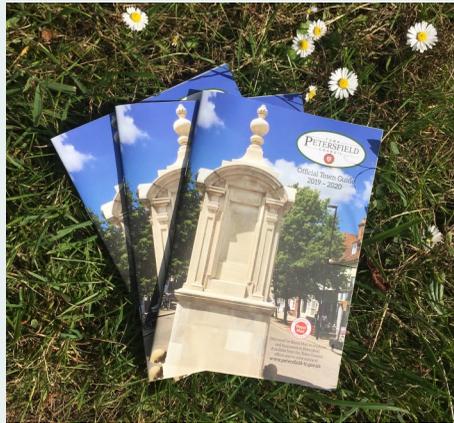


## Petersfield Town Council

Heath Road  
Petersfield  
GU31 4EA

Phone: 01730 264182  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pppetersfield.tc/](http://www.facebook.com/pppetersfield.tc/)  
Website: [www.petersfield-tc.co.uk](http://www.petersfield-tc.co.uk)



Official Town Guide 2019/20



# 2019-20 Annual Report



# Annual Report 2019-20



## Serving the community of Petersfield

As I write this introduction, Petersfield is gripped by the Coronavirus Pandemic, and many agencies, organisations and people in the community have risen to the challenge to keep people safe, fed, watered, and in good health.

A newly formed organisation called Petersfield Coronavirus Help Network immediately sprung into action, initially providing a Facebook Page, but very quickly becoming a helpline for people who required shopping and prescriptions to be picked up. Many agencies and organisations continued (and continue) to provide their services such as Age Concern, PACT Food Bank, Citizens Advice, Petersfield Voluntary Care Group, Dementia Friends, Kings Arms, the Salvation Army, and all the churches in Petersfield.

Agencies Working Together facilitator, with the backing of Petersfield Town Council, has provided assistance both in manpower and funding to pull together some of the threads of work going on, to ensure a strong response to the crisis, and later on Petersfield Town Council were represented on the Community Co-ordination Group which was being steered on behalf of the government by East Hampshire District Council.

During the pandemic, Petersfield Town Council has continued to serve its community by keeping the green spaces clean and tidy, as well as dealing with enquiries for allotments, and general questions about the lockdown that we are all currently under. Unfortunately all our Council meetings have been cancelled, and we hope that these will resume as soon as possible, but only when the Government gives us direction to do so.

We are currently finding new ways to run our events, and VE day was one example of this. Utilising new ways of technology to reach the masses has been one significant change in the way that we reach out to the public with the events that we run. Our Petersfield in Bloom Competition is also a great example of this. This year we have asked for pictures to be sent in, and judging will happen in the same way but for fewer categories. Along with this, we have asked children to submit a picture of a garden collage. At this time, we hope that the Remembrance and Christmas Lights switch on events which happen in November will take place in their usual way, but as they say, time will tell.

For the first time, our PTC News has gone digital for the May edition, but we hope to resume normal service by delivering this via the Directory Group when normality resumes. This years Town Guide will be delivered to every Petersfield household sometime in June. Please keep an eye on our website and facebook pages for current news and information.

[www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk](http://www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk)

# Annual Report 2019-20 Index



- Introduction
- The Team
- Town Mayors reflections
- Committee Reports
- Town Visitor Centre
- List of Associated Organisations
- Reports from Associated Organisations
- Sir Daniel Day Lewis
- Town Mayor Awards
- Finances
- Plans for the future

**Petersfield Town Council**

*Here to serve the heart of Petersfield*

[www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk](http://www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk)

## Introduction

We are here to serve the residents of Petersfield, and most importantly, to communicate what we do on your behalf. We look after some of the most outstanding beauty spots in and around the town, which includes the Heath and Pond, Love Lane Recreation Ground, Avenue Playing Fields, Bell Hill Recreation Ground, Rotherlands Conservation Area and many others. We also have the privilege of looking after the Festival Hall and Pavilions at the Avenue and Love Lane.

Our projects are varied and many, and this booklet provides details of the ones that were completed last year, as well as the ones we are currently working on, to improve the facilities and environment of the place that we all love—Petersfield.

