	Allotments
Football clubs	0	200	0	Football clubs
VAT refund	4,163		5,015	VAT refund
Interest	138		135	Interest
Grants	2,386		0	Grants
Other	86		242	Other
			5,565	Insurance claim settlement
D TOTAL INCOME	49,351	35,250	48,292	TOTAL INCOME
EXP - INCOME (C - D)	102	-7,330	-1,548	INCOME - EXPENDITURE (D - C)

<u>Bank Balances</u>		<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>	
31 March 2016	£133,606	£54,725	Cemetery
31 March 2017	£133,708	£37,454	Open spaces
31 March 2018	£132,160	£7,389	Street lights
		£4,999	Neighbourhood development plan
		£7,389	CIL
		£2,596	Other
		<u>£114,552</u>	

Attachment 4:

Flood Warden Report

During the year rainfall has been lower than normal, particularly during the second half when the aquifer is replenished. This has resulted in a groundwater level below normal for the time of year. The flood risk will also be low as next winter begins.

Incremental improvements to the watercourse continue to be made. The emphasis remains on the reach immediately downstream of Aldworth Road, continuing the alignment alongside Aldworth Road established by West Berkshire Council in 2016 when the culverts were replaced. This is referenced back to the level of the beautiful brick-lined floor of the culvert under the disused railway line that defines the base of the watercourse as it was in 1882. Notification has been received from the Environment Agency supporting these improvements and a dialogue has been established with the riparian landowners with the objective of bringing them about. Once accomplished the watercourse will be 'future proof' against the increased winter rainfall anticipated by climate change research. A proposal received from a parishioner for a water storage scheme that is under assessment might yield yet more improvement.

The Pang Valley Flood Forum has become an incorporated charity in order to receive and administer grant aid for its activities. Actions continue to be progressed and added to the plan. Most relevant to Compton, the work assessing the potential of the West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme for flood mitigation has continued with the publication of an MSc Dissertation by a student at Birmingham University. This concluded that the proposal has merit, though perhaps of less relevance to Compton than the Ilsleys and Hampstead Norreys on account of the greater depth of our sewers underground. It has however been agreed with the Environment Agency and Thames Water Utilities that the next phase of work will focus on modelling the influence on groundwater level within the settlements and on effects downstream of the discharge point before, if appropriate, looking at economic and engineering aspects in more detail. Birmingham University and Brunel University have been approached to continue the work.

Beeswax Dyson is now responsible for much of the passive infrastructure between Compton and East Ilsley that protects us from being inundated with surface water when the groundwater is at extreme levels. A dialogue has been established which includes assessment of the potential for planting crops on restricted land that will be supportive of government-encouraged natural flood management initiatives.

Peter McGeehin
Flood Warden

14th March 2018

Attachment 5:

Heritage and History – Update for the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Attempts to establish a local heritage and history group falter, with indications perhaps that local politics is getting in the way. There are several Compton members of East Ilsley Local History Society. The 'Compton Remembered' Facebook group (now closed) has 381 members and several new posts are uploaded each month, the most interesting recent ones being perhaps old photographs. One or two individuals show real interest in this passive forum. One way forward is to establish a Compton sub-group of EILHS which will help with knowledge, experience and research topics.

One of the activities of a local history group is to conduct and publish research. Compton benefits from 'The Story of Compton', published by the Parish Council in year 2000. Whilst this is dense with information and interesting photographs, it is not an easy read and doesn't have an Index. Things change, and it has been suggested that an update with the working title of 'The Story of Compton 2020' might be prepared. Linnet McMahon the main author of the first edition is supportive. Volunteer authors on particular themes that interest them are welcome to contribute, as David Mankin assisted Linnet. Electronic publication would facilitate the use of colour photographs. A second potential publication is an account of the early history of the Pirbright Institute in Compton. A polished text by Alex Mackenzie going up to 1974 exists and it could be enhanced by historic photographs of agriculture in the village.

