

# YEOVIL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012 -2013



*Above - the results of the bulbs planted in the grass verge at the road entrance to Yeovil Marsh on 8th November 2012*

## CONTACT US

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Full contact details of councillors are available from the Clerk, on the noticeboards, and on the parish website detailed above.

MEETINGS

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting in March 2012, there have been thirteen meetings of the parish council – all held at a classroom in the Refectory Block at Bucklers Mead Academy. The meetings are generally held on the last Tuesday of every month, except in some months when public holidays causes them to be brought forward to an earlier date in those months. In addition to the normal monthly meetings, an additional meeting was held in November 2012, specifically to discuss the plans and aspirations of the parish council for 2013/14 and to establish a budget to cover those plans and aspirations. Next year, it is planned that some meetings will be held at public halls elsewhere in the parish e.g. Brimsmore Garden Centre and Yeovil Marsh Church Hall.

The meetings have been generally well attended by councillors and members of the public alike. The attendance record of the parish councillors is as follows;-

COUNCILLOR’S NAME	WARD	ATTENDANCE
MAURICE LAMB (Chairman)	BRIMSMORE	92% (12/13)
ROBIN WILDING (Vice Chairman)	LYDE	100% (13/13)
IRIS COTON	BRIMSMORE	85% (11/13)
ALF HILL	BRIMSMORE	100% (13/13)
LINDA KEYWORD	BRIMSMORE	89% (8/9)
GRAHAM OAKES	BRIMSMORE	85% (11/13)
ROGER BROWN	COMBE	77% (10/13)
STEPHEN HAWKER	COMBE	80% (8/10)
MIKE LOCK	COMBE	77% (10/13)
SUE PITMAN	COMBE	90% (9/10)
JOHN SNELL	COMBE	62% (8/13)
DIANE BUGLER	LYDE	69% (9/13)
GEOFF BUGLER	LYDE	69% (9/13)
JON GLEESON	LYDE	77% (10/13)
PAULINE LOCK	LYDE	85% (11/13)

None of the members of the parish council are paid any salary or allowance to attend meetings or to carry out their duties as parish councillors.

The annual parish meeting, at which all parishioners are entitled to attend, speak and vote was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and the next one is due to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Parishioners and members of the public are also welcome to attend all council meetings and raise any issues. Meetings during the financial year 2013/2014 will generally be held at 7pm on the last Tuesday of the month, at Bucklers Mead Academy (unless otherwise stated), as follows;-

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND VENUES 2013 - 2014

Tuesday 26th March 2013—Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 30th April 2013  
Tuesday 28th May 2013—Annual Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – **Brimsmore Garden Centre**  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013 – **Yeovil Marsh Church Hall**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013 – Budget and Action Plan Meeting  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – Precept Meeting  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Please note that there will be no parish council meeting in August 2013.**

## COUNCILLORS

During the past year there have been several changes in the membership of the parish council following the death of Mrs Marie Botham, and the retirement of Mrs Barbara Strong and Mr David Kingdon. All three had been long serving members of the parish council and Mrs Strong had been the Chairperson of the parish council for the last 9 years. The three vacancies were advertised, but there was no demand for a by-election to be called, and so three new councillors were co-opted to the parish council – Miss Sue Pitman (representing Combe Ward), Mr Stephen Hawker (Combe Ward) and Mrs Linda Keyworth (Brimsmore Ward).

At the same time Alf Hill stepped down as Vice-Chairman, and Maurice Lamb and Robin Wilding were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively at the annual parish council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected annually in May.

A training evening for all new and existing councillors was held at West Camel Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 to explain the provisions of the new Localism Act 2011 and the requirements for the parish council to adopt a new Code of Conduct and new Standing Orders.

Various parts of the parish are represented on Somerset County Council by three different County Councillors.

**County Councillor TIM CARROLL - YEOVIL WEST DIVISION – covering Brimsmore Ward**

**County Councillor PETER GUBBINS - YEOVIL NORTH AND CENTRAL DIVISION – covering Combe Ward**

**County Councillor TONY LOCK - YEOVIL EAST DIVISION – covering Lyde Ward**

At least one of the three County Councillors has been present at the parish council meetings on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012, and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

The three district councillors for the Yeovil Without Wards of South Somerset District Council also happen to be parish councillors;-

**Councillors Pauline Lock, Jon Gleeson and Graham Oakes.**

A representative of Avon and Somerset Constabulary (PCSO Adam Goff) has attended three parish council meetings during the year – on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2012, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Crime statistics and problems were discussed.