We have 12 elected councillors who represent various wards of Petersfield and meet to make decisions on your behalf on what the Town Council ultimately provides to the town. We have an excellent team of staff, which includes the main office staff, grounds staff and halls staff, as well as the most senior member, the Town Clerk.

## Plans for the future

### Festival Hall & Town Hall Complex

Some would say that the Festival Hall refurbishment is taking far too long, and in many ways it is, but this is because it is so important that the right decisions are made on your behalf. The Town Council made every effort last year to consult with yourselves, and while we had some good feedback at Secrets of the Heath, Summer Festival, open day at the Town Hall, and surveys on Facebook, the number of people who participated was disappointing, and members have not felt that they could make a final decision on this basis.

This year we are likely to see the project move into what is known as RIBA stage 3, which is the detailed design stage, and we would welcome as many of you as possible to come to our public consultation events, because we want to make the Festival Hall a place that everyone can enjoy, broadening the scope of events that take place, possibly including comedy acts, tribute bands and possibly even gaming and live streaming. However, we need your views and thoughts for members to be able to make their decisions, so please look out for the opportunities this year to **have your say**.

### Heath Playing Area

You would have noticed that we have commenced work on the play areas at the Heath. Specifically we have worked on the titan swing and logworld areas, and these will be completed by summer this year. Most of the groundwork has been carried out by a new member of our grounds team, and this is one way that we are able to save public money by utilising the skills that we now have within the expanded grounds team. Once contractors are allowed back onto the Heath, the new logworld will be erected, and at this present time, it is hoped that this will be completed before or during the summer months.

# Project Update

## Heath Pond

At the end of last year, the Town Council chose a contractor (Five Rivers) to carry out the long awaited work on the Heath Pond (or lake). This included the re-stabilisation of banks that had been eroded, the introduction of two new islands, the introduction of a new longer board walk, and a bridge across to duck island, as well as several areas of planting reeds and other aquatic plants.

Work has progressed well through the early months of the year and most of the work has now been completed. However, due to the levels of the water being too high, and the outbreak of Coronavirus, the work had to be stopped. It is hoped that further work will be carried out in the summer which will include further planting, where those who have volunteered to be part of the planting will be able to assist, as well as planting along the marginal areas of the pond, including some that will be sunk below the water level in flexi bags to create a barrier against the banks, and introduce additional marginal plants.

## Map Boards and Heritage Signs

New Map Boards have now replaced the old map boards in Swan Street Car Park, Central Car Park, and Festival Hall Car Park. These have a modern look and feel, and have an extended view of the town, and the main places of interest, so that visitors to the town can find their way around. There are plans to add further map boards in strategic places around the town.

The current black heritage signs were installed in 1993, and are in need of replacement. This work has been agreed, and the order has been placed, but unfortunately the work has been delayed due to the coronavirus crisis.

Once the lockdown has been eased, we are hoping that Petersfield Town will be signposted with replacement and additional signs, which will provide signage to all shopping areas, an alternative route to the Heath, signs to the nearest defibrillator, as well as to the nearest public conveniences.

These new signs have been primarily funded by developers contributions, as well as contributions from Petersfield Town Council and East Hampshire District Council.

## THE CURRENT TEAM

### THE OFFICERS & STAFF

Neil Hitch	-	Town Clerk
Stephen Field	-	Office Manager
K Ellis Blandford	-	Office Administrator
Ginnie Rutter	-	Office Administrator
Sophie Fisher	-	Committees Admin
Michelle Snow	-	Finance Officer
Gemma Booty	-	Sales Ledger
Laura Tucker	-	Purchase Ledger
Jon Tucker	-	Halls Manager
Peter Greinke	-	Halls Supervisor
Cristian Bran	-	Halls Supervisor
Mike Davis	-	Halls Supervisor
Trevor Parrett	-	Cleaner
Dugg Budd	-	Senior Groundsman
David Cole	-	Grounds Operative
Aidan Rickhuss	-	Grounds Operative
Ethan McKenna	-	Grounds Apprentice

