

Compton Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 16th March 2026.
Held in the Wilkins Centre, Compton. Commencing at 7:00 pm.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Present: | |
| Chair: | Dave Aldis, Chair of Compton Parish Council |
| Parish Councillors: | Jude Cunningham, Linda Moss, David Sheppard, Sharon Tiller, Stephen Tweed |
| Officers: | Sarah Marshman, Clerk |
| Speakers: | Carolyne Culver, District Councillor, West Berkshire Council |
| Public: | 12 |

Minutes

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Rebecca Pinfold.

2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th March 2025

Those present agreed that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record. The Chair signed the minutes.

3 The Downland Practice

Dr Morton provided an update on the Downland Practice, confirming the practice's continued commitment to maintaining the branch surgery in Compton. Since last year, staffing levels at Compton have increased. A Practice Manager is now on site one day per week, an additional permanent member of staff has joined the dispensary team, and the surgery now hosts a phlebotomist. A Clinical Pharmacist also attends Compton one day each week. The practice is exploring options to expand the range of services available locally, including the potential introduction of a 24-hour blood pressure monitoring service.

The practice owns and operates both the main pharmacy in Chieveley and the dispensary at Compton. Across the practice, approximately 19,000 items are dispensed each month, with around 40% of this activity taking place at Compton. A planning application has been submitted for the installation of a dispensing machine at Compton. This would allow prescriptions to be collected from secure lockers, which are stocked from inside the building. The machine will include a payment facility for those who pay for prescriptions and will be monitored by CCTV for safety. The aim is to improve access for residents, particularly given that the Compton branch is only open in the mornings. Once operational, patients will receive

a text message when their prescription is ready and will have a 72-hour window to collect it at any time of day. The machine cannot be used for refrigerated items or controlled drugs. The practice anticipates that around 150 prescriptions per week could be collected via this system.

One of the GPs is undertaking a fellowship focused on digital health inequality alongside his clinical work. The practice continues to host the Downland Volunteer Group, who are seeking additional volunteer drivers to support patient transport.

4 Carolyne Culver, Ridgeway Ward District Councillor

Planning

Carolyne reported that the planning application for the Institute is currently under consideration. Carolyne objected to an associated application regarding the foul water network on the grounds of a lack of sewage capacity. When the outline planning permission was originally determined, a condition was secured to prevent occupation of any new homes until the foul water network had been upgraded. However, the incorrect conditions were subsequently included, and this is being pursued by Carolyne and Compton Parish Council.

Education

The Downs School has now joined the Summit Trust. Carolyne recently met with sixth form students as part of ongoing engagement with the school community.

District Budget and Local Government Finance

West Berkshire Council's budget was approved recently. Carolyne noted that the financial position remains challenging, with around 70% of expenditure relating to special educational needs, adult social care and youth social care. The authority has received an additional £30 million in support, although this will need to be repaid in due course. The new local government settlement places greater emphasis on directing funding towards areas of high deprivation, and West Berkshire is not classified within that category.

Local Government Reorganisation

A consultation is currently under way regarding potential mergers between neighbouring authorities. Three options are being explored, including a proposal involving the combining West Berkshire with the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.

20mph Consultations

Four villages within the ward are being considered as part of the 20mph speed limit programme. Carolyne has received a briefing from the consultant leading the work. A public consultation will follow in due course.

Social Housing

Carolyne highlighted concerns about the sale of social housing locally by Sovereign. When a property becomes vacant, Sovereign assesses it against its Homes and Place Standard to decide whether to retain or dispose of it. Carolyne noted that homes in

this area are being scored particularly low on the Place element of the assessment, which looks at factors such as character, integration, inclusivity and safety.

She also explained that although housing associations are required to bring properties up to an EPC rating of C, Sovereign is instead working towards an A rating. This significantly increases refurbishment costs and is contributing to decisions to sell certain homes rather than keep them within the social housing stock.

Matters Raised by Residents

A resident raised concerns about parking along the roads near the secondary school. Carlyne noted the issue.

5 Parish Council Reports:

5.1 Report from the Chair

The Chair presented his report, which is in Appendix 1.