## REPRESENTATION

The Parish Council is represented on the following local authorities, associations and charitable organisations;-

Birchfield Community Association  
Westfield Community Association  
Wyndham Park Community Association  
Yeovil Sports Club (Johnson Park)  
SSDC Area South Committee  
Somerset Association of Local Councils  
Society of Local Council Clerks  
Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee  
Woborns Almshouse (The Chairman of the Parish Council is a Ex-Officio Trustee)  
John Nowes Exhibition Foundation  
South Somerset Disability Forum  
Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group  
YTC Youth Services Review Group  
Yeovil Town Centre Partnership  
Yeovil Christmas Lights Competition  
Tree Warden

## LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Since the general election in 2010, the Coalition Government has introduced a considerable amount of new legislation which has had a significant impact on local government. In particular, the Localism Act 2011 has necessitated much thought, drafting of documents and debate for a new Code of Conduct, new Standing Orders, the General Power of Competence, the Community Infrastructure Levy, Neighbourhood Planning, planning regulations etc.

Also as a consequence of measures taken by the Coalition Government, cuts have been, or are about to be, made in the levels of expenditure by county and district councils on local services. As a result, the Parish Council has had to make some allowance for the provision of those services within the parish e.g. highways and footpath clearing and maintenance, youth services, community facilities, etc.

During the year it has also been necessary to review and amend various documentation, including the Data Protection Policy, the Assets Register, the Risk Assessment, the Insurance Policy, the Grant Application Policy etc. The Website has been reviewed and amended accordingly.

## BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has recently undertaken a review of the boundaries for the county council electoral divisions within Somerset, as a result of which the boundaries of the three wards (Brimsmore, Combe and Lyde) in Yeovil Without Parish have been substantially modified, including the transfer of the whole of the rural area from Combe Ward to Brimsmore Ward. Previously the three wards were each represented by 5 councillors, but under the new arrangements Brimsmore will have 6 councillors, Combe 2 councillors and Lyde 7 councillors. These new arrangements will come into force for the county council elections in May 2013 and for the next parish council elections in May 2015.

## CENSUS 2011

Statistical Information from the 2011 Census has recently become available. Some interesting extracts are as follows;-

Total population of the parish : 6834

Total number of households/dwellings in the parish: 3094

Of the total population;-

- 49.4% are male, 50.6% are female
- 17.1% are under 16, 60.9% are of working age, and 22.0% are of pension age
- 95.5 are white English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- 95.3% were born in the UK
- 68.6% profess to be Christian, whilst 24.6% claim no religion
- There are 125 unemployed persons, 229 full time students and 799 carers
- 97.3% of the total number of households have English as a main language
- 76.7% of properties are owner occupied (outright or shared)
- 22.5% of properties are rented (Social 9.1%, Private 7.8%, MOD 5.6%)
- 132 properties are unoccupied, and only 100 properties do not have central heating
- There are 4042 cars and vans in the area, and only 376 households do not have a car.

However, it should be noted that the Electoral Register for October 2012 indicates that the number of electors (Age 18+) in the parish is 5958 and the number of properties is at least 3200. These figures cast some doubt on the accuracy of the census.

Full details are available from the Clerk.

## FACILITIES

The Parish Council is the owner or part owner of the following major facilities and is consequently heavily involved in their management;

- Allotments (28 plots) at Yeovil Marsh (rented out to allotment holders at £12.50 per plot per annum, effective from 1 March 2013). Managed by Allotments Working Group of councillors and allotment holders.
- Rental Field (4.5 Acres) adjacent to the Allotments (rented out under a Farm Business Tenancy Agreement to a third party at a rent of £324 per annum).
- Yeovil Cemetery at Preston Road, Yeovil (with Yeovil Town Council)
- Yeovil Crematorium at Alvington, Yeovil (with SSDC)
- Ownership of play equipment, maintenance and safety inspections of Children's Play Area at Johnson Park, Yeovil (the land is owned by Johnson Park)

The Parish Council is also responsible for the provision and maintenance of litter bins, dog bins, grit bins, benches, bus shelters etc.

Two new benches have been kindly donated by the Brethren and these are to be located at Lyde Road/Primrose Lane and Wyndham Park.