## CURRENT MEMBERS

Cllr Lesley Farrow (Heath) - 01730 261350  
Cllr George Watkinson (Causeway) - 01730 266801  
Cllr Peter Bisset (Bell Hill) - [peter.bisset@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.bisset@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)  
Cllr Peter Clist (St Peters) - [peter.clist@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.clist@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)  
Cllr JC Crissey (Ramshill) - [jc.crissey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:jc.crissey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)  
Cllr James Deane (Rother) - 01730 269072  
Cllr Steve Dewey (Heath) - [steven.dewey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:steven.dewey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)  
Cllr George Watkinson (Causeway) - 01730 266801  
Cllr John Lees (Causeway) - [john.lees@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:john.lees@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)  
Cllr Jamie Matthews (Bell Hill) - 01730 233324  
Cllr John Palmer (St Peters) - 01730 750115  
Cllr Zoe Parker (Ramshill) - [zoe.parker@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:zoe.parker@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)  
Cllr Phil Shaw (Causeway) - [phil.shaw@petersfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:phil.shaw@petersfield-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Lesley Farrow  
Town Mayor 2019-20*

## ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

### THE NEW SAVOY CINEMA

The New Savoy Cinema is held in the Festival Hall once a month and can seat up to 250 people. It has a good sound system, and large screen and purchases of ice cream and future tickets can be made at every showing.

Whilst The New Savoy Cinema is administered by Petersfield Town Council, there is an army of volunteers who oversee the afternoon and evening performances, and even carry out duties such as distributing posters and leaflets. Many of the volunteers also participate in choosing the films on our Film Selection Panel. We are tremendously grateful to all our volunteers who without them none of this would be possible.

The New Savoy Cinema has had a very successful year, showing some amazing films such as Downton Abbey, Fishermans Friends, Bohemian Rhapsody and Rocketman.

Ticket sales increased by 7.3% from our financial year 2018-19 to this financial year 2019-20.

Any profits made from the New Savoy Cinema are ploughed back into the Festival Hall for the benefit of those who enjoy the films and productions that are held.

If you already support the New Savoy Cinema, then we would like to thank you. If you don't, why not pick up a leaflet from the Town Hall or Town Visitor Centre.

Most term times we show a film that all the family can come and watch. The children are also invited to come as their favourite character—usually from the film—and receive a goody bag at the end of the film.

At £5 a ticket it's one of the cheapest days/evenings out in town.

### SIR DANIEL DAY LEWIS AWARD 2019-20

The Daniel Day Lewis Award is presented to a young person for Drama, Dance, Singing, Music or Theatre Craft. Nominations for this prestigious award were invited from 1st September 2019 and the deadline was 31st January 2020. Nominations were all very worthy. Nominees were Stanley Lyons, nominated by the Petersfield School, Darcy Gander of Lion & Unicorn Players, Theo Lacey nominated by Winton Players and our 2019-20 winner was Tilley Padley who received a hard back copy of the 'complete works of Shakespeare' and a signed letter from Sir Daniel Day Lewis. Left—Right Theo, Tilley, Stanley, Darcy.



### GROUNDS COMMITTEE — CLLR JAMIE MATTHEWS

Grounds is an exceptionally busy committee, and some would say the most productive, dealing with all aspects of the management of open spaces in the town.

The Town Council owns and manages almost all the public open spaces in Petersfield, from play areas and recreations grounds to sports fields, nature reserves and The Heath. That's over 200 acres of space that people can access.

The Grounds Committee meet 10 times a year and oversee expenditure budget of some £308,000 to cover maintenance of the grounds facilities. Offset against this expenditure is an income of £90,000 from property leases, concessions and providing third party services.

In 2016 the Council started to bring work back in house under the appointment of a Senior Groundsman. The transition will be completed from April this year with all work directly overseen or commissioned by the Council's team. This transition of these management arrangements is broadly cost neutral; however, it allows the Council to be much more flexible in managing the quality and timing of how the work is delivered. Resources can be directed as needed rather than to a prescribed timetable. The Grounds team are now able to provide some services to a number of other parish councils and our newest customer to the portfolio is East Meon Parish Council. The services are provided completely priced but always on a 'costs plus' basis. This is a great example of local councils working together to share resources and provide services in a cost effective and collaborative manner.

