

## **Compton Parish Council**

**Chairman: Dave Aldis**

**Clerk: Sarah Marshman**

### **MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at 7:30pm** in the Wilkins Centre, Burrell Road.

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

In attendance: The Parish Clerk, Rose Somerset (North Wessex Downs AONB), Peter McGeehin (Flood Warden, Pam Scott (Editor, Compilations) and Chris Prosser (Headteacher, The Downs School/Compton Primary School).

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#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Virginia von Celsing.

#### **2. Introduction by the Council Chairman**

DA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

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

#### **4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

The defibrillator has since been installed and training has been given.

#### **5. To receive a presentation from Rose Somerset on the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Rose spoke about the special geology of the area, which is a chalk basin, which has led to the land being protected. 80% of the world's chalk landscape is situated in the UK. The chalk acts like a large sponge, soaking up water which it delivers as springs which support wildlife. The AONB contains 520 scheduled monuments. The AONB needs to develop and evolve, but it should also be protected during this process. Until around 60 years ago, wildlife was able to adapt to changes, but it is now more difficult for them to adapt due to the faster pace of these changes.

AONBs are different to National Parks. National Parks also have more funding and also have planning authority control, however AONBs do not have this and are only consultees on planning applications. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, section 85 says all public bodies shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. Section 89 says all local authorities are required to prepare an AONB management plan and review it every 5 years.

A vast proportion of West Berkshire falls in the AONB, so whilst there is an effort to ensure development falls outside the AONB, some development must take place within it.

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Chairman

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

VvC sent her apologies.

**7. Parish Council Reports:**

The **Chairman** gave the following report:

To start this report, we are delighted to announce that the sale of Lot 25 of the Compton Estate has gone through and that we will shortly be the owners of the leased area of the recreation ground, the grassed area of Gordon Crescent and other small plots of land.

We are grateful to Beeswax Dyson Farming Limited, who kindly paid the cost of our bid for us, as a goodwill gesture to the Parish of Compton. I am sure that you will all join us in expressing grateful thanks to Dyson Limited for this kind and generous gift.

The biggest topic occupying the Parish Council at the moment, is the launch of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, taking place this Saturday, in the village hall, from 10.30 until 14.30. I invite all parishioners to come and find out more about the plan, and urge you to consider volunteering to assist in the formulation of the document, which, after referendum and adoption, will set down a template for the future development of the Parish.

There may well be some hard decisions to be made, when considering issues such as housing and future development in Compton, This is a topic that should be considered, as we must accept that Compton will grow and we should be proactive in the process, rather than refuse to accept growth, as it will be imposed on us, regardless. Perhaps examining the possibility of allowing further development on the IAH site, over and above the SPD allocation, should be considered, rather than develop elsewhere? The recent Housing Needs Survey results should also be factored into any proposals. This demonstrated the need for a number of affordable rented properties.

The impact on areas such as schools is also important and should be considered. These are just two issues that are important and we welcome your thoughts and ideas, so come along on Saturday and give us your views!

Even if you cannot help out practically, there will be further surveys for you to feed your views into the process and a referendum, at the end of the process for adoption of the Plan, so you will have a chance to oppose or support it at that time.

Our proposal to provide an extra burial ground has met with some local opposition but we are currently carrying out an archaeological survey before the application is considered by West Berkshire Planning. We shall let due process take its course.

Turning to other matters from the past year, we were very pleased with the support for the Christmas events that took place in December. Even though there were some criticisms, these will be repeated again this year, so please do come and join us!

We have added another attraction in the recreation ground, namely the cantilever swing, which has proved very popular, in spite of idiots pulling up the matting underneath it. Also, with a grant arranged by District Councillor, Virginia von Celsing, we have added two smaller goals which are being used by the children. We are currently investigating the costs of a zip wire, so watch out for news on that!

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Chairman

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There was a burst pipe in the football pavilion earlier this year but repairs are now in hand and the water is back on. Further work is to take place, so that the facility will be available for the fete, which is always a great success.

Last November saw the annual Remembrance Day parade held in Compton. This was extremely well attended and for the first time, saw a wreath laid at the memorial plaque that the Parish Council had installed by the noticeboard in the High Street. The events raised a large sum for the British Legion, so well done to all involved.

Cutbacks in Government funding have led West Berkshire to make reductions in service provision. This has affected services such as libraries, salt provision and other areas. We are not prepared to take on provision of these services at present, as we do not believe we are legally allowed to pay for them. This decision has, of course been unpopular, and we will always consider any proposals from parishioners to assist in affected areas.

Before I close, I wish to express my grateful thanks to all Parish Councillors for their hard work and our ever-reliable clerk Sarah, whose hours we have had to increase to cope with the workload we impose upon her!

I am also grateful to our councillor Virginia von Celsing for all her work and help, our flood warden Peter McGeehin for his efforts and Pam and the distributors for the production of Compilations, the Parish magazine.