5.2 Financial Report from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

The Clerk presented her report, which is in Appendix 2.

6 Presentation of local reports are invited from:

The Downs School – The Headteacher’s report is included in Appendix 3.

Compton Primary School – The report given by the Director of Primaries is included in Appendix 4.

Compton Preschool – No report received.

Compton Village Hall – No report received.

Compilations – The Editor’s report is included in Appendix 5.

Downlands Sports Centre – Appendix 6.

Flood Warden – The Flood Warden's report is included in Appendix 7.

Autumn Group – No report received.

Scouts – The report is included in Appendix 8.

Guides – Appendix 9.

Compton Players – The report given by a member of the Compton Players is included in Appendix 10.

Friends of Compton Primary School – No report received.

Allotment Manager – School Road – The site is currently at capacity.

Allotment Manager – Newbury Lane – Only one plot is available.

Any other local organisations – No other organisations wished to speak.

7 Questions from members of the public

It was noted that the grazing land on Newbury Lane is now available. The Parish Council is reviewing the tenancy agreement prior to advertising the tenancy.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:05 pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1: Report from The Chair of Compton Parish Council



As I write, the groundwater is rising again, as recently predicted, by Peter, our flood warden.

Water is showing in the fields between Compton and East Ilsley. I trust that all our Riparian owners have carried out their duties, ensuring the smooth flow of the Pang and the Roden through the Parish. Thank you, Peter, for your vigilance.

Mention of floodwater brings me immediately to the item that is of chief concern to all of us: namely planning and its implications. The Planning Application for the Institute site has been lodged, and parishioners can lodge their comments now. The closure date for these comments is the 25th of March, but they will still be accepted after that date. As a major application, it will go to the West Berkshire Council Western Area Planning Committee, at a date yet to be set. It is important that you all comment individually, if you feel strongly enough, as the number of comments is a gauge of feeling within the Parish. I must stress that the Parish Council is not against the development itself, our Neighbourhood Development Plan supports this.

However, there have been issues with the application at West Berkshire Council. Due to an “administrative error”, the original condition that the Planning Committee imposed, with the assistance of Carlyne Culver, our District Councillor, ensuring no occupation until improvements to the foul water system were carried out, was omitted. We have fought to get this altered back, but West Berkshire says it is a legal instrument and cannot easily (or cheaply – we assume!) be changed. They were looking to enlist first, Homes England, then David Wilson Homes, to resolve the issue. Rest assured, this Council and the District Councillor will monitor this situation closely and attempt to ensure that the original provision is maintained in the new Permission.

The Institute site, combined with the Baxter site, will mean an extra 200 homes within the Parish. This represents a significant increase, contributing to the foul water system. Thames Water have plans submitted to “increase the capacity” of the treatment works. At no point, when I looked, did they mention the size of the increase, which to me needs to be substantial, in order to cope with the extra 200 homes, but also to ensure that there is some extra capacity to cope with further, small developments, such as the proposed one at Axis House (Raceform House).

I am pleased to say that, finally, ownership of the burial ground site has transferred to the Parish Council. We have now commissioned the required Archaeological Survey, but this may be held up by the increasing level of the water table. We will post updates on our upgraded website as progress occurs.

During this past year, we have replaced or upgraded a number of the footway lights and the programme is set to continue in the coming year. Mention of this will draw comment on the precept and its increase. This year, we have kept it below the national average, being aware of the pressure on family finances at this time.

We have also installed new flooring in the Sports Pavilion, which was achieved with 100% grant funding. There is also a new bus shelter, which has been much requested, at the Swan stop. This was also externally funded.

We have agreed to fund the “Pop-up Library”, as we believe that this is a vital commodity to rural areas. The sessions will also allow drop-in sessions by West Berks service provision from time to time. We are grateful to the Village Hall Management Committee for agreeing to waive costs for these events.

To conclude, I am grateful to all our Councillors who give their time freely, to all parishioners who support the Council, the District Councillor for her support and representation and finally, to our Clerk, without whom the Council would cease to function.