It's important that our open spaces remain safe and enjoyable areas for the whole community. In 2017 the Council introduced a policy designed to discourage anti-social behaviour with processes to report and monitor such incidents and work with other agencies to manage if required. I'm pleased to report since that policy was introduced a reduction in ASB across our 3 key sites of concern; Love Lane, The Avenue and Bell Hill. This year we introduced CCTV to these three sites and this deterrent has further reduced incidents to a minimal level at two of those locations with Love Lane, whilst having improved, still giving some cause for concern.

The largest piece of work the committee completed this year was awarding of the tender for the Heath Pond Enhancement and Bank Restoration Project. The work scoping out this project began in earnest in 2016 with the tender being awarded last Summer. Of the project cost of some £500,000 a large proportion was funded by contributions from new local housing developments.

The Heath attracts in the region of 300,000 visitors a year and for a whole variety of reasons; walks around the pond, to use the playground, observe the flora and fauna. It's the Town Council's role to manage the balance between amenity (visitors), the archaeological and ecological aspects of the Heath. There are protected species and scheduled ancient monuments, but we mustn't forget that for thousands of years people have used the Heath and are the primary reason why it looks like it does today. And that's why, in our approach to managing The Heath, people will be one of our primary considerations, balanced against those other important aspects. The Council is currently working on a new 5 year management plan and we expect this draft plan to be available for community consultation in April.

We thank the hard working volunteers of Friends of Petersfield Heath who make important contributions towards the management of The Heath, along with the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service. I'm delighted that from this year we will also be joined by professionally trained volunteers from "The Hampshire Monday Group" who will be carrying out maintenance activities at a number of sites, including the Rotherlands Nature Reserve.

## MAYORS REFLECTION ON THE YEAR

### Town Mayors report on the past Municipal year 2019-2020

This year we started with seven new councillors and it takes time for them to bed in. The Town Clerk led a Councillor training event in the Summer to assist in the learning process. They have had to deal with two high profile projects with which to get their teeth into: The Festival Hall refurbishment project and the Heath Pond Bank Stabilisation project.

Our future projects involve continuing the progress on the Town Spine project, dealing with dangerous road junctions and the climate change emergency.

This has been a particularly challenging year for the Public Halls Committee who have had five new members of the committee. Decisions have to be made on the precise details of the Festival Hall refurbishment and exactly what we are going to do in that respect. We also want the refit to make the premises more carbon neutral.

We are concerned at the potential reduction in hours at the library and it may necessitate the need to move the Town Visitor Centre to the Town Hall. At present the consultations are ongoing for the library and for the new Local Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan. Both consultations are online and we would encourage everyone to respond.

The Grounds Committee have to decide on the future expansion of the Penns Farm playing fields to make it into a sports hub for the community. We also intend to revamp the children's play area at Penns Farm. On the Heath we plan to refurbish the public loos and replace the old log world play area.

We take the climate change initiative seriously and it is hoped that we will be able to explore possible funding from outside sources to help address the issue and put solutions into place. We have solar panels in this building at the moment and we need to look seriously at how we can make more of our buildings carbon neutral.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Town Clerk, Neil Hitch and our officers and staff for all their hard work and support through this year.

Town Mayor Cllr Lesley Farrow

Don't walk by  
if you see  
**someone  
sleeping  
rough.**



Connecting rough sleepers to local services

**Street  
Link**

**0300 500 0914**

**[www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)**

## PUBLIC HALLS COMMITTEE – CLLR GEORGE WATKINSON

This year in Public Halls we have had five new Councillor members and it is being chaired by George Watkinson. They have had some very difficult decisions to make in their first year.

The Halls Committee covers the Avenue Pavilion, the Love Lane Pavilion and the Festival Hall Complex.

This year at the Avenue, work will be undertaken to install glazing in the porch area and sound cladding. At Love Lane we have had to replace the boiler as it came to the end of its serviceable life. In addition, we had to replace the shower heads in the changing rooms and put thermostatic valves in the showers to improve water flow and temperature.