Finally, there are many people in the village, far too many to name, whose efforts toward the community are not always apparent but are greatly appreciated by us all.

The **Clerk** gave a financial report which is at Attachment 1.

**Cllr. Strong** gave a short report on Rights of Way. She highlighted that financial cuts have had an impact on maintenance levels and that we are reliant on people to walk them to keep them accessible. Byway 2 has recently been resurfaced and is under new ownership.

**Cllr. Tong** had provided a report on the Electronic Documentation Work Stream, which is at Attachment 2.

## **8. Reports from/on:**

The following reports were given in person:

### **Peter McGeehin – Flood Warden**

Involvement in the Pang Valley Flood Forum has resulted in a productive year in achieving improvements for the parish. At the moment, there are no jobs outstanding, but Peter is continuing to monitor Horn Street.

A full report from the Flood Warden is at Attachment 3.

### **Chris Prosser – Headteacher, The Downs School/Compton Primary School**

Chris gave a summary of the reports for Compton Primary School which is at Attachment 4 and The Downs School which is at Attachment 5.

During discussion with the council, it was highlighted that there are still issues at the school at drop off and pick up times. It is likely this will get worse with the new charging system for using school buses that has been introduced by West Berkshire Council. The school does talk to their Sixth

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Formers with regards to parking responsibly. The council stated that this issue could be looked at through the process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

**Patricia Burnett – Autumn Group**

The group is running well with a wonderful committee. The Christmas Day lunch was successful. There is a good programme organised for future sessions and there are currently approximately 40 members. PB thanked the council and the volunteers within the village for their support.

**Pam Scott – Compilations**

Pam gave a summary of her report which is at Attachment 6.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Compton Scout Group** – Attachment 7

**Downland Sports Centre** – Attachment 8

**School Road Allotments** – Attachment 9

**9. Questions from members of the public**

Peter McGeehin discussed some research he had been carrying out in the search for the medieval village that is supposed to be located in the vicinity of the Church.

**10. Items for information and consideration**

It was noted that fly tipping has been occurring in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk was requested to include information about this in Compilations.

On the footpath from the High Street to Burrell Road there is a tree growing again. The council have attempted to remove this tree previously and will seek to find a more permanent solution with assistance from their tree surgeon.

West Berkshire Council are not cutting back the nettles on the corner by the Recreation Ground. KS will reopen the case.

Meeting closed 9:25pm.

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Chairman

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## Attachment 1

Compton Parish Council Financial Report to the Annual Parish Meeting for the year 2016/17					
	<u>Budgeted</u>	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17	Year end
	<u>Expenditure</u>	Actual Spend	<u>Budget</u>	Actual Spend	Actual vs Budget
1	Street lighting	4,775	7,400	4,628	63%
2	Employment costs	4,671	5,300	7,645	144%
3	Administration	4,486	4,465	4,759	107%
4	Grounds maintenance	4,075	4,400	7,600	173%
5	Allotments/footpaths	354	800	885	111%
6	Village Scene	2,260	3,550	2,261	64%
7	Office	720	720	613	85%
8	Meeting rental	252	300	360	120%
9	Compilations	4,157	3,600	3,574	99%
10	Cemetery	0	7,000	2,792	40%
11	Sec 137 donations	1,389	2,000	2,298	115%
12	Grants	350	500	350	70%
13	Planning Matters	0	0	640	
<b>A</b>	<b>NORMAL SPEND</b>	<b>27,489</b>	<b>40,035</b>	<b>38,405</b>	<b>96%</b>
<u>Expenditure from Reserves</u>		2015/16	2016/17	<u>Expenditure from Reserves</u>	
	Youth shelter	5,872	2,000		
	War memorial cleaning	672		4,905	Cantilever swing
	Replace street lights	390		655	WW1 plaque base
	Football Pavilion	755		260	Housing needs survey
	Payment of BCF grant to WB	5,000		8	Flower bulbs
	VAT	4,163		5,015	VAT
<b>B</b>	<b>Spend from Reserves</b>	<b>16,852</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>10,843</b>	<b>Spend from Reserves</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>TOTAL SPEND (A+B)</b>	<b>44,341</b>	<b>42,035</b>	<b>49,249</b>	<b>117% TOTAL SPEND (A+B)</b>
<u>INCOME</u>		2015/16	2016/17	<u>INCOME</u>	
	Precept	28,000	29,000		Precept
	s106	35,819	7,389		CIL
	Village Hall loan repayment	480	480		Village Hall loan repayment
	Council tax reduction grant	631	316		Council tax reduction grant
	Scout Hut loan repayment	150	150		Scout Hut loan repayment
	Compilations	1,728	2,500	4,684	Compilations
	Allotments	573	600	709	Allotments
	Football clubs	230	200	0	Football clubs
	VAT refund	3,207		4,163	VAT refund
	Interest	227		138	Interest
	Grants	0		2,386	Grants
	Other	18		86	Other
<b>D</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>71,063</b>	<b>49,351</b>		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>
	<b>EXP - INCOME (C - D)</b>	<b>26,722</b>	<b>102</b>		<b>INCOME - EXPENDITURE (D - C)</b>
<u>Bank Balances</u>				<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>	
	31 March 2015	£106,884		£54,725	Cemetery
	31 March 2016	£133,606		£37,454	Open spaces
	31 March 2017	£133,708		£7,389	Street lights
				£5,610	Neighbourhood development plan
				£2,596	Other