When it comes to our heritage, Compton is now in the position of being able to assess assets for local listing. This involves the recognition of the importance of a building, structure, landscape or feature. Local Listing is less significant than a national one, but it identifies assets that the community feels are important and worthy of protective consideration. Some research is required to piece together the origins of the asset and identify its merits. To be included on the Local List a submission has to be made to West Berkshire Heritage Forum. There are two important aspects of this heritage initiative. The first is to catalogue our existing recognised assets, listed building and tombs for example, and audit their description. Also to highlight structures and buildings that although not nationally listed are presently locally recognised. It would also be useful to identify assets that have already been lost as this would help establish the value of a local listing. Secondly, we need to identify those other buildings and structures that we collectively feel are today important to us. Hopefully the response to Q.24 on the Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey will help with this.

Taken together surely these heritage and history initiatives merit the formation of a community group?

Peter McGeehin

14th March 2018

Attachment 6:

The Downs School

School's position

It has been another outstanding year at The Downs School and we have excelled in so many areas, and had lots of fun along the way. Our recently published Year 7 applications have revealed that we are once again oversubscribed for September, reflecting our strong reputation in the community. To respond to the high demand for places we have decided to increase our Pupil Admission Number to 210. Our current school role is 1177 with 280 in the Sixth Form, with every year group full or exceeded.

In September we celebrated our excellent examination results and were once again one of the top performing schools at both GCSE and A level, maintaining our tradition of academic excellence. At GCSE we achieved our best results ever with over 80% of students achieving at least the new standard pass 4 – 9 (C to above A*) in English and Mathematics - An amazing 43 new grade 9s were awarded across English and Mathematics.

At A level the students achieved 31% A*-A grades, 60% A*- B grades and 81% A*-C grades. We achieved a value added score of 3 which put us in the top 25% of schools in the country.

Our hugely talented students did us proud and the successes at both GCSE and A level are even more impressive because they have achieved these fantastic results in a year of volatility caused by the new examination system which has been designed to be tougher. This was a real team effort and I am so grateful to the teaching staff, tutors and parents who have all pulled together, endured the stress and provided the support and encouragement necessary to make these fabulous results a reality

Our programme of educational and enrichment opportunities for students' learning outside the classroom environment has continued to develop across a wide spectrum of activities. Sixth form students took part in the Performing Arts and Media trip to New York and our Geography and Biology students undertook curriculum field trips to Iceland, Somerset and Pembrokeshire. Other members of the Sixth Form attended a Politics Conference on "Our Future in Europe" in Paris! Our Year 8 PE ski trip to Italy and the Year 9 History trip to the Battlefields proved as popular as ever. We offered, across year groups, our successful exchange programme run by our Modern Languages faculty. Our PE staff ran a very successful Sports Tour to Holland and some Sixth Form students took part in the "Lessons from Auschwitz" project organised by the Holocaust Education Trust returning to share their experiences with other students through assemblies in school. For the first time, some of our Year 7 students went on a "Bushcraft" camping trip.

We have run a wide variety of day trips from a trip for Year 8 to Boulogne in France, to a variety of Geography field trips. Year 8 went to a Salters Festival of Chemistry and there was a Maths Inspiration event where students were able to experience the UK's most inspiring maths speakers live, presenting mathematics in the context of exciting, real-world situations. In addition, there have been trips to Art Galleries and Museums locally in Oxford and in London. These visits provided students with the opportunity to study artefacts and paintings first-hand to enhance and enrich their knowledge and skills. Their excellent high quality work is on display around the school.

The Duke of Edinburgh Programme has continued to grow with 63 students taking the Bronze Award. Our programme of trips and visits is an integral part of life at The Downs. Students working together to overcome challenges in a different setting has a lasting, positive impact on the development of their personal skills as well as their educational experience.

We have continued to build on strengthening our partnerships in the wider community. Federation with Compton and Beedon Primary has gone from strength to strength. We have focused on the key

aim of encouraging 'greater communication and collaboration' between The Downs, Beedon and Compton, initially through the work conducted by the transition staff. This has further developed into improved communication with a variety of other catchment schools during the past term through specialist transition workshops.

