



# DORMINGTON & MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual report 2010-2011



We are pleased to present our annual report for the year 2010-2011. As you will read below, the Parish Council has achieved a great deal during the year, as we aim to better serve all the residents of the villages we represent. There is still much to do and there are plenty of initiatives under way. Also, under the Government's proposed Localism Bill, there will be even more responsibilities for Parish Councils to shoulder in the future.

At the May elections, we said goodbye to four members of the Council who have served our Group Parish Council very well over the years. John Harris and Edgar Moss have been Councillors for 52 years and 38 years respectively. Their contribution has been outstanding and we thank them for their years of dedicated service. At the same time, Frances Dees has stood down. We thank Frances for her valued contribution, especially as the first editor of our newsletter. The Chairman of the Parish Council for the last four years, Barry Durkin, was not re-elected. Barry provided strong leadership and, under his Chairmanship, the Council developed a widely-acclaimed Parish Plan and achieved Quality Council status. We will miss Barry's commitment and enthusiasm and thank him for all his hard work.

In saying goodbye to some colleagues, we welcomed four new Councillors as a result – Jan Ashton-Jones, Ray Dickson, John Lee and Lorna Radnor. Each brings a valuable range of skills, knowledge and experience which will be very useful for the work of the Parish Council. Jan Ashton-Jones, like Brian Dukes, is a Governor of Mordiford School. Her election will further strengthen the links between the School and the Parish Council, which is to be greatly encouraged.

Please remember that we are your representatives on the first tier of local government. We much welcome your involvement, by attending and contributing at our monthly Parish Council meetings, held at Mordiford School, and through your comments and suggestions which can be made via our Clerk, Melanie Preedy, or, of course, directly to any Councillor. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Nick Brewin

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Chairman

### **New Projects:**

**Parish facilities** – the Parish Council purchased a new **picnic bench** for Checkley Barn picnic site. This area was leased by the Parish Council in 2009 and continues to be idyllic spot for a picnic thanks to Cllrs Litchfield and Davies who keep the grass down. Several parishioners requested a new **bench** near the spout in Mordiford and this has been in place now for several months. The Church's notice board in Dormington was regularly crammed with notices, so a new **notice board** was purchased and now provides more room for community and Parish Council notices.

A search for a **logo** to be incorporated in all Parish Council correspondence was launched last year and many excellent entries were made. We hope you will agree that the winning logo compliments the Parish Council's correspondence and incorporates the famous legend of Mordiford. A separate competition was also run with Mordiford School and two winners were chosen each receiving book tokens.

Dormington and Mordiford were chosen as 1 of 3 pilot parishes to explore the concept of **sustainability**. Although the number of replies to the survey was disappointing, a number of clear objectives were formed. Firstly was the need expressed for allotments. Over the past year the Parish Council has been actively looking for suitable allotment land. It now appears that some land will be made available within the affordable housing development next to Sufton Rise. Other green initiatives such as car sharing and garden sharing will be pursued this year. Thanks are extended to Cllr Brian Dukes who has worked on this project.

### **On-going projects:**

A need for **affordable housing** was initially identified in the Parish Plan which was completed in 2007. A follow up Housing Needs Survey was required to validate the type and quantity of housing needed in the parish. This survey indicated that new homes were needed by a small amount of young families, some older people and some single people. Although the site initially identified was not deemed feasible by the Planning Officers at Herefordshire Council a second site has now been chosen and consultations with the community are progressing.

The **Iron Room** project hit a stumbling block during 2010 as the youngsters that were using the room have now grown up and moved on to pastures new. Councillors are keen to fully explore all options available and hope that it can be used for something in the future.

The Parish Council agreed to participate in a **participatory budgeting** pilot, £500 was allocated from the budget for residents spend. A grant of £100 was also received from HALC. This project involved asking residents to suggest ideas of what the £500 could be spent on, once these ideas had been received residents were asked to prioritise them. From the entries received and the feedback gained the most popular idea was 'tidying up the Green'. This project is being progressed and we hope the land will shortly be leased from the landowner.