## Compton Parish Council

### Electronic Documentation Work Stream

#### Annual Report – May 2017

**1 - Work Stream Description** – The Council decided to convert all old paper records to electronic format. The objective is to:

1. Reduce the risk of document loss due to fire or similar event.
2. To improve the ability to search old records for information needed “Today”.
3. To have a “Master” document record store to minimise issues from multiple different document copies.
4. To make it easier to spot any documents that might be missing from the record.

**2 - Work Stream Structure –**

A stand-alone disk drive able to be remotely interrogated was donated to the Council.

A document storage plan was created and implemented on the disk drive.

A document naming convention was created and implemented.

A document scanning standard was recommended and used.

A Document Retention Policy for the Council was created and agreed.

A scanning facility, already owned by a Councillor, was used to convert paper documents to electronic documents. This facility is being used by The Council at no cost, both of technology and of the time taken to do the scanning.

Old documents were found and delivered to the scanning facility.

**3 – Storage Plan –**

The storage plan implemented is as follows:

<i>Allotments</i>	<i>Sub folder for each season</i>
<i>Archive</i>	
<i>Correspondence</i>	<i>Sub folder for each calendar year</i>
<i>Information</i>	
<i>Leaflets</i>	
<i>Legal</i>	<i>Conveyances</i>
	<i>Deeds</i>
	<i>Leases</i>
	<i>Statutory Instruments</i>
	<i>Transfers</i>
<i>Maps</i>	
<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Sub folder for each calendar year</i>
<i>Other Documents</i>	
<i>Pictures</i>	<i>Flooding</i>
	<i>Pictures for Parish Plan</i>
	<i>Village Pictures - Not Flooding</i>
<i>Planning</i>	
<i>Policies Procedures and Guides</i>	
<i>Rights of Way</i>	
<i>Risks</i>	
<i>Sub Committees</i>	
<i>Village Hall and Wilkins Centre</i>	

#### 4 – Conversion Progress –

All Meeting Minutes from March 1992 to March 2011 completed plus 5 batches of other documents supplied:

Document Batch References	Total Docs	Scan Count	Duplicate Count	
A Deeds obtained from Richard Wilson Long	29	19	4	Pended - remainder with the Solicitors
B Documents received from Dave Aldis	40	3	4	Pended - remainder with the Solicitors
C Documents received from Sarah which Dave considered most significant	4	1	3	Completed
D Documents received 30/5 from G Evans' Family	6	6	0	Completed
E Documents received 15/02/16	13	13	0	Completed
F 1st Blue Folder - Meeting Minutes April 1999 - March 2008	119	119	0	Completed
I Red Folder - "Meeting Minutes 1998 - 1999"	26	26	0	Completed
H 2nd Blue Folder - Meeting Minutes April 2008 - March 2011	41	41	0	Completed
J Red Folder - "April 1996 - Minutes"	39	39	0	Completed
K Blue Folder - "May 1994 to March 1996"	50	50	0	Completed
M Red Folder - March 1992 - April 1994	57	57	0	Completed

In progress are the 2011 to 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Document Batch References	Total Docs	Scan Count	Duplicate Count	
O Other - usually email receipts	48	48	0	In progress
L Recent Minutes on Website	20	20	0	In progress
N Grey Folder - April 2011 - March 2015	12	12	0	In progress
P Documents received 03/05/2017	8	8	0	In progress

The “To Be Done” set of documents comprise:

Document Batch References	Total Docs	Scan Count	Duplicate Count	
G1 PC Receipts & Payments Book YE 31/03/1900 to YE 31/03/1923	0	0	0	Waiting
G2 PC Receipts & Payments Book YE 31/03/1924 to YE 31/03/1944	0	0	0	Waiting
G3 PC Receipts & Payments Book YE 31/03/1945 to YE 31/03/1960	0	0	0	Waiting
G4 PC Receipts & Payments Book YE 31/03/1977 to YE 31/03/1986	0	0	0	Waiting
G5 PC Receipts & Payments Book YE 31/03/1987 to YE 31/03/1994	0	0	0	Waiting
G6 Compton Map - Undated	1	0	0	Waiting
G7 Allotment Rent Book 1941 to 1946	0	0	0	Waiting
G8 Petty Cash Book 1973 to 1992	0	0	0	Waiting

Totals are:

Total Docs	Scan Count	Duplicate Count
513	462	11

#### 5 – Next Steps –

The ability to do “full text search” of the documents in the disk drive has not proved as easy as would be liked.