Appendix 2: Financial Report - Annual Finance Report 2025/26



The finance report for Compton Parish Council for the financial year 2025/26 is presented. Please note that these figures are correct as of 15th March 2026 and are therefore subject to change as the financial year is not yet complete. The year-end documentation will be reviewed by the Internal Auditor and will be considered by the Council at either its May or June meeting.

Income

The total income received from all sources of funding was £107,474. Significant figures included in this total are:

- Precept £84,403.
- VAT refund £4,598.
- Compilations advertising fees and contributions £3,869.
- Allotment and grazing land rent £1,059.
- Pitch/Pavilion/Recreation Ground hire £1,135.
- Interest £2,540.
- Compensation payment for delays in connecting a streetlight to the electricity network £6,640.
- Grants towards the pavilion replacement flooring £2,373.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £82,735. Some of the significant figures included in this total are:

- Staff Costs £24,096.
- General Admin £4,943.
- Grounds maintenance £6,990.
- Allotments £965.
- Audit fees £575.
- Insurance £1,185.
- Compilations printing costs £2,952.
- Footway lighting electricity £4,657.
- Footway lighting replacement and repairs £7,559.
- VAT (reclaimable) £6,027.
- Professional advice £884.
- Tree maintenance £1,950.
- Refuse disposal £2,457.
- Works towards the creation of a new burial ground £1,628.

- Pitch marking and maintenance £972.
- Sports Pavilion maintenance and running costs £2,576.
- Sports Pavilion flooring (from grant funding) £5,140.
- Play equipment maintenance £676.
- Purchase and installation of bus shelter (from grant funding) £4,735.
- Pop-up Library £1,100.

Community

Every year, the council helps to fund the Christmas decorations and events, this year contributing £134 to provide replacement decorations, gifts for children attending the event, and trophies for the winners of the best lights competition categories.

Looking Forward to 2026/27

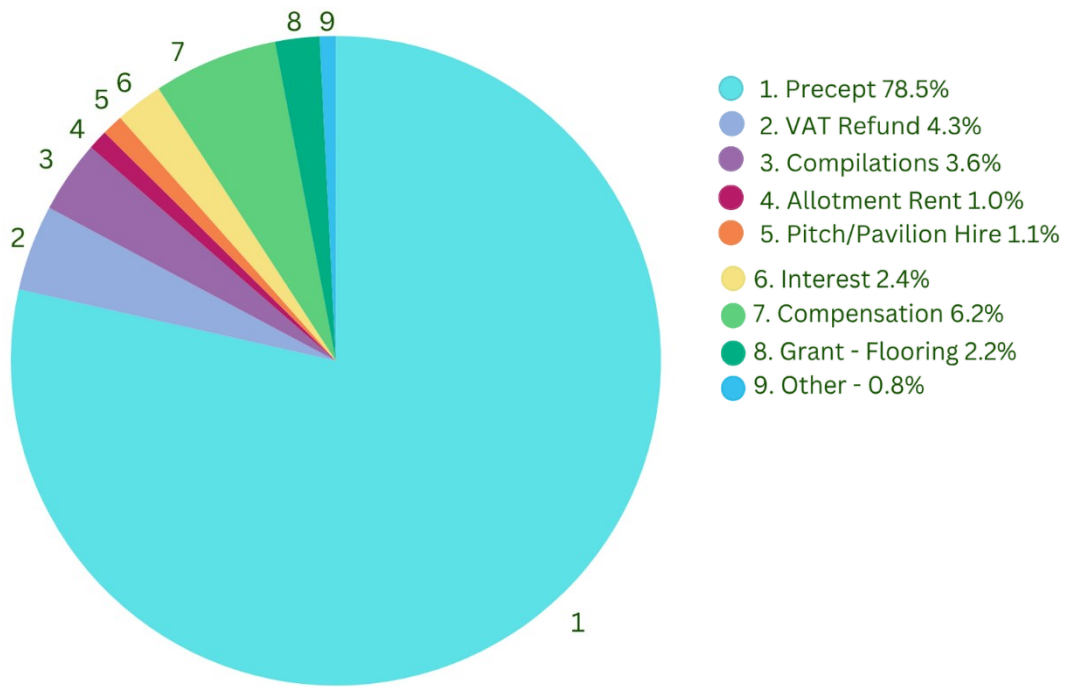
The council will carry forward some funding from the current financial year. For example, the budget for professional and legal fees was underspent. This money will be placed in earmarked reserves to support the likely costs of obtaining specialist advice and assistance for the major planning applications currently affecting the village. Work also continues on the footway lighting replacement project, and we are in the process of obtaining quotes to complete the remaining upgrades.