Building on Investors in Careers Accreditation achieved last year, we have continued to strengthen relationships between education and employers to support all students in the school, allowing them to make informed choices about their futures. For example, introduced a bi-annual Y7/8 careers event "Exploring Your Future" ensuring coverage across the school at all key stages. Developed understanding of all Post-16 and Post-18 options through a range of events focussed on Apprenticeship Options to complement those already available for University. Next steps are to implement the Parent, Teacher and Alumni Engagement Strategy developed with the Enterprise Adviser to further grow partnerships. So parents if you want to support then let us know.

Recently, 11 students from The Downs School Debating Club took part in an inter-school debating competition between St Bartholomews, Kennet and The Downs School. After some excellent debates, The Downs and St Bartholomews shared a 1st place position, with Kennet coming as runners up. All students showed clear resilience, respect and responsibility during the debates. The motions included, 'This house believes social media has a negative effect on society' "This house believes that education should have more funding than the NHS". Amen to that.

Our Most Able students have been working hard over the year. As well as students completing a range of EEPs on topics of interest to them, they have also been busy promoting the subjects they represent as Ambassadors. The Subject Ambassadors roles are ones for which students apply and they choose the subjects they are most passionate about. They then work across year groups, from Year 7 – 13 with other subject Ambassadors to promote and develop the subject. They have designed blogs, created videos, made subject leaflets, ran a Fresher's Fair for Year 7.

Last term their amazing work on Remembrance Day spanned all subjects and the final field of poppies they created, with personal messages and tributes on each poppy involved all staff and students at the school.

Although we have extremely healthy student numbers and the school is thriving, we sadly still have had a very difficult budget to set for 2017-18 and continue to be concerned about finances into the future. This is largely due to teacher pay and pension increases, which are not being supported by any funding from the government.

Key Issues facing the school

- Appointing key staff is still a key concern especially in Maths and English. We work extremely hard to recruit top quality staff that our children deserve.
- PE facilities are still inadequate and the problem of housing examinations is becoming more and more acute as the school (and Sixth Form) grow.
- A cramped site means that we are always thinking creatively about how we can utilise the space that we have.
- The changing political scene regarding curriculum and qualifications and concern about lead-in time for major changes; the relative status being accorded to different elements of the curriculum (e.g. the position of design technology, music)
- Important decisions to consider around the direction that the school should take – Academy status? Increasing the Federation?
- Challenges of setting a balanced budget when there are no real term increases in funding.

There are certainly many challenges facing schools at the moment, but amongst all this turmoil and uncertainty The Downs School remains firmly focussed on providing a first class education for all our students.

Attachment 7:

Compton CE Primary School

The school continues to grow. 26 pupils joined our Reception class in September, either from within catchment or with siblings already in the school and they have settled in brilliantly. This is exactly the situation that we have been working towards to ensure that the school was able to provide an excellent education for the children of the village and to become financially viable. We are very excited that plans for our new classroom are progressing and we expect that this space will be ready in September 2018. As well as providing a comfortable classroom space, enabling us to cater for the increased number of pupils on roll, this will allow the HORSIA building to be used as dedicated before and After School Club premises and will provide much needed space for small group intervention teaching within the school day.

Staff and pupils continue to work hard and strive to achieve the very best we can. We are particularly pleased with pupils' progress in phonics after considerable investment in new resources and staff training. This year, we have a strong focus on improving pupil outcomes in writing.

Many trips and visits have enriched the curriculum for the children and this has included events and visits such as Whipsnade zoo and Brook lands transport museum. Later this year our Year 5 will enjoy a residential trip to Wantage and our Year 6 will benefit from their residential trip to Sealyham with other local schools. Our pupils enjoy opportunities to explore nature and the outdoors -our youngest pupils enjoy weekly trips to local woodlands and older pupils enjoy using the embankment area and school grounds in their learning. Cultural experiences are also planned: a whole school trip to the Winter Show at the Watermill theatre and a joint Beedon and Compton choir enjoyed performing at The Anvil Theatre as part of the Berkshire Maestros Junior Music Festival. Children also enjoyed dining out for supper at ASK in Basingstoke. Children are able to have individual music lessons in school; we currently have cellists, guitarists and flautists in our midst. All children in Year 3 have been learning to read music and play the recorder. We have supported Children in Need and Comic Relief and look forward to our summer term charity week which will be planned by our children. All children also participate in their own drama productions – Key Stage 1 do a Christmas play, year 3, 4 and 5 will be performing in Jonah's Druthers later this months and our year 6 pupils stage a fantastic production each year.