To resolve this, a “Next Version” solution has been started.

This is based on a relatively functional Image and Workflow Solution which is available free of charge [Alfresco Community Edition – [www.alfresco.com](http://www.alfresco.com)]

**2017 Annual Compton Parish Meeting**

**Flood Warden's Report**

Active participation in the Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF) has enhanced our ability to get things done and improved understanding of the groundwater threat that we face.

***Action Plan***

Good progress has been made. The poorest performing culverts on Aldworth Road have been replaced and the pipes leading from kerbside gullies that drain into the watercourse in Aldworth Road, High Street, Churn Road and Newbury Lane have been repaired, all works undertaken by West Berkshire Council. The watercourse along Aldworth Road has also been reprofiled. Two topics are outstanding. Reprofiling of the watercourse as it turns south from Aldworth Road is necessary to consolidate the improvements made upstream. Surface water drainage from Horn Street into the Great Pond outflow has been the subject of maintenance action by WBC but remains under surveillance. The EA & TWU continue to be active and supportive.

***Monitoring and Forecasting***

PVFF records, plots and publishes historic and current groundwater level, river level and rainfall, each for four locations in the Pang Valley (you can see much of the data - derived mostly from the EA's open data feeds - at <http://www.floodalleviation.uk/dashboard.php>). This data is available for all to access. Currently it is used by PVFF to create a groundwater threat index and monthly river flow forecast, and to anticipate the effects of heavy rainfall on river response at Bucklebury over a forward timescale of a few days.

***PVFF research activity***

A project with Loughborough University and Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (Wallingford) is examining the consequences of climate change (wetter winters, drier summers) on the Pang.

An initial project is beginning at Birmingham University to consider operational aspects of using the West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme to alleviate the flooding threat in the Pang Valley.

Two proposals concerned with natural flood management (NFM) are in an advanced stage of preparation. PVFF is seeking funding from Defra in a national competition. Although the emphasis is lower down the valley, Compton will benefit indirectly through improved data and modelling. Associated with this is a developing scheme to introduce NFM to the Compton Estate. Reading University is working on another proposal to measure the beneficial effects arising from the introduction of NFM farming methods in the catchment: a challenging task.

Peter McGeehin

7<sup>th</sup> May 2017



## Attachment 4

### Compton CE Primary School

2015-16 is proving to be another very positive year for the Compton CE Primary School. In November we were delighted to be reaccredited for the prestigious NACE Challenge Award. We were the 100<sup>th</sup> school to earn reaccreditation; a tremendous achievement which recognizes the dedication and talent of our teachers and the enthusiasm and passion which our children show for learning.

The school has gone from strength to strength and its reputation continues to improve in West Berkshire as shown by the recent growth in numbers. The school is now over capacity at 186 pupils. In our reception class in September 2017, we are expecting 29 children all either from within catchment or with siblings already in the school. 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. This increase in numbers has continued to protect us from the changes in funding which is affecting other schools so badly.

2016 saw another set of excellent test results both at KS1 and KS2. 2016 was the first year of the new National Curriculum tests and we are very proud to have exceeded the national average in Reading, Writing and Maths in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Pupils achieving at greater depth at Compton was well above local and national averages. These results are huge achievements on the part of our pupils and are testament to the very hard work of all the teachers and other staff throughout the school. However, we are not complacent and continue to strive to do even better for our children.

Many trips and visits have enriched the curriculum for the children and this has included events such visits to Winchester Science Centre, Rushall Farm, Douai Abbey, London Zoo, year 5 residential trip to Wantage, year 6 residential trip to Sealyham with other local schools. Our pupils enjoy opportunities to explore nature and the outdoors. Year 6 went on a hike round Coombe Gibbett to celebrate the end of SATS week and our youngest pupils enjoy weekly trips to local woodlands. Cultural experiences are also planned: a whole school trip to the Winter Show at the Watermill theatre and visits to the Corn Exchnage to see the Kakatsitisi Drummers and a Folk Show as part Newbury Spring Festival. We have supported Children in Need and Comic Relief and look forward to our charity week which we be planned by our children. The children also participate in their own drama productions – Key Stage 1 do a Christmas play, year 3, 4 and 5 do an Easter production and year 6 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

Improvements to the physical shape of the school continue. Our Year 4 pupils were thrilled with the alterations made to their classrooms over the summer holidays which has made the space much more user friendly. We are awaiting the result of a planning application to replace the old toilet block at the rear of the school with a new classroom. 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.

The federation with The Downs has grown and in September Beedon CE Primary joined our federation. From September 2016, we have been known as The Downland Federation. Chris Prosser continues as executive headteacher of The Downs School, Compton CE and Beedon CE

Primary Schools. Following Mrs Millar's retirement, Mrs McDonald who was headteacher at Beedon, has taken on the role of Director of Primaries across Compton and Beedon Schools. The federation affords us many benefits. In March, we entered a joint primary choir in the Berkshire Maestros Junior Festival. Children performed in The Anvil theatre alongside pupils from other schools. We enjoyed a Pizza Hut supper between the rehearsal and the performance. This year secondary colleagues have been given "transition periods" to build closer links with the our primary schools. This year we have benefitted from ICT sessions for our yr 2 children and a series of dance and music sessions for our year 3 and 4 pupils. This has resulted in primary children joining in productions held at The Downs. 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 curriculums 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 Maths 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. 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 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.