For 2026/27, the Council has set the precept at £89,444, an increase of £5,041 (5.97%). For a Band D household, this represents an annual contribution of £134.23, which is equivalent to £2.58 per week.

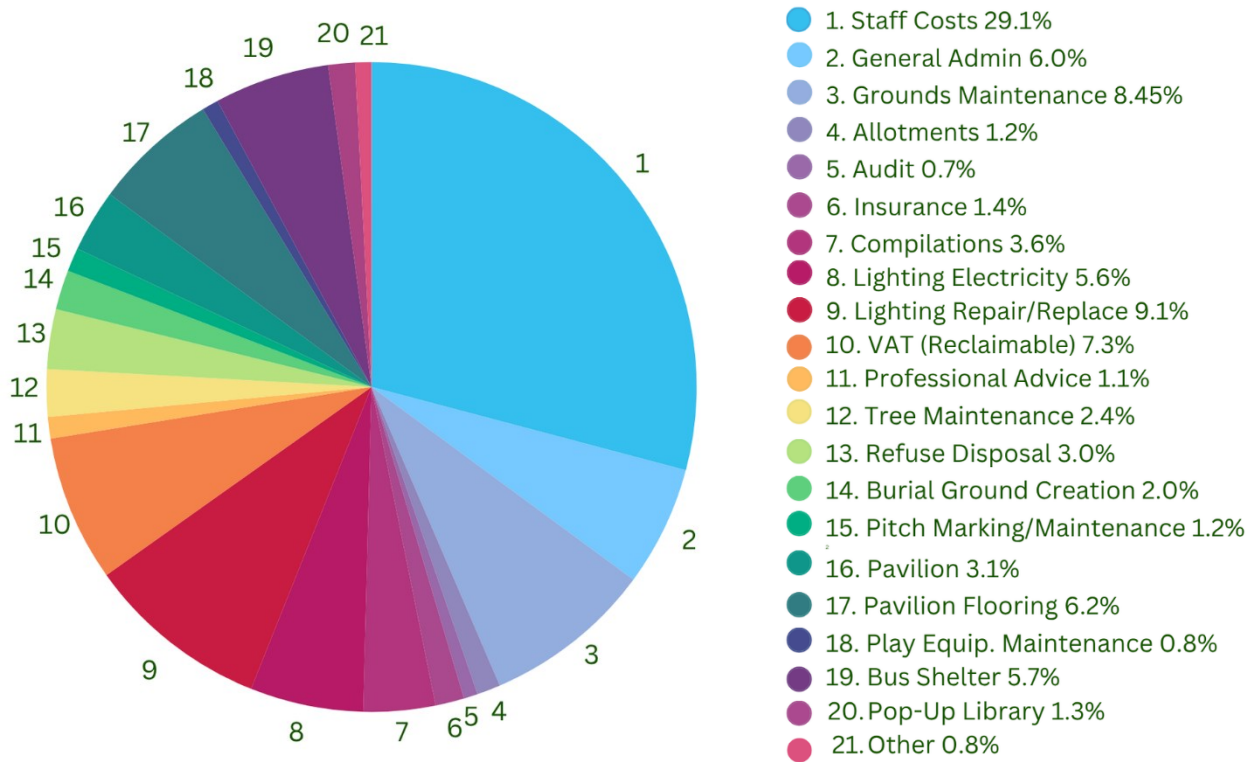
The total budgeted income for the year is £96,429, with a budgeted expenditure of £96,534.