At the Festival Hall a Working Party and Project Panel have been formed to work on the detail of the proposed refurbishment plan for the complex. They are also working on the strategy created with consultant Chris Moore in June last year for the business plan for the building. We have had several consultations on the way forward and details of alterations and refurbishment coming from RIBA stage 2. We have had a significant problem with our single storey extension with water ingress and serious structural issues. We are working with Andrews Newby, a local firm of structural engineers, who have known the building in detail for many years. In the short term, we will have to carry out repairs but these will be costly, which is a shame and emphasises the need for a significant refurbishment to progress as soon as possible.

The aim of the refurbishment is to create a community facility that is fit for purpose for the next 40 to 50 years and that can offer a wide variety of productions and events that will appeal to the whole community. The current estimated cost is £8.6 million, subject to further work being done on the plans. This has not been approved at the moment.

Just for interest, Fernham Hall in Fareham is undergoing a £15 million refurbishment with a 2-year closure.

## MAYORS AWARDS FOR SERVICES TO PETERSFIELD

**Shelia-Barker Wallis.** Sheila fund raises within the local community, collecting items for women's refuge.

**Marika Kyjovska.** Marika works with the homeless and organises and cooks for the PACT Christmas Lunch.

**Lucy Lomax.** Lucy set up and now runs the Free Shop Friday which provides food and other items to the community which would otherwise go to waste.

**Beth Svarovska.** Beth organises the regular community litter picks.

**Captain Linda Read** for her services within the Petersfield Community in conjunction with the Salvation Army over the past ten years. Cpt Linda leaves Petersfield Salvation Army this Summer after ten years here.



Left—Right, Lucy, Beth, Cpt Linda



## Petersfield Community Garden

Growing together

Contact us:

[petersfieldcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:petersfieldcommunitygarden@gmail.com)



@PfCommGarden



Petersfield Community Garden

Our garden is a free-to-use community space for people of all ages to enjoy and relax in. Feel free to drop by on Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm till 4 pm and Saturday mornings from 9 am till 11 am, or if you would like to use the space at any other time just drop us an email. At Petersfield Railway Station we manage the community vegetable planters on Mondays at 9.30 am. Come and say hello.



### TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE — CLLR JOHN PALMER

The Town Development Committee exists to help shape the future of the town and works to implement the Neighbourhood Plan. It is unique amongst the Council's Committees in that it includes members of the public and councillors from the South Downs National Park Authority, District and County Councils.

The Committee has continued to work towards a more pedestrian and cycle-friendly town. The Town Council funded a detailed traffic study and subsequent discussions with Hampshire County Council have resulted in the preparation of a plan to address several dangerous junctions in the town. A sub-group of the committee has also provided a significant amount of input to the emerging Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure (LCWIP) being developed by East Hants District Council. The Town Spine steering group will use both of these documents as the basis to move forward with proposals to make the entire town centre more pedestrian friendly.

During the last year, the Committee has been looking at Tourism and has prepared a strategy which sets out how we would like to see our Tourism offering develop. The strategy initially focuses on enhancing the Town's online presence and options for developing a new website are currently being investigated.

The Committee has, over the course of the year, reviewed and prioritised Council's Infrastructure Development Plan. This is a comprehensive list of all the town's potential infrastructure projects and is used by the Council as a basis for making bids for funding from developers and other authorities.

Finally, this Committee has also been working to help set up a local climate change group. Provisionally named PeCAN (Petersfield Climate Action Network), the group will act as a focal point for community groups and residents who want to support action to combat climate change. As part of this, the committee has developed a new climate change strategy for the Council itself which, once adopted, will offer formal Council support to local groups and also commit the Council to lead by example in moving towards a net zero emissions town.

## CLLR J DEANE

### Social Charity ‘Agencies Working Together’ – In Petersfield

A reminder that this initiative was formed in 2016 and aims to link representatives of all local charities, some local and some as part of national organisations in order to provide signposting and information to all for the benefit of those in need in the Petersfield Area.