## **The Downs School**

### **School's position**

The Downs School continues to go from strength to strength and our strong reputation in the community is reflected in the recently published rising Year 7 applications, where we have over 80 students on the waiting list. Our current roll is 1195 with 298 in the Sixth Form, with every year group full or exceeded.

In 2016, we maintained our strong tradition of exam success with excellent results at GCSE and A level. At GCSE over 74% of students achieved A\*-C including English and Mathematics and over 82% of students achieved 5 A\*-C, with over 32% of total entries awarded A\*/A grades and 99% of students achieving A\*-G. 163 students sat A2 examinations at The Downs School this year, with 55% of entries achieving A\*-B grades, 80% of entries achieving A\*-C grades and 98% of entries achieving passes. What is so impressive about these grades and numbers is that it shows we are enabling all students to make real and sustained progress, and re-affirms our strong ethos centred around inclusivity. There are so many wonderful success stories that lie beneath these statistics and we are very proud of all of our students. The students, staff and parents worked so hard to make it happen - it was a real team effort!! As a school community we feel a huge sense of achievement because we know that all our students now have the skills and attributes to allow them to achieve success in the next stage of their careers.

As a school we are committed to developing the whole child by providing a range of exciting opportunities. Last year we ran an impressive 133 trips which involved 3,817 students. Since September, trips have included the Spanish Exchange; Year 7 Adventure Dolphin team building trip; Year 8 trip to Boulogne; several Countryside and Environment trips; Year 8 Ski trip; the sixth form Geography trip to Iceland; the Performing Arts trip to New York and the PE trip to Holland. As usual, all the students behaved impeccably and were great ambassadors for the school. It is also a credit to The Downs staff that they are willing to offer such a range of diverse experiences, experiences that will stay with the students for the rest of their lives.

The Downland Federation expanded in September with the addition of Beedon CofE Primary School and this is already providing greater opportunities to strengthen the transition and benefit a larger amount of students. The key aims this year have been to:

- For all students at Beedon and Compton to be given the opportunity to spend time at The Downs School
- To create G&T opportunities for students across the Federation
- To ensure that there is clear continuity and progression across the phases, so that year 7 students can make accelerated progress
- To alleviate anxieties about starting secondary school
- To promote performing arts within the Federation
- For greater communication and collaboration between the Primary schools and The Downs School. This will initially involve Beedon and Compton as Federation Schools.

The work of the “Downland Alliance” continues as we work together with other schools 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. Our Initial Teacher Training Programme has been very successful this year. Out of the 24 trainee teachers that started in September across our Alliance, which includes Kennet and St Bartholomew’s schools, 18 are about to achieve their Qualified Teacher Status. To date, 12 have already been employed – of which 6 within West Berkshire, 2 within Berkshire and 4 out of area. Remaining trainees all have applications/interviews pending. These are exciting times because not only have they brought a real energy to the schools in a climate when recruitment is difficult, it also means that we can really be sure of choosing the best talent and confident that they will enter the profession with the skills that we at The Downs School think are so important.

There have been some other successes this term which require a special mention. In September we were awarded full accreditation for Investor in Careers. This is a nationally validated quality work and this huge achievement demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the school to ensure every student received the best possible Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance to prepare them for their futures. In a similar area, our Yr12 students recently won the Dragons Lair - Young Enterprise competition. The dragons toured several local schools and concluded that The Downs School produced an idea and the performance of the students was by far the strongest they had seen.

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. We have set up a working party to look at how we can make savings into the future along with generating income. Any ideas would be most welcome!!

As mentioned last year, we worked closely with the local community to secure a grant from Green Common Trust of £100,000 (match funded), to improve the facilities in the Downlands Sports Centre. Unfortunately, it is still proving very difficult to raise money to match this grant, but we haven’t given up hope yet.

#### **Key Issues facing the school**

- Appointing key staff is still a key concern especially in Maths and English.
- In spite of fantastic Science block and Sixth Form Centre, our accommodation is still very poor for a school of our size: PE 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 6

### Compilations

I have been editor now for just over a year and in this time, there have been a few changes.

Sarah Marshman now deals with all the advertising and its' financial implications.

Faye McGeehin has undertaken the task of distributing the magazines to the group of volunteers who post them through the letterboxes.

I am then left with the task of simply editing the magazine.

I really enjoy this and have learned a great deal. I no longer rush to my son-in-law every time I find yet another aspect of the computer that I don't understand and am not worried about asking contributors to re-send me articles in a Word document.