The Parish Council has recently invested in a replacement laptop computer (for use by the Clerk), and projector (for use in the presentation of planning applications etc at council meetings).

## ACTIVITY

Since my election as Chairman in May 2012, I have attended 98 meetings with the Clerk, with the Vice Chairman, the Parish Council Meetings, various meetings with representatives and officers of South Somerset District Council and other local councils, workshops and gatherings with various charitable and other organisations, etc.

A considerable amount of time at parish council meetings is spent on planning matters, and during the past year, 46 planning applications have been referred to the parish council by SSDC, the local planning authority, for initial consideration by the parish council.

## GRANTS

During the 2012/2013 financial year, the parish council has had a budget of £10,500 available for grants to deserving charities and local causes. These grants were distributed in July 2012 and January 2013, as follows:-

Organisation	Amount of Grant
<b>July 2012</b>	
Flying Colours (Yeovil District Hospital)	£2,430
Shopmobility	£750
Girlguiding – Bright Sparks	£200
Westfield Community Association	£620
South Somerset Disability Forum	£1,000
<b>July 2012 Total Grants</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>January 2013</b>	
Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance	£1000
Care and Share Time	£100
Friendship Group	£50
Yeovil Foundation Learning Partnership (Lufton College, Fairmead School, Yeovil College, Fiveways School)	£600
St Margarets Hospice	£1000
South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,000
Shopmobility	£750
Flying Colours (Yeovil District Hospital)	£1,000
<b>January 2013 Total Grants</b>	<b>£5,500</b>

## ISSUES

The Parish Council has been consulted about several issues and developments, and has expressed the views of the Parish Council to the relevant authorities, as follows:-

- Lyde Road Key Site – Construction continues and approximately 300 houses are now occupied
- Brimsmore Key Site – Construction has not yet started
- South Somerset Local Plan 2016 – 2028 – currently being reviewed by Planning Inspector
- Primrose Lane Development
- Bunford Heights Development
- All Purpose Pitch at Yeovil Recreation Ground
- Yeovil Football Club Development

- Dualling of the A303 (campaign by Western Gazette)
- Flooding at Yeovil Marsh
- Traffic Calming and Road Resurfacing
- Graffiti on road signs, bus shelters etc
- Pot hole repairs
- Traffic congestion
- Road Crossings
- Waste Core Strategy
- Care and planning of open spaces, including bulb planting on A37 at Yeovil Marsh
- Wyndham Park Community Facilities and Play Areas
- Planning for community facilities at Yeovil Marsh and Brimsmore

## THANKS

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to our ever faithful and hardworking Clerk, Barbara Appleby, to our supportive Vice-Chairman, Robin Wilding, and to all the parish councillors, who have worked well together in this year of consolidation, so that the Parish Council is well positioned for a new year of increased activity and greater service to the parishioners of Yeovil Without.

**Maurice Lamb**  
**Chairman**  
**March 2013**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Yeovil Without Parish Council set a budget for the 2012/2013 financial year that resulted in a sum of £50,731.68 being raised by the Precept on domestic residents. No increase on our general precept (£26,440) was required, but the burial precept which is set by the Crematorium and Cemetery Committee increased by £1,032 (4.4%) to £24,331.68. However, due to the increase in our tax base for 2012/2013, the Band D charge to residents decreased by 16p to £20.32. This year 2013/2014, an increase in our precept has been unavoidable and the reasons for this are explained overleaf in the chapter entitled "Precept".

Our aim as a council during this financial year and over the next few years is to effectively use our capital funds to help support our expenditure. As a result of this strategy our general fund has decreased this year by approximately £3,000 and will continue to decrease over the next few years showing a deficit against receipts and payments, especially if the money we have earmarked for the Wyndham Park and Yeovil Marsh community facilities is utilised.