Progress also continues on the creation of a new burial ground. The council currently holds just over £76,000 in earmarked reserves for this project. However, further funding will be required, and the council may need to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board to enable the project to move forward.

2025/2026 Receipts – Total £107,474



2025/2026 Payments – Total £82,735



Appendix 3: The Downs School



THE DOWNS SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM
BERKSHIRE

We are pleased to share with you the recent developments at The Downs School, including highlights from our recent Ofsted inspection, which praised the school's exceptional standards and ambitions. As we continue to work towards our vision of "Educating today's students for the world of tomorrow," we are excited to keep you informed on key initiatives, upcoming projects, and challenges we are addressing, such as the expansion of our facilities and ongoing fundraising efforts to support vital improvements to our school environment.

OFSTED I am delighted to share the report from Ofsted, following their inspection of The Downs School on the 1 and 2 October 2024.

The Lead Inspector describes The Downs School as a school where ‘**standards and ambitions are exceptionally high**’. A place where our ‘pupils rise consistently to meet these standards and ambitions’. She writes of the ‘passionate teachers’ who are ‘experts in their subjects,’ providing ‘expert support’ that ‘ensures pupil’s individual needs are known’. The report highlights our curriculum as one that enables pupils to learn exceptionally well, with student behaviour described as "impeccable," attendance as "strong," and students’ understanding of "equality, diversity, and inclusion" as exemplary.

“I hope you share my great sense of pride at the achievement of our whole school community, including our staff, students, parents and governors. While we celebrate the many strengths identified, we are also committed to addressing the suggested area for improvement as part of our ongoing dedication to excellence. “

“Ofsted describes many aspects of the school’s work as ‘**exceptional**.’ It is rare for an Ofsted report to use that word. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making The Downs the truly remarkable and *exceptional* school it is.”

Our Core Values: We continue to pride ourselves on the strong sense of community that exists at the school and the positive ethos, supported by our strong vision and CREARCI values. Both student and staff surveys show that they feel safe at the school and that they are proud to be a member of the Downs School community. This is also regularly commented on by visitors to the school. Our CREARCI values are: Courage, Responsibility, Equality, Ambition, Resilience, Creativity and Integrity.

Summit Education Trust: The Summit Education Trust is set to launch on 1 September 2025, bringing together The Downs School, The Willink School, Basildon CofE Primary, and Compton CofE Primary under a new Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). While Beedon CofE School was part of the original plan, its application was not approved due to concerns over declining student numbers. Despite this setback, Beedon will continue to receive full support through a Service Level Agreement to maintain educational standards. Following a rigorous recruitment process, Chris Prosser has been appointed as the CEO of Summit Education Trust. A new Headteacher for The Downs School will soon be appointed to ensure continuity, while recruitment is also underway for a Chief Financial and Operations Officer (CFOO) and a Head of Governance. The establishment of the Trust marks an exciting step forward in strengthening collaboration and improving education across all schools involved.

Clawback & Reinvestment: We successfully retained funds that were initially subject to a potential clawback by West Berkshire Council, allowing for significant reinvestment in key areas of the school. With this funding secured, the school has been able to complete essential refurbishments, including upgrading toilet facilities across the site, enhancing the Sixth Form building with additional space, and improving outdoor areas for students. A new sun canopy now provides a sheltered space for socialising during warmer months, while additional outdoor seating in the dining area creates a more comfortable and flexible environment for students. While our sports facilities remain in decline, we continue to prioritise delivering a positive sports experience for every year group. Our swimming pool is in dire need of maintenance, but we have recently secured donations to improve the surrounding areas, ensuring a better environment for students and the community. Additionally, significant funding has been allocated to replace the ‘carpet’ on our Astro MUGA, as the deteriorating surface has become irreparable and poses a slipping hazard in poor weather conditions. These improvements reflect our commitment to creating the best possible learning and recreational spaces for our students.