Set up by a Petersfield Town Council Officer in his spare time, it has enjoyed working on an informal basis but clearly came into its own in 2020 with the onset of COVID – 19 outbreak. This led to a speedy requirement for a much heightened need to support a considerably higher increase in need. Along with the quickly formed Corona Virus Help Network (PCHN Petersfield) for Petersfield, the AWT’s base knowledge and connections allowed for good communication and experience which helped Petersfield as a Town get off to a flying start. It also led to a need for a volunteer recruitment drive from the Community. The AWT and the PCHN initiatives have met with great success and those organisers as well as their volunteer force have been more than deservedly applauded for some great and ongoing work.

### John Goodyer (Bishop Laney) Charity

This is a little known charity steeped in the social history of the area over 400 years ago. Originally set up in Buriton it now serves a geographical area which includes Petersfield, Buriton and Stroud and is still able to help local families to this day.

2020 has seen some review of the operation where a more broader view has been taken on how the Charity can help with due regard to its roots and original principles

The Trustees invite applications from families and individuals in need who would like to be considered for a financial grant to help meet their own (or their children’s) educational / equipment/ uniform/ trips in the main but other needs are destined to be considered.

Application forms are available from: The Correspondent, The John Goodyer / Bishop Laney Trusts, c/o Petersfield Town Council, The Town Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield, GU31 4EA. E-mail contact can also be via [johngoodyercharity@gmail.com](mailto:johngoodyercharity@gmail.com)

### EHDC Community Forum

This year has seen a move towards a revised system of engagement based on “Let’s Talk” and “We will come to you”. However National Issues from early to mid-2020 to date has prevented any real major steps forward although a number of outings to communities have taken place.

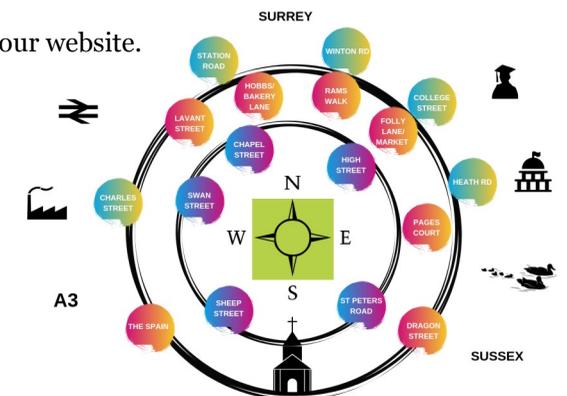
### Petersfield Community Association

It has been a pleasure to be the Town Council’s link with the Association during 2019-20. It has been a significant period in that, in August 2019, the Association became a Charitable Incorporated Trust (CIO) rather than the Charitable Trust it had been previously.

One of the Petersfield Community Association’s main roles is to maintain and manage the Petersfield Community Centre. The Community Centre has been at Love Lane since 1968. The Centre is a popular meeting point for many organisations, clubs and societies and a high level of utilisation had been maintained throughout the year. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that the Centre closed temporarily on the 23rd of March.



Petersfield Mini-Guides available on our website.



## CLLR PETER CLIST—PTFC

The Council owns the Football Club ground on Love Lane and supports the club in various ways.

This past year has been more eventful than any in the memory of committee members.

For the first half, things were going well. The teams were doing well in their leagues. The first team was resolutely mid-table, a considerable achievement when most other teams in their league pay players, in one form or another, and Petersfield do not. However, the team was stable and playing attractive football, with some major scalps to their credit. The reserves and the youth teams were also holding their own, with some youth team players progressing to the first team squad and one to a regular starting place. However, the season was badly disrupted by the weather. Game after game was postponed because of water-logged pitches, both home and away. By the time Covid-19 hit, there was a considerable backlog of matches.

On the commercial side, things were also going well. Attendances, sponsorship, bar takings and kitchen takings were all up, no doubt partly thanks to some cup success. As a result, the club was able to pay off some outstanding debts. A concerted effort to paint and refurbish the clubhouse was also bringing in increased mid-week bookings.

Then Covid-19 hit. At first, the hope was for a speedy restart and for the season to come to a proper end. It rapidly became clear that that was not going to happen and the league declared the season finished and closed all grounds until further notice.