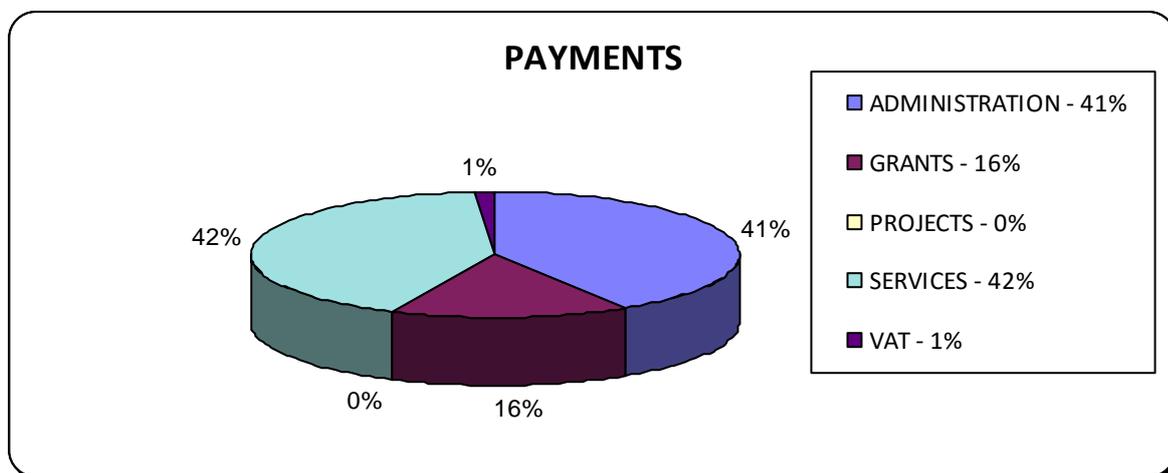
**Barbara Appleby**  
**Clerk**  
**March 2013**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012/2013

2011/2012	RECEIPTS	2012/2013
£		£
599.19	ALLOTMENTS	730.99
26,400.00	GENERAL PRECEPT	26,400.00
23,300.01	BURIAL PRECEPT	24,331.68
9,350.00	CREMATORIUM RENT	9,350.00
1,645.06	INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	1,687.04
721.10	VAT REPAYMENT	623.06
0.00	OTHER INCOME	75.00
<b>62,015.36</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>63,197.77</b>

PAYMENTS		
£		£
22,378.18	ADMINISTRATION	27,380.45
6,030.00	GRANTS	10,530.00
0.00	PROJECTS	0.00
27,126.03	SERVICES	27,712.52
623.06	VAT	867.88
<b>56,157.27</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>66,490.85</b>

CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE		
£		£
110,166.83	Balance brought forward at 1/4/12	116,024.92
62,015.36	Plus Total Income	63,197.77
<u>172,182.19</u>		<u>179,222.69</u>
56,157.27	Less Total Expenditure	66,490.85
<b>116,024.92</b>	<b>Estimated Balance to be carried forward 31/3/13</b>	<b>112,731.84</b>



## CREMATORIUM RESERVE

The Parish Council has built up reserves of funding which it will use to support specific projects, including new cremators at the crematorium, additional land for burials, refurbishment of the Johnson Park play area, community facilities at Wyndham Park and Yeovil Marsh, street furniture etc.

The current values of the YWPC Reserve Funds as at 31/03/13 are as follows:-

	£
YWPC General Reserve Fund	154,611
YWPC Cremator Replacement Reserve Fund	10,801
YWPC Cameo Reserve Fund	49,283
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>214,695</b>

## PRECEPT

Parishioners in the Parish of Yeovil Without pay a Council Tax Bill which finances the operations of Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council, Avon and Somerset Police Authority, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority and Yeovil Without Parish Council.

Of the total amount raised by the Council Tax only approximately 1.5% is payable to YWPC.

For the financial year 2013/2014, YWPC have agreed that the total amount of £53,586 is required to finance its operations, which is an increase of £2,854 or 5.63% on 2012/2013 requirements. This amount represents a council tax charge for an average Band D property of £22.42 per household per year, or 43 pence per household per week, an increase of £2.10 per household per year or 10.33% since 2012/2013.

Of the total amount above, £24,876 (46.42%) is the contribution by YWPC towards the deficit for the operation and maintenance of Yeovil Cemetery.

Historically, the council tax charge for an average Band "D" property in Yeovil Without Parish (£22.42) is lower than in parishes of a similar size, and is in fact lower than it was 10 years ago.

The reasons for the increase (5.63%) in the total amount of finance required are;-

1. Additional administration costs, due to the projected increased activity of the parish council
2. Government legislation placing greater responsibilities on parish councils.
3. Additional planned expenditure on services which have previously been provided by County and District Councils. e.g. highway maintenance, youth services and community facilities.
4. Purchase of a new laptop computer and projector (for assessment of planning applications).