Links with the Church continue to develop – Rev Luci holds a weekly assembly in school and the whole school attends services at all the major festival times. Our pupil Worship Committee goes from strength to strength as they hold their own assemblies as well as taking major parts in our church services.

We are very grateful to our Friends of Compton Primary School who work tirelessly to fundraise on the children's behalf. As well as subsidizing the cost of school trips, this year the Friends have supported us in the purchase of new resources for our youngest children's outdoor learning space, have contributed towards the cost of new reading books and funded new Chromebooks to enhance the children's ICT learning. On behalf of staff and pupils, I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported FCOPS events making it possible for our children to enjoy these new resources.

The federation with The Downs and Beedon continues to grow and the children look forward to Mr. Prosser's visits and assemblies. Our school productions and concerts are hosted at The Downs School. Pupils in Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed a range of taster workshops at The Downs and have been very enthusiastic about these sessions.

Work has continued on aligning the curriculum in all three schools so that there is a more seamless academic transition between the primary and the secondary. Teachers meet termly to share good practice and look at progression in key English and Math's skills between key stages. Primary colleagues from Beedon and Compton meet regularly for training sessions and support and challenge one another in the moderation of pupils' work for assessment. Over this year, as our school curriculum and other needs have aligned, we have been able to negotiate joint purchases across our primary schools, benefitting from economies of scale. We know that the pastoral transition has always worked well.

We continue to work with the "Downland Alliance" to improve outcomes for all children in West Berkshire. Joint training days have been organised; leadership training has been put in place; specific support has been available for some schools and the links are growing. This year we have contributed to the training of newly qualified teachers across West Berkshire. Through the Downland Alliance, three of our teachers, who are Specialist Leaders in Education, have been complimented on their work supporting teaching and learning in other West Berkshire schools.

We are now looking forward to continuing to provide a first class education for the children of Compton.

Attachment 8:

Compton Pre-School

Compton Pre-School continues to be a success, with 35 local children attending. In September we will see 17 children off to the local schools and 18 children are returning after the summer break and we are currently advertising in the local area.

In September we introduced the new Government initiative – the 30 hours free childcare entitlement for working parents. This scheme allows us to open for longer hours – we are now open Monday to Friday 9.00 to 3.00.

We've seen significant changes within preschool over the past year staffing wise. Sadly, we saw Emma Hoyle, Emma Jones and Selina move on to new adventures. Fortunately, we have been extremely fortunate to recruit Louise Somerville, Claire Hannington, Vicky Williams and Amanda Skinner, all of whom live locally.

More change is to come in July when I step down and Louise will take over as manager and Vikki will step up as deputy. I would like to take this opportunity to take the Parish Council for their continued support for preschool. I hope that the relationship between both organisations continues to thrive.

Finally, I would like to mention the garden improvements which have been a real project this year! The replacement of the boundary fence was completed over the summer last year and has made a real difference to our security and is an improvement aesthetically.

Attachment 9:

Downland Sports Centre

(For the period April 1st 2017 to February 28th 2018)

- **Background**

The Downland Sports Centre is a dual use facility located on The Downs School campus, Compton. In terms of community use the Centre is operated by Legacy Leisure on behalf of West Berkshire Council under a contract which is scheduled to run until June 30th 2022.

Opening times for the centre are Term Time - Monday to Friday 17.45pm - 22.00pm, at weekends the facility is available for private hire. The centre is also open during the school holidays where holiday programmes were organized for children.

The facility has a 12 station gym, a three court Sports Hall, male and female changing rooms with showers and toilets.

