

# ELVETHAM HEATH

## Shadow Parish Council



Newsletter

March 2010

Issue 1

This April a parish council will be established for Elvetham Heath. To smooth the process and ensure that the council will be able to start efficiently and smoothly, a shadow parish council has been set up to get the required structures and processes in place, and most importantly to encourage active links to be developed with the represented communities

Your Shadow Parish Council is made up of volunteers from within the community of Elvetham Heath.



Sara  
Esdale



Stefan  
Wojciechowski



**Chair**  
Marilyn Robson



David  
Hammond



Samantha  
Culyer

You may know one or more of the Shadow Parish Councillors They may live in your road, you might see them at Church or school.

What they all have in common is a desire to make sure that a Parish Council works for Elvetham Heath.

After all they will benefit as well as they live here too just like you



The Interim Clerk is Jan Hyatt.  
Jan is also Interim Clerk to the new Parishes of Fleet and Church Crookham

We also wish to thank our ward Councillor Stephen Parker, the chief executive of Hart District Council Geoff Bonner, and all the officers and staff for their help and support during the last twelve months when we have been setting up the Shadow Parish Council.

## What have we done so far?

### Appointment of an Interim Clerk

Interviews took place and Jan Hyatt took up the post on 1st September. She is under contract to work for all three new parishes until August 2010.  
From that date Elvetham Heath will need to have its own Parish Clerk.

### Land Transfers

We worked with Hart District Council (HDC) on the transfer of land to the Parish Council. This involved identifying the different parcels of land and deciding whether Elvetham Heath Parish Council would take them on or whether responsibility would remain with HDC.

### Facilities

Elvetham Heath has many facilities which will now become the responsibility of the Parish Council. These include The Community Centre, floodlit Courts, football pitches, the pavillion, five play areas and The Key.

### Staff

With the facilities come the staff and from 1st April they will be employed by the Parish Council.  
We have met with the officers involved and are working towards a smooth transition.

### Community Transport

We have been involved with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and the other new parishes in the tendering process for the new operator for the Call & Go service.

### Budget

We have set the 2010–11 budget for Elvetham Heath and this has been presented to the District Council for agreement.

### Training

We have attended various training courses on becoming a councillor and also attended other Parish meetings to get a flavour of what lies ahead.

### Website

We have set up a website which has links to our meeting agendas and minutes as well as supplying other local information.

<http://communities.hants.gov.uk/elvetham-index.htm>

### Harlington Centre

Lengthy discussions have taken place over the management of The Harlington Centre. Agreement has now been reached and Elvetham Heath will now have no involvement in the running of the centre.

### Planning

One of the responsibilities of the new Parish Council will be to comment on any planning applications for Elvetham Heath. The Shadow councillors have been attending planning training and sitting in on the Planning Advisory Group meetings. This group meets to comment on applications on behalf of the unparished areas until the Parishes take over.

## How will all this affect you?

### What will it cost?

At present when you pay your council tax part of that money has been listed as Fleet Special Expenses. This has been used by the District Council for amenities in the whole of the Fleet and Church Crookham area such as The Harlington Centre.

From 1st April that same portion of your Council Tax will come directly to Elvetham Heath Parish Council in the form of a Parish Precept to be spent solely on Elvetham Heath.

### Parish Office

We will eventually be establishing a Parish Office at Elvetham Heath Community Centre. Our clerk will work from this office which will mean that the residents of Elvetham Heath will have easy access to the Parish Council.

### The Community Centre

Booking of all the facilities at Elvetham Heath will, from 1st April, be done at the Community Centre. There will be someone on hand during the day to help you with your enquiries, which will be a huge improvement in the service provided.

### Grounds Maintenance

Elvetham Heath Parish Council will be continuing with the HDC grounds maintenance contract which runs to the end of March 2011.

It is important that the grounds at Elvetham Heath are maintained to a high standard as that is a very big part of what makes Elvetham Heath stand out from other developments.

## Would you like to get involved?

### Standing For Election to Elvetham Heath Parish Council

At the election, probably in May, the residents of Elvetham Heath will need to choose five councillors to represent them on the Parish Council. At the present moment we have five Shadow Councillors who may or may not wish to stand.

### Public Meeting

The first public meeting of Elvetham Heath Shadow Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at Elvetham Heath Community Centre.  
Doors open at 7.45 pm, meeting starts at 8pm.

This is your opportunity to meet the people who have been working with Hart District Council to ensure a smooth transition, to find out what having a Parish Council will mean for Elvetham Heath and to see whether being a Councillor is for you.

If you are interested in finding out more please get in touch.

Our contact details are on the back page of this newsletter or on our website.

Also take a look at the Hart District Council website / Parish Councils.

You will find information there about a briefing scheduled to take place on 16th March for anyone interested in standing as a Parish Councillor

**Elvetham Heath is important to us all, that is why we chose to live here.**

## Chair of Elvetham Heath Shadow Parish Council

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter.  
I would like to tell you why I got involved with The Shadow Parish Council.

I have lived in Fleet for 37 years and moved to Elvetham Heath almost 6 years ago. I always loved living in Fleet, the schools were good, the transport links were great and I have made many friends here over the years.

When I moved to Elvetham Heath I seemed to find my ideal. Still within Fleet but I now live in a community that has the warmth of a village.

I have always been a volunteer, it is in my nature, and have been on the PTAs at All Saints and Calthorpe Park. I am presently Treasurer for a Down Syndrome support group and President of Hart Lions Club. In my spare time I love to dance and as well as doing line dancing and belly dancing I am the group leader for 2 ballroom dancing classes for Fleet U3A. Now I have added being a Shadow Parish Councillor to the list.

I have always taken a keen interest in anything that affects where I live and when the position of Shadow Parish Councillor was advertised I felt it would give me the opportunity to mould the future of my community.

I was lucky to have been chosen and have really enjoyed the chance to make a difference. I have had to learn a lot in a very short time and have surprised myself with what I have been able to achieve. I feel there are exciting times ahead and hopefully the changes will ensure that Elvetham Heath continues to thrive as a community and that the quality of life here is not just maintained but improved.

We would like to hear from you if you have any questions or comments so please get in touch. Contact details for myself or the clerk are at the bottom of the page.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Marilyn Robson  
Chair, Elvetham Heath Shadow Parish Council

### Contact Details

<http://communities.hants.gov.uk/elvetham-index.htm>

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