Sports Centre Reprieve: The Downland Sports Centre in Compton has been secured for future use following months of discussions between The Downs School, West Berkshire Council, and local stakeholders. Previously at risk of being removed from the council’s Leisure Management Contract to save £30,000 annually, the decision has now been reversed, ensuring that the centre will remain open and receive much-needed improvements. Headteacher Chris Prosser welcomed the outcome, emphasizing the importance of enhancing the facilities to support PE provision for students while maintaining a vital community resource for health, fitness, and wellbeing. Further details on the planned upgrades and timelines will be shared by West Berkshire Council in due course.

Performance: This year’s GCSE, A Level and BTEC results have been excellent, with The Downs School emerging as the best-performing non-selective school in West Berkshire. I am so proud of how students, staff and parents worked as a team to achieve this success. Our students’ achievements epitomise what The Downs School stands for: strong partnerships, resilience and desire to achieve at all levels.

Recruitment: There is strong leadership across the school in a wide range of areas. We have been working hard to develop leaders at every level and involve them much more in the decision-making processes. In September last year, Irene Anderson was appointed as Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher.

Our Sustainability cause is committed to sustainability and reducing our environmental impact through a range of initiatives that benefit both our students and the wider community. For the second year, we have been awarded the ECO Schools Awards with thanks to our Eco Club and dedicated Teachers and Associate staff. We have implemented energy-efficient building controls and classroom energy-saving operations to minimise our carbon footprint while ensuring a comfortable learning environment. Our commitment extends beyond energy use, with ongoing efforts to rewild grass areas and establish a wellbeing garden; a dedicated space for students, staff, and wildlife to enjoy and use productively. Recently, we were fortunate to receive a donation of 200 trees. These sapling trees have been planted to revitalise an underutilised space, creating a thriving natural habitat that enhances biodiversity and contributes to a greener, more sustainable school environment for future generations.

Fundraising for School & Charities: With continued budget pressures, we have focused on fundraising to support and enrich our students' education. Our efforts began with the annual sponsored walk in September, which raised over £20,000, followed by a variety of events, including the Annual Summer Fete, food and drink sales at parent events, Bags2School collections, a Colour Run, Quiz Nights. In total, we have raised over £100K, all of which directly benefits our students. We are especially proud that our Autumn Term fundraising exceeded expectations, with nearly £7,500 raised through the incredible generosity of our students, staff, families, and the wider community. In addition to these efforts, we actively support seven House charities and participate in national fundraising events such as Red Nose Day, reinforcing our commitment to giving back and making a difference.

Pool & Astro Fundraising: We are fundraising for essential improvements, including the maintenance of the school's swimming pool, the replacement of the astro carpet, and the desire to develop a full astro pitch. These efforts aim to enhance the school's sporting facilities, providing students with better opportunities for physical activities and events. The school is committed to investing in its infrastructure to ensure that the growing student body has access to high-quality resources. For more details, visit the fundraising page [here](#).

Equality, Diversity & inclusion: We are committed to provide a culture of equality, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI), ensuring that all students feel valued, respected, and empowered to succeed. Our approach is integrated into every aspect of school life, from our curriculum, where EDI principles are embedded in subjects such as Philosophy, Ethics, History, RE, and PSHE, to weekly assemblies and discussions that explore global issues, ethical responsibilities, and diversity awareness. Students play an active role in promoting inclusivity through initiatives like the Student Council and Diversity Day, while enrichment opportunities, cultural trips, guest speaker visits, and inter-house competitions provide further engagement with diverse perspectives. Our annual events, including Diversity Day, performing arts showcases, and cross-curricular activities, celebrate inclusivity in meaningful ways. To further enhance cultural awareness, we are introducing a cultural menu, offering students the opportunity to experience authentic meals from Thailand, Mexico, India, Jamaica, Italy, and South America and not just Chinese New Year.

Creativity is at the heart of what we do, and we're proud to offer students a rich and varied experience in the arts. This year, we're incredibly excited to launch our new school production of *Billy Elliot: The Musical* in July, giving our students the chance to shine on stage in acting, singing, and dance. Creativity isn't just something we encourage in lessons, it's woven into school life, from our fortnightly enrichment programme, where students can explore artistic and performance-based activities, to our trips and competitions that take learning beyond the classroom. Fine Art students visit the Tate Gallery for inspiration from world-renowned artists, Dance students take part in external competitions, and our talented Textiles students create intricate projects that showcase real craftsmanship and skill.