Finally, the localisation of the Council Tax Benefit Scheme (as instructed by the Government) and the reduction in the funding provided by the Government has resulted in an increase of approximately 3.50% in the average Band D charge. This funding may be subject to further reductions in future years, even though expenditure may have to be further increased.

## REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

### YEOVIL SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB – JOHNSON PARK

Johnson Park is the home of Yeovil Archery Club, Yeovil Cricket Club, Yeovil Tennis Club, Yeovil Bridge Club and Pen Mill Football Club, the headquarters of Yeovil and Sherborne Angling Association, Yeovil Cycling Club, Yeovil and Sherborne Hockey Association and Mid-Wessex Cricket League, and is the location of the parish council play area.

In this era of recession, and closures of other clubs and pubs in Yeovil, the finances and membership of the Sports Club are holding up well – thanks to the SSDC rate cut, the extra skittle alley and the popularity of the sports sections, especially junior football.

**Alf Hill**

**March 2013**

### WOBORNS ALMSHOUSE (Charity Commission Registration No. 241102)

The Chairman of Yeovil Without Parish Council is an Ex-Officio Trustee of the Woborns Almshouse together with the Mayor of Yeovil and the vicars of St Johns, Yeovil, and Holy Trinity, Yeovil. The Trustees meet four times every year- normally at the Town House, Yeovil.

All homes within the Almshouse have been occupied throughout the year. The finances of the charity are in good health, as the investments have had a particularly good year.

Efforts are still being made to purchase a suitable memorial bench for the Almshouse, as a memorial to Mrs Marie Botham, to be paid from money donated at Mrs Botham's funeral.

**Maurice Lamb**

**March 2013**

### YEOVIL CREMATORIUM AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Yeovil Crematorium is partly owned by YWPC (with SSDC) and the Yeovil Cemetery is also partly owned by YWPC (with Yeovil Town Council). The crematorium and the cemetery are financially independent of each other. From the point of view of YWPC, the crematorium is relatively "profitable" whereas the cemetery is quite costly. Both continue to be well managed and maintained. YWPC's share of the annual surpluses from the crematorium is currently invested in various Reserve Funds within the SSDC banking system. These Reserve Funds total £214,695 and are more than sufficient to pay for new cremators and new mercury filtration equipment - should they be required. On the other hand, the cemetery deficit for 2013/2014 amounts to £126,700 and YWPC share of this is £24,876.

**Maurice Lamb and Alf Hill**

**March 2013**

### JOHN NOWES EXHIBITION FOUNDATION

I attended the annual meeting of this foundation on 5th November, 2012.

It is a registered charity and is administered by Battens of the Mansion House, Princes Street, Yeovil.

It administers trusts set out in the will of John Nowes, a resident of Yeovil in the early nineteenth century.

It awards grants to young people aged 16 to 25 years of age. They must be residents of the

Parishes of Alvington, Barwick, Brympton, Chilthorne Domer, East Coker, Limington, Mudford, Yeovil Without or West Coker as well as permanent residents of the borough of Yeovil. The household income must be less than £33,000/annum.

An award is made under one of the following headings:-

- (a) The award of scholarships, bursaries or maintenance allowances for any school, university or other place of learning;
- (b) Financial assistance for clothing, equipment or books to enable beneficiaries to prepare for or to assist their entry into work;
- (c) Help to enable beneficiaries to travel abroad to pursue their education
- (d) Financial assistance towards facilities of any kind not normally provided by the Local Education Authority for recreation, social or physical training, including coaching in athletics, sports and games for beneficiaries who are receiving primary, secondary or further education; and
- (e) Financial assistance to enable beneficiaries to study music or other arts.

Further information can be obtained from Battens.

The trustees awarded a number of grants to young people in the area.

The income of the trust covered all of these grants.

Income is derived from investments and income from land which the trust owns. The latter is in the Parish of Yeovil Without.

The trustees are keen to support young people in the area who require some financial help as above. Grants tend to be for sums of less than £500. Application forms can be obtained from Battens.

#### **Iris Coton March 2013**

### YEOVIL IN BLOOM

Work carried out over recent months have included the replanting of Ilchester Road roundabout and a number of new trees have been planted along Lysander Road.

It was discussed that during the year emphasis would be placed upon addressing environmental issues to develop community spaces.

Discussions have been held with the management of the Quedam Centre re the tidying up of areas near the church - it was suggested that the area could be planted by using an undercover of wild plants which would require minimal maintenance, providing the Quedam Centre met costs for materials.