I have decided to put all the advertisements together in the centre of the magazine and people have said how useful this has been.

I have found over the year that there are now regular contributors who don't need to be actively encouraged to send in their reports. I send out reminders to all the regulars and this is working well. I hope I have managed to make sure that people meet the deadline because of this. There have been times when the magazine is already at the printers when articles arrive. (I'm not so sure that this was too popular with one or two people but they have not done it again.)

There are many activities in the villages but some people are very reluctant to let us know about them and need a lot of encouragement. I will not give up and continue to ask them. I'm sure I will eventually wear them down!!!

I have also found that I need to decline some requests for inclusion as they are personal rather than general comments and that is not what Compilations is all about.

I listen to what is said about the magazine and endeavour to make relevant changes as and when. One example is the size of the font. On occasions, I have had to print articles with much smaller type than I would like and I am trying to make sure that all articles have a reasonable size typeface.

All in all, I have found that editing Compilations is very enjoyable. This is mainly due to those in the background who help make sure that it arrives at peoples' houses by the first of the relevant months. Compton has a team of deliverers and East Ilsley has Pete Goddard! The printers are VERY helpful, the delivery team is consistent, Faye is excellent at ensuring the team is up and running and Sarah and Dave have been very supportive and always there when I need them. (My husband has been very supportive and patient too.) Thank you to all of them.

Pam Scott

## Attachment 7

### 1<sup>st</sup> Compton Scout Group

1st Compton Scout Group continues to grow. The three initial sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are at capacity with waiting lists. We do try and get all young people who wish to join a place if we can. (Cubs should run at a suggested max of 36, but are currently running at 44 !) and the new Compton base Explorer Unit is growing. So we now cater for from 6 to 18 year olds !

The Scout Group has been instrumental in raising £7000 for new flooring in the Hut. Most of this (£5000) came from West Berkshire Council in the form of a Parish Plan grant. This big lump sum meant that it was a quick win rather than being a slow burn fund raiser. So "Thank You" West Berks.

The group is run by volunteers. We all joke about the line "Its only 2 hours a week" which is what many people think. It is significantly more than that ! (if you want it to be). We are lucky that we have a dedicated bunch of adults prepared to give up their time to provide the scouting experience to the young people of our community. It is worth pointing out the Values and purpose of scouting these days...

<b>The <i>Purpose</i> of Scouting</b>	<b>Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</b>
<b>The <i>Values</i> of Scouting</b>	<p><b>As Scouts we are guided by these values:</b></p> <p><b>Integrity</b> We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.</p> <p><b>Respect</b> We have self-respect and respect for others.</p> <p><b>Care</b> We support others and take care of the world in which we live.</p> <p><b>Belief</b> We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.</p> <p><b>Cooperation</b> We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.</p>
<b>The <i>Scout Method</i></b>	<p><b>Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>enjoy what they are doing and have fun;</b></li><li>• <b>take part in activities indoors and outdoors;</b></li><li>• <b>learn by doing;</b></li><li>• <b>share in spiritual reflection;</b></li><li>• <b>take responsibility and make choices;</b></li><li>• <b>undertake new and challenging activities; and</b></li><li>• <b>make and live by their Promise.</b></li></ul>

We are always looking for more help... If you would like to come along and help we would love to hear from you. Do you have a hobby or skill you'd like to share with the Younger generation ?

Lastly, a big thank you again from all users of the HUT to the Parish Council for continuing to help by mowing the grass. This make the Compton Hut the envy of not only our area, but from far and wide...

## **Attachment 8**

### **Downland Sports Centre**

**(For the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017)**

- **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 are 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 had a change in manager during the year with Kyle Stewart concentrating on the Cotswold Sports Centre and Rose Metalli returning to the centre.

- **Programme**

There is a varied programme of activities at the Downland Sports Centre including:

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

New members are always welcome to all activities.

- **Performance**

The total recorded attendances between April 2016 to March 2017 was almost 670 attendances down on the previous twelve months – the majority of which could be accounted for due to the works to the sports hall roof and the installation of a new boiler into the complex during the year. The school did allow access to alternative facilities during the works but numbers attending during these periods were lower than previously seen.

Due to the limitations of the centre only one Fitness Class per week is available at the Centre (Circuit Training) – this had a total of 264 attendances which was a significant decrease on the previous year. Although a small group the class does have a total of 36 individuals who attend at various times during the year.