Of course, once football stopped, the club lost all its income. Its two major creditors, the Town Council and Hampshire Playing Fields Association (loan to put up the floodlights) have been understanding and have not pressed for payment.

Then the club received a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grant of £10,000 from a government business support scheme distributed by East Hants District Council. It was a lifesaver. The club is also hoping to be able to improve the playing area during lockdown to try and solve the waterlogging problems and has applied for £1,500 for pitch renovation from the Football Foundation – no news yet

We hope to be able to report better news in a year's time.

## PLANNING - CLLR STEVE DEWEY

As a new elected Councillor in May I was honoured to become Chairman of Planning, after finding my feet as one of seven new Councillors I took over the role for the 25th June meeting.

Petersfield Town Council planning committee meets roughly every three weeks throughout the year, all Councillors, except the Mayor, are expected to attend, we are asked to review all the documents which have been supplied with their associated planning applications which are available for all to see on the South Downs National Park Authority website.

Councillors have the opportunity to have a detailed debate on every application we have been asked to review, some applications are very challenging and need a vote to settle the outcome, others go through with little debate. At times our Councillors need guidance so we are very grateful to the Petersfield Society who provide supporting notes with their views on all applications.

Although the Town Council are consulted on planning applications we are not ourselves a planning authority. The planning authority for Petersfield is the South Downs National Park Authority who delegates planning administration to the East Hampshire District Council for most applications. From time to time applications may be requested to be called in to the South Downs Committee for more detailed examination and on all of these occasions we ensure that a representative from Petersfield Town Council attends the meeting to provide our opinion.

With all Petersfield Town Council meetings our debates are open to the public, every council meeting the Public have the opportunity to address the Councillors provided they give notice to the Town Clerk. I would like to thank Councillor Deane and Councillor Palmer who have deputized when I was either learning or unavailable.

## ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

### REPRESENTATIVES 2019-20

East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership

West Sussex Bus Steering Group

West Sussex Bus Steering Group

Petersfield Football Club

East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils

New Savoy Cinema

New Savoy Cinema

New Savoy Cinema

John Goodyer Trust

EHDC Community Forum

Agencies Working Together

Rotherlands Conservation Group

Petersfield Twinning Association

East Hampshire Community Partnership Meeting

Friends of Petersfield Heath

John Goodyer Trust

Petersfield Community Association

Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool

Cllr Peter Bisset

Cllr Peter Bisset

Cllr Jamie Matthews

Cllr Peter Clist

Cllr JC Crissey

Cllr James Deane

Cllr Lesley Farrow

Cllr George Watkinson

Cllr JC Crissey

Cllr Lesley Farrow

Cllr George Watkinson

Cllr James Deane

Cllr James Deane

Cllr James Deane

Cllr Steve Dewey

Cllr Lesley Farrow

Cllr Lesley Farrow

Cllr John Lees

Cllr Zoe Parker

Cllr Phil Shaw

Cllr George Watkinson



## PETERSFIELD TOWN VISITOR CENTRE

Since Petersfield Town Council took on the responsibility to fund the Town Visitor Centre, the team - headed up by Graham Haynes - has continued to serve Petersfield Town residents, as well as welcoming visitors from other parts of the country and overseas. The number of people visiting the Town Visitor Centre saw a rise year on year, and it was hoped that this trend would continue. However, just as the new year was about to start, we saw the commencing of the lock-down period due to Coronavirus.

It was agreed towards the end of the financial year 2019-20 that Petersfield Town Council would fund a further year, which would mean that the Town Visitor Centre would definitely be in operation until March 2021.

Some of the achievements during the year have been the introduction of themed events, and during the 2019-20 year, the Town Visitor Centre took full responsibility to produce a Petersfield Calendar, successfully selling all copies that had been ordered, and holding a special awards evening for the winning photographs which appeared on the calendar. Winners received various prizes donated by businesses for this purpose.

The Town Visitor Centre also celebrated in coming 3rd in the category Visitor Information Service of the Year at the annual awards ceremony. This was an amazing achievement considering that 1st and 2nd prizes went to Oxford and Eastbourne.