A presentation took place at Lufton Depot for Tony Targett to mark his 40 years service. Tony asked that his thanks be passed on to everyone involved.

Steve Fox has obtained samples of seed bombs which he can purchase at a discounted rate from the supplier - these would be very colourful and will flower throughout the season, giving an abundance of colour.

Steve has produced a print out of designs and colour schemes planned for roundabouts and beds around the town for 2013.

#### **Sue Pitman March 2013**

## BIRCHFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### **Financial Report**

The treasurer Adrian Watkins stated that the current Association finances were such that it would not be necessary for hall hire charges to increase in the near future - given the climate we are in this was good news indeed.

Adrian Watkins stated he was basically happy with the finances, however expenditure required continued vigilance.

The booking officer Morley Waddington will definitely retire as booking officer from the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 ( at A.G.M ) - as bookings for hall is the life blood for the continued financial stability, this position needs to be filled as a matter of urgency.

The vandalized roof of the hall has been repaired during 2012.

The general overview of the Association is that with a bit more effort on fund raising, progress can be maintained.

**Geoff and Diane Bugler**

**March 2013**

## SOUTH SOMERSET DISABILITY FORUM

During the past year we have had two events that stand out in addition to our day to day delivery of help to those covered by our remit. These were firstly the successful implementation of a brand new interactive website, which had been planned for several years, and was finally achieved with Partnership funding. The other being the delivery of "This Ability Somerset Sports Day". It is estimated that up to 550 people attended the event which was held at Bucklers Mead. Reports from sports clubs that attended indicate an upsurge in new members and sports not already covered by groups are looking to be set up in the Yeovil area. Many of the attendees including able bodied, either tried sports and activities or found ones they could participate in or had the opportunity to see disability sports in action.

**Steve Hawker**

**March 2013**

## PARISH PATH REPORT

Having only taken over this post late in the year the only path in our area I looked at (which was on behalf of the Disability Forum) was the infamous Mudford Rec path in relation to its diversion to encompass the provision of an all-weather hockey pitch. It was logical for me to see the benefits for the disabled in using a hard surface path that has existed for as long as I can remember around the perimeter of the Rec, replacing the one legally shown on all maps to run directly through the centre of the field.

**Steve Hawker**

**March 2013**

I attended the above joint meeting as our representative. Having attended many such meetings before I was surprised at the rather poor attendance but put this down to the short agenda and the lack of an outside speaker on a subject of interest to parish councils, which probably put a lot of delegates off setting aside a Saturday to attend such meetings.

Our Clerk has circulated a note of the items of interest sent out by Peter Lacey following the meeting and further notes have been circulated subsequently.

A south area meeting was held at Donyatt on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and was attended by the Chairman and myself. There was little to report on matters being dealt with nationally other than that the Code of Conduct will be reviewed in the summer and the question of internet banking has yet to be resolved by the government.

The March area meeting did not take place as there were no specific items for the agenda.

**Robin Wilding**  
**March 2013**

## YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW STEERING GROUP

The Youth Services Review Steering Group (YSRSG) was set up on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012; Ian Martin of SSDC was appointed Chairman and Jon Gleeson, Vice Chairman, representatives from Brympton, West Coker and Yeovil Without Parish Councils, Yeovil Town Council and South Somerset District Council form the remainder of the group.

Youth Services in Yeovil are currently provided by Somerset County Council and operate from Morley House in Yeovil. SCC work in partnership with South Somerset District Council, Westfield Community Association, Birchfield Community Association and Milford Residents Association. The services are presently being consulted upon and reviewed as the future of Youth Service provision in Yeovil is uncertain.

The YSRSG decided at its first meeting that a model should be adopted which would ensure that the needs of young people of all abilities were met and that sufficient trained and experienced staff were available to meet these needs. Subsequently three delivery models were identified, Employing Staff, Commissioning Staff or Using the Voluntary Sector.

Commissioning staff who were appropriately qualified was considered to be the best option, with the possibility of using volunteers in a supportive role.

It was decided to ask the SCC Area Youth Worker, Kerry Gray, to attend a future meeting to assist the steering group and to provide a written summary of the range of youth activities and services that could be provided by commissioned staff, along with a job specification.