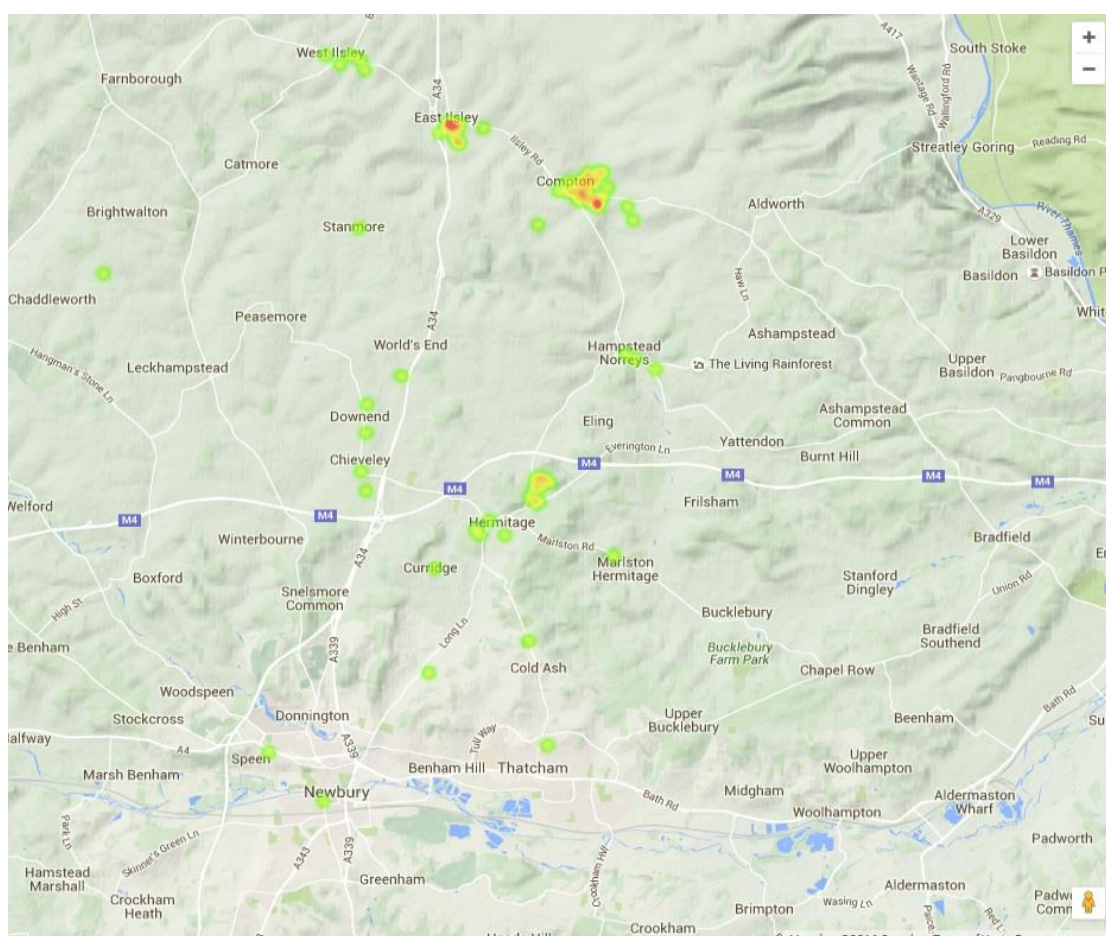
The centre continues to offer a strong holiday programme for children in the school holidays offering a wide variety of structured and informal provision – including utilising the schools swimming pool. The last year saw 300 attendances at holiday programmes.

The fitness gym was impacted by the works at the centre but still recorded over 400 attendances across the year and benefited from equipment being replaced at the beginning of April 2016 with kit from another site.

Casual badminton remains strong and even though the sports hall was not available for a spell just over 800 attendances recorded – this does not include the badminton club which comes under block/club bookings which saw an estimated (an estimate is used as an accurate figure is not easily obtainable) 5,800 plus attendances.

Since the introduction of the West Berkshire Card in 2009 a total of 387 cards have been issued by the centre with at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 a total of 154 were active and used at the centre in the previous 12 months (note for block bookings and activities such as badminton only the person making the booking would come up as a card holder).

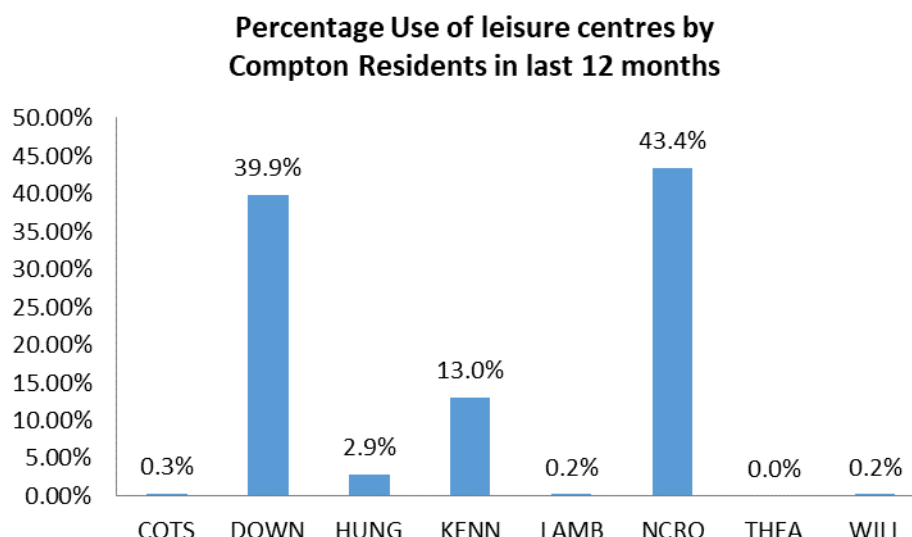
The following heat map represents the geographical spread of active card holders registered with Downland Sports Centre. Where it can be seen that the majority come from Compton and the surrounding villages.