## FINANCE AND GENERAL—CLLR JAMES DEANE

As a usual reminder the Finance & General Purposes Committee, apart from the responsibilities for the Petersfield Purse, also addresses those matters of a general nature that fall outside the remit of other Committees. In addition the Committee acts as a conduit for the furtherance of recommendations from other Committees that require Full Council consensus. This results in this Committee overseeing a broad area of subjects.

This Committee meets 11 times a year and all financial matters are subject to a Resolution or passed as a Recommendation to Full Council for approval. All such details are a matter of public record as are our Accounts. This report thus aims to address general key management areas rather than read out a list of numbers.

We have found a continuing need for a period for restraint within the public sector. However, there is also a need to protect our Town and Assets for the present need and for the need for our future generations. Thus this Committee constantly has to think, discuss and debate every item of expenditure for recommendation to Full Council. Spinning plates and tightrope walking is a term often used for this Committee. It would be unusual for all of our Community to agree on any one single issue.

This year has again seen some significant challenges; at times second guessing what is required and as an example the second year living with the loss of some former funding such as the Community Support Grant. The Town, at the lower end of the financial chain need to survive and we are largely on our own. It therefore follows that there is a real need to up our game on generating income and this may well require some significant investment in the coming years. It would be fair to say that this year has been not too easy and the likelihood the years ahead will not get any easier.

All that said, the Chairman of this Committee believes the ethos of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is that we, as elected Community representatives, should not and cannot settle for standing still or reducing those services which mean so much to all. Indeed we must strive to think to the future pressing forwards, to improve, consolidate and enhance the values of the Town where we have power and authority to do so. This has been the rationale and basis of any decisions taken—decisions taken on your behalf in order to deliver a balanced and sensible service to the Town. Decisions taken by any Council can and do have lasting impacts on Communities and frame the legacy of such Councils way into the future. Our predecessors invested time, thought and money for the future, we must to likewise.

On a final note this Committee would wish to convey their congratulations for the leadership of the Town Clerk as the Responsible Finance Officer and to the outstanding Accounts Team for another committed and dedicated year not only to pass muster with our financial audits and scrutiny but also who have, once again, ensured that our Town Budget has landed in the right area.

## FULL COUNCIL TOWN MAYOR

Each month, other than August, the Full Council meet. These meetings include reports from our District and County Councillors. The Town Clerk submits a report for the month as well as council members viewing and approving all financial expenditure from the committee meetings that have taken place in the same month.

## OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL

The 2019-20 season has been a very interesting one and one that has given the Trustees much to think about. The Pool was well used during the season and was heavily booked by schools and other groups for teaching children to swim or other special events.

However, whilst the crowds were enjoying themselves there were worries for the Trustees building up over the pool maintenance and running costs. As the season progressed it was noted that a serious leak had developed which caused a steady and growing increase in water and heating costs. With great care and effort by all the pool staff the season was completed with only some minor effects on those using the pool.

Careful consideration was given throughout the Summer as to the likely cause of these problems and the cost of rectification. There are few open-air pools in the British Isles so finding companies there were experienced enough to investigate and advise on the probable necessary work was not easy to find. Eventually a firm was found and after tests a number of faults were identified as the likely issue, also identified were possible problems that could occur with the surrounding river bank once the pool was completely drained.

The necessary work was identified along with the information that new Health & Safety regulations for Open Air Pools would be have to be undertaken as well. The project was advertised and despite the project high costs causing a heavy drain on the Pool accounts a contract was placed, at this time it was estimated that unless the Winter weather was extremely bad there was a reasonable chance that the 2020 season would commence in late April.

During the Winter months work progressed well, all the corroded and damaged pipework was removed, the major leak problem was identified as the failure of the pool tiling at the shallow end, work that had been undertaken some years ago during a previous major refurbishment. Everything was progressing well, there were indications that bad weather in the Spring could affect the completion date, the trustees were ready with plan B—Season Opens May—all was looking good. Alas Coronavirus appeared and all work stopped due to the government Coronavirus isolation rules. We now just sit and wait. Once work is allowed to restart a decision can be made and the possible reopening date announced, whenever the pool does open swimmers are going to have a vastly improved pool to enjoy!