The centre Manager is Rose Metalli of Legacy Leisure who covers the Centre along with the Lambourn Centre and Hungerford Leisure Centre. This allows some flexibility with staffing if the need should arise.

- **Programme**

Although a small centre a varied programme of activities and clubs can be found at the centre including:

- Downland Badminton club
- Fitness training in Gym
- Circuit Training
- Archery Sessions
- Downland Bowls Club
- Compton Harriers
- Children's Parties
- Camp Adventure Holiday Programme for children.
- Swimming Lessons – Crash Courses during school summer holidays.

New members are always welcome to all activities.

- **Performance**

In reviewing performance it should be noted that with the timetable for the report means that the full year is not yet complete.

The total recorded attendances between April 2017 to February 2018 was almost 800 attendances up on the full twelve months between April 2016 to March 2017 – the majority of attendances seen are through either the clubs or organised courses at the centre.

Due to the limitations of the centre only one Fitness Class per week is available at the Centre (Circuit Training) – over the eleven months of this report a total of 209 attendances were recorded compared to 264 attendances across the 2016-2017 full year Although a small group the class does have a total of 33 individuals who have attended at various times during the year (compared to 36 in 2016/17)

The centre continued to offer a holiday programme for children in the school holidays offering a wide variety of structured and informal provision – including utilising the schools swimming pool. The last year saw 349 attendances at holiday programmes compared to 300 in 2016/17.

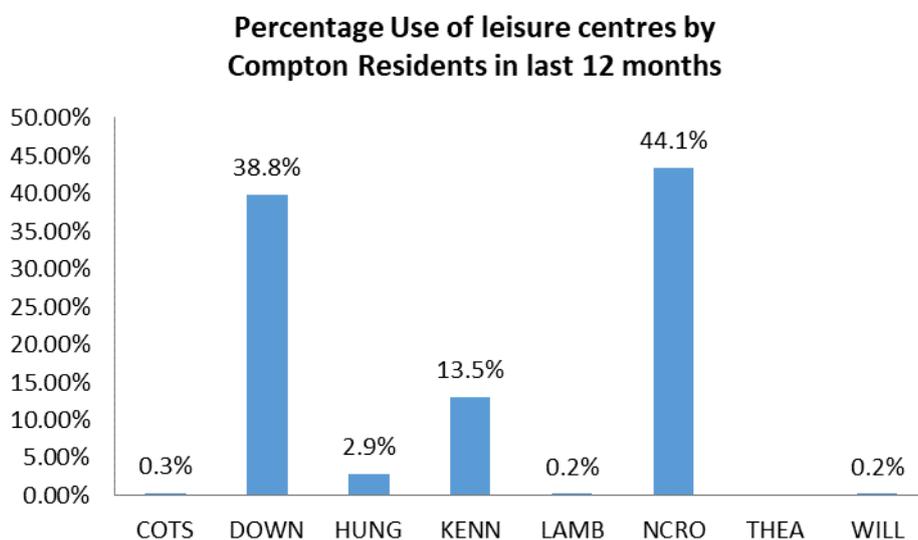
The fitness gym use has remained relatively stable with 384 recorded attendances in the eleven months April 2017 to February 2018 as opposed to just over 400 attendances across the full 2016/17 year. 41 individuals have been identified as using the fitness gym at Downlands Sports Centre.

Casual badminton remains strong with 1,301 attendances recorded between April 2017 and February 2018 attendances recorded – this does not include the badminton club which comes under block/club bookings. Block bookings saw an estimated (an estimate is used as an accurate figure is not easily obtainable) 5,341 attendances over the eleven months (compared to a 12 month total of 5,800 previously).

In the 12 months to the end of February 2018 a total of 135 tracked individuals have been seen at the Downlands Sports Centre. It needs to be noted that a badminton booking or a block booking will only show the person who has made the booking and not the other involved. Given the higher than normal use by block bookings/badminton court hires it is not practical to try and extrapolate a number of users of the centres as the figure would have a high degree of inaccuracy.