The Parish Council was awarded Quality Parish Status in 2011, an award which assesses whether the Parish Council communicates with residents, whether finances are properly controlled and whether activities which promote democracy and citizenship are encouraged. Part of the process involved producing a quarterly newsletter, we have had lots of positive feedback about this and hope it continues. This annual report which gives an overview of the Councils achievements was also a requirement.

### **On-going activities:**

13 **planning applications** were received during the year. The Parish Council is able to comment on planning applications received by Herefordshire Council that relate to the parish.

Applications are placed on the Parish Council website for residents to comment. Planning applications are discussed at Parish Council meetings where possible and parishioners can comment during the meeting should they wish to.

**Rights of Way** – Herefordshire Council provided a grant of £1150 to pay for work to improve the Right of Network. Under the direction of Footpath Officer, Cllr Litchfield, many broken and rotten stiles have been replaced with self-closing gates and vegetation is cut back from stiles and footpaths.

The Parish Council continues to pursue **highway problems** such as potholes and broken highways signs, reported by Councillors and residents. Through a grant of £2145 from Herefordshire Council much minor highway work has been completed by our **lengthsman**, this includes verge strimming, digging out ditches and clearing grips and gulleys.

**Accounts** – below is a summary of the accounts and the budget for the financial year 2011/2012. You will notice that the Parish Council tries to seek funds from sources other than precept and strives to strike a balance between the cost to the tax payer and the services and projects it can deliver.

2010-2011 Budget	2010-2011 Year End	Income	2011-2012 Budget
£ 8,700.00	£ 8,700.00	Annual Precept	£ 9,155.00
£ 25.00	£ 25.07	Wayleave	£ 25.00
£ 2,145.00	£ 1,608.75	Parish Lengthsman Scheme	£ 2,145.00
£ 1,150.00	£ 1,150.00	Parish Footpaths Scheme	£ 1,150.00
£ 300.00	£ 1,050.00	Burial ground	£ 500.00
£ 500.00	£ 297.50	Grants	
	£ 2.37	Interest	
£ 52.09	£ 52.09	Vat Recovered	£ 100.00
	<b>£ 12,885.78</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 13,075.00</b>
		<b>Expenditure</b>	
£ 3,200.00	£ 3,014.67	Clerks Salary	£ 3,300.00
£ 400.00	£ 649.83	Expenses	£ 750.00
£ 1,200.00	£ 1,289.96	Burial ground	£ 1,200.00
£ 300.00	£ 287.47	Subscriptions	£ 350.00
£ 450.00	£ 338.18	Insurance	£ 400.00
£ 350.00	£ 280.00	Checkley Common	£ 350.00
£ 400.00	£ 300.50	Website	£ 400.00
£ 200.00	£ 185.00	Audit costs	£ 220.00
£ 200.00	£ 185.00	Meeting room Hire	£ 200.00
£ 150.00	£ 313.00	Training	£ 300.00
£ 10.00	£ -	Playing Field	£ 10.00
£ 1,200.00	£ 1,364.92	Misc. Expenses	£ 100.00
£ -	£ -	Elections	£ 500.00
£ -	£ -	Allotments	£ 1,000.00
£ 2,145.00	£ 1,493.40	Parish Lengthsman Scheme	£ 2,145.00
£ 1,150.00	£ 1,236.99	Parish Footpaths	£ 1,150.00

£ -	£ -	Freighter Service	£ -
£ 150.00	£ 40.00	Donations	£ 200.00
£ 500.00	£ -	Participatory budgeting	£ 500.00
	£ 407.93	VAT Paid	
	<b>£ 11,386.85</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	£ 13,075.00

£ 3,761.26	Opening Balance April 2010
£ 5,260.22	Closing Balance March 2011
£ 500.00	Participatory budgeting
£ 3,021.00	General Contingency - 33% of precept
£ 1,739.22	Total Unallocated funds

**Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council  
Councillors May 2011**

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