Morley House in Yeovil is currently used for the delivery of Youth Services, but it was felt that further venues in Yeovil and surrounding villages should be identified to enable the service to be available to all young people. To cover the areas with no suitable facilities Yarlington Housing Group have been approached with a view to using their community bus.

The Steering Group applied for and was successful in being awarded a £10,000.00 grant from County, conditional upon £2670.00 being spent on the consultation and £7330.00 for a pilot programme of Youth provision. The lowest bid for the consultation received from The Somerset Rural Youth Project was £3871.00. South Somerset District Council and Yeovil Town Council have kindly agreed to make up the shortfall of £1201.00.

The planned timescale for the completion of the consultation work is 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013. A report of the findings will be reported to the Steering Group later that month.

**Pauline Lock**  
**March 2013**

## HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH REPORT

During the course of the last two winters, we have experienced periods of heavy and sustained rainfall. Surface water has caused flooding in several areas through Yeovil Marsh.

In January 2013 I met with Steve Webster, SCC Highways, and a comprehensive tour of Yeovil Without was carried out.

It was not known at the time if or when any of the works identified, could or would be carried out due to financial constraints. However some potholes have been filled and some pavements repaired, and a problem tree in Marsh Lane has been cut down.

The Graffiti on the signs and bus shelters in our parish has still not been cleaned off, despite requests from the Clerk and our district councillors and this needs follow up reminders. It is not good to see this on the main roads into our Town and parishes.

Fly tipping is still apparent especially in Stone Lane - this is being monitored by South Somerset District Council.

A number of dog walkers do a circular walk, through Yeovil Marsh village, into Marsh Lane, along Combe Street Lane and down the A37, or visa versa. There is only one dog litter bin near the church in Yeovil Marsh on the whole of this walk. It is noticeable that the lack of facilities has led to people throwing their bags into the hedges and neighbouring fields. It would be good to give consideration to further dog bins along this walk.

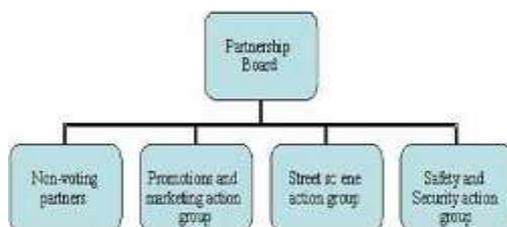
**Mike Lock**  
**March 2013**

2012 was the year that Yeovil Without Parish Council became part of the Yeovil Town Team, as the Partnership is now better known.

When we joined the aims of the team were to:-

- Raise the profile of Yeovil as a shopping destination.
- Promote Yeovil as a place to stay
- Develop a marketing/ communications strategy and plan for Yeovil.
- Develop and maintain a website for the Town.

The partnership has been structured as set out in the diagram below.



**The Promotions and Marketing Group** is led by Sarah Irvine of the Western Gazette.

This group was responsible for the Take a Break Tuesday campaign, which offered shoppers free parking between 12 and 2pm on 4 consecutive Tuesdays. The initiative was boosted by money off offers in the Western Gazette.

**Safety and Security** is led by Jason Livingston of the Yeovil Chamber of Trade.

This group was formed to tackle the issue of community safety and anti-social behaviour in the town centre. The group will also work to improve the perception of crime and ASB in the town centre.

**Street Scene** is led by Marie Ainsworth of South Somerset District Council.

Marie has been working hard to improve the standards of the street scene, so that people arriving in Yeovil see a clean and well maintained town. Marie aims to develop response systems so that issues are identified and dealt with more rapidly than they may have been in the past.

Recent events have included the Christmas light switch on by a Robert Pattison lookalike, which attracted a large crowd. The Quedam reported a 14% growth in footfall on the night.

Take a Break Tuesday took place, offering free 2 hour parking between 12 and 2pm and money saving offers in the Western Gazette to tempt people into the town centre at lunch times.

This was followed by "Christmas Crackers", which again offered free parking and money off vouchers in the Western Gazette, at various times in the run up to Christmas.

Over the past few months the Town Team have been successful in attracting over £10,000 of funding from the Mary Portas High Street Initiative, this will be used on projects such as the Loyalty Card scheme and Food and Fashion festivals.

March saw the launch of the Loyalty Card, aimed at attracting people into the town centre. The card is designed to help the high street retailers who are facing tough competition from the Internet and out of town shopping.

**Mike Lock**

**March 2013**