Reversing this and looking at people who come from the Compton Electoral Ward area Code area a total of 1,980 attendances have been recorded over the year (again only the person making the transaction/booking would be recorded for club use/block bookings and activity such as family swimming).

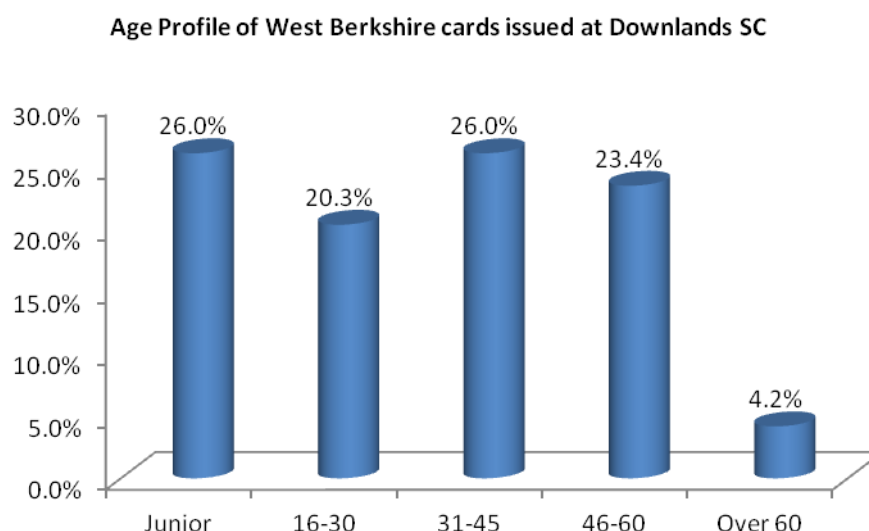


This was spread as follows:



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 (83.3%)

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



- **General**

The Council's Education Services refurbished the sports hall roof during the summer holidays of 2016 and the opportunity was also taken to install a new boiler. On testing the boiler a leak was discovered which had got into the earth near the pipe work. Council staff working closely with the school, Legacy Leisure and the Environment Agency to ensure that the incident was dealt with quickly, the area was made safe and any contaminated soil was removed securely. Latest reports from the Environment agency suggest that all necessary actions were taken to ensure that everything was contained and rectified.

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 Parkwood Community Leisure/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  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## Attachment 9

### School Road Allotments

Who'd have thought having an allotment would bring so many good things into your life. Exercise, fresh air, new skills, old skills, well being, fun, nature, produce and most importantly community.

We moved to Compton in the summer of 2015 and immediately set to work on taming our plot! 6ft nettles gave a home to numerous wheelbarrows, animal feeders, raspberry canes, and a substantial chicken house which was occupied within the week. It has been a labour of love and given so much back in return. The community of fellow allotmenters has been lovely, friendships have blossomed along with the veg and plans are underway to have regular 'meet and grow' afternoons in the sunshine.

Occupancy is full again for 2017-18 which is fantastic, there has been some movement but plots were snapped up which shows a healthy enthusiasm. All plots are chargeable this year and I have confidence that fees will be paid promptly. Renewals were sent out at the beginning of April.

All tenants have been reminded about section 3a - some require immediate action regarding weeds, those identified as weed-ridden I am currently in discussions with.

We have had some unwanted visitors, several thefts of property, and devastatingly, some livestock. Measures have been put in place to deter such visitors and thankfully since I have not had any reports. The local PCSO's have been fully involved and carry out regular patrols. We have put chains on the gates to help keep them closed (not locked) this has been particularly useful as the gate onto Station Road does not meet the post. Our other unwelcome visitor is Mr Fox who has visited regularly over the past few weeks and killed in excess of 18 chickens. The back perimeter fence is where he is accessing the allotments, this is non-existent in places and I would recommend a survey to be undertaken to assess the vulnerability.

I have received a request from a resident to remove a tree on the allotment boundary as it has been pushing on their garden fence and causing the posts to break. I have requested the council to remove this tree. I have also requested that the hedges are all trimmed back as they are encroaching on the main path.

The grass cutting along pathways as far as I can tell has been done by allotment holders. We certainly keep our end maintained regularly. It would be useful to know when the contracted ground works are scheduled.

The compost plot has a crop of nettles thriving on it which is not attracting people to use it. I am however looking into a solution to this; I think it's going to be having the current lot removed and new delivered then covered to minimise weed growth.