In 2017 a comprehensive User survey was undertaken – the numbers responding for Downlands was very low so the data obtained has no significance. Overall the level of respondents who were at least satisfied with the performance of the centres was 92.4% (from just over 1,600 responses)

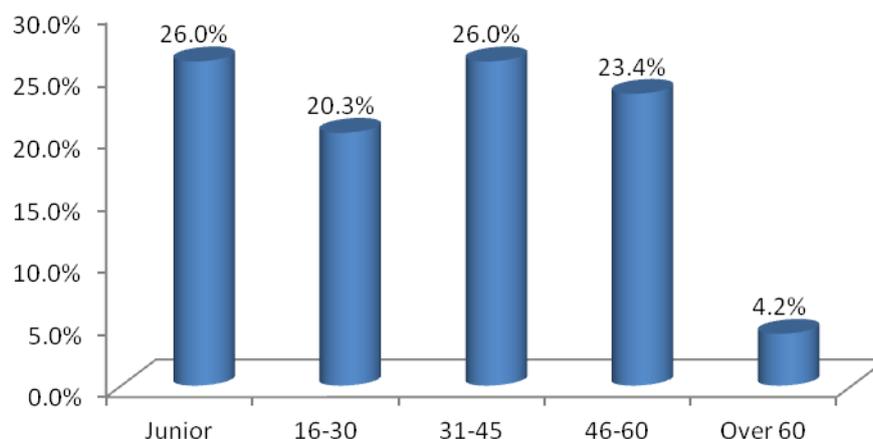
In previous years the report has also looked at where people from the Compton Ward attend, for the period April 2017 to February 2018 a total of 1,842 attendances have been recorded from people who come from the Compton Electoral Ward area. This was spread as follows:



This shows that the majority of leisure centre use by Compton residents is at either the Northcroft Leisure Centre in Newbury or the Downlands Sports Centre itself (82.9%)

The age profile of card holders linked to Downlands Sports Centre remains in line with previously reported as follows:

Age Profile of West Berkshire cards issued at Downlands SC



- **General**

Legacy Leisure and the Downs School continue to have a positive working relationship. Regular operational meetings continue to discuss the facility and any issues. West Berkshire Council also attends these meetings.

As part of the contract monitoring, regular Client monitoring inspections are undertaken by West Berkshire Council. These inspections ensure Legacy Leisure is operating in accordance with the Contract.

If minimum contract standards are not achieved upon inspection, West Berkshire Council will issue Legacy Leisure/Parkwood Leisure with a default notice to ensure that any issues are rectified. In the last year I am pleased to be able to say that no rectification or default notices for needed to be issued to the contractor for Downlands Sports Centre.

Jim Sweeting
Sport and Leisure Manager
West Berkshire Council
12th March 2018

Attachment 10:

Compilations report for Parish Council AGM 2018

This year there have been more contributors to Compilations, both regular and one-off articles. The pleasing factor is that I do not have to send too many reminders to regulars and most contributions are sent well before the deadline. This makes putting the magazine together so much easier. It also means that the copy is sent to the printers in time for the magazine to be ready for delivery by the first of the month. (I would like to note that the printers give a first rate service.)

Sadly, there are still village organisations that do not contribute. I am working on that!!

I am pleased to report that the number of people that have mentioned they look forward to receiving their copy is quite significant. These comments are from people across the age spectrum. Apparently, Compilations is kept on kitchen tables, in drawers with contacts for tradesmen and even on peoples' coffee tables. I was particularly pleased to hear from a young mum, who a year ago told me that she thought Compton Facebook was the way forward, that she realises she was wrong. A lot of her friends find the paper copy useful and 'a good read' with a cup of tea. It will be interesting to see the results of the last question in the Village Development Plan questionnaire (when it was asked if the villagers would prefer a copy on line or to continue with the paper copy.)

I would also like you all to know that I endeavour to make the content as upbeat and positive as possible. I have declined articles in the past that I feel are more about personality clashes than village news and will continue to do so. I like to think that Compilations reflects the good spirit of the two villages it serves and that it fosters a united, family feel to the villages.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Parish Council for its' support and advice. It is good to know that you are always there.