Trips & Enrichment: We are thrilled to announce an exciting range of trips for our students in 2025-2026, offering them unique opportunities to learn, grow, and create lifelong memories. From the exhilaration of an upcoming Year 9 skiing trip in Italy to exploring the biodiversity of Costa Rica and the cultural richness of Germany, our international trips promise incredible experiences. Geography students will soon marvel at the natural beauty of Iceland and many more trips closer to home are planned to include inspiring day trips to destinations like London and Oxford Museums, theatre performances and Arts trips to the Tate Gallery to name a few.

Careers & Beyond TDS: Students have access to a range of exciting career opportunities through initiatives like the 2024 Futures Fair and Year 9 Speedy Careers. The recent Futures Fair brought together top universities, colleges, businesses, and the armed forces, providing students with the chance to explore various pathways with enthusiasm and confidence. Regular guest visits from organisations such as AWE, NetEase Games, Vodafone Innovation, West Berkshire Council, and many more, ensure students are exposed to a broad spectrum of industries. These events have also featured alumni returning to share their successful career journeys, further inspiring current students.

Key Issues Facing the School:

- Appointing key staff, particularly in Maths, Science, and English, remains a priority. We are dedicated to recruiting high-quality staff who can provide the excellent education our students deserve, and we are pleased to report that we are now fully staffed.
- Our PE facilities continue to be inadequate, and as the school and Sixth Form grow, the challenge of accommodating exams is becoming increasingly difficult.
- The Sixth Form is constrained by limited space. With a cramped site and a tight capital budget, we are continually seeking creative ways to make the most of the space available to us.
- Setting a balanced budget remains a challenge, especially with the lack of real-term increases in funding.

Despite these challenges and the uncertainty within the educational landscape, we take pride in staying focused on providing the best possible experience for our students. We remain committed to achieving our new vision: "Educating today's students for the world of tomorrow."

Chris Prosser
Head Teacher

Appendix 4: Compton Primary School



It has been another really successful year at Compton. Where so many schools are struggling to recruit, we are incredibly proud to have such a strong and committed teaching team who work incredibly hard every day to do the best for our students.

At **Compton Primary School**, we are pleased to share that our sensory room has been refurbished and is now a calm, safe space for some of our most vulnerable learners. As a school, we are incredibly grateful to our PTA for working so hard to raise the funds that made this possible.

We have continued to work hard to develop our curriculum to make it more challenging and engaging for our pupils. We are dedicated to providing a high-quality education that caters to the individual needs and abilities of each child, and we believe that our updated curriculum will help to cultivate a love of learning and encourage our children to reach their full potential. We have worked closely with staff at **The Downs School**, whose subject-specific expertise has been invaluable in supporting this development. This year, we have placed a particular focus on our science curriculum, ensuring that pupils have many opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences.

Alongside regular school trips, including a whole-school visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park and the Roman Baths in Bath, our older pupils have also taken part in residential trips to Aldershot in Year 5 and the Brecon Beacons in Year 6. These experiences allow children to learn and grow outside the classroom and are a valuable part of their education, enabling them to live out our school values of kindness, courage and respect.

Our pupils continue to benefit from our ever-growing links with The Downs School. They regularly visit to attend events such as plays and competitions and to use the swimming pool and sports facilities. Mr Prosser, as always, spends a great deal of time in Compton, with the children sharing their learning with him. This year, we have also benefited from Downs students visiting regularly to support reading and to lead drama and science sessions. All of this makes a significant difference for our pupils as they transition from primary to secondary school.

We are delighted with how four schools are now working closely together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils. By collaborating and sharing resources, expertise and best practice, we are confident that we can provide an even stronger education and support children to excel both academically and socially. The three primary school teams meet fortnightly to share ideas and approaches across our schools, and we are proud that this collective hard work is benefiting children in Compton and across the wider federation.

From 1 April, Compton Primary School, alongside The Downs and Basildon, will become part of **Summit Education Trust**. While there have been challenges along the way, we are excited about