

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2009
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Once again it gives me pleasure to present the report of the Policy & Finance Committee and I have tried to keep the format similar to last years for ease of comparison.

The precept for 2008/9 was £350,080 and this was against expenditure for the year amounted to £468,717. Breaking this down we had a further income of £131,679 making a net expenditure of £337,038. The net expenditure was funded by the precept and a transfer to reserves of £13,042. The variance on the revised budget was 0.01% and for this we must thank the members of councils finance staff for their exceptional work in taking Councillors aspirations and distilling them in to a logical financial strategy.

Net expenditure broken down to committees was:

Policy & Finance	£ 207,092
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	£ 243,287
Planning, Town & Environment	£ 18,338

It is also important for you to know that the Town Councils bank balance is still healthy and that we, as a Council, are in a position to take the town forward and to fund projects as an when they present themselves; too often I hear of town councils that are fettered by financial constraints and I am please that Ringwood does not have that issue:

Total Bank Balances @ 31/03/08	£ 330,202
Total Bank Balances @ 31/03/09	£ 347,626

As the Policy & Finance Committee it is our responsibility to ensure that other committees have the financial resources necessary to carry out their functions and to provide support to outside bodies when they have a project that will provide benefits for the people of Ringwood.

In the past year we have contributed funds to a number of small groups operating within the town and to projects that benefit the residents. Developers contribution was released to assist Ringwood Junior School and Ellingham & Ringwood Rugby Club to carry out their ambitious project of building facilities on the School grounds; we have also provided grant funding, over two years, to the Ringwood & District Community Centre towards the cost of their building work; support has been given to the Meeting House in their bid to gain lottery funding and smaller grants have been given to organisations such as New Forest Citizens Advice, Ringwood Rotary Club and Forest Forge to name but a few.

Some projects have not been achieved in the year such as the expansion of the cemetery and the increase in recreation facilities, both costly projects, but we are in a sound financial position from which we can take the town forward and begin to deliver on those issues identified by the residents in the town plan.

Cllr Jeremy Heron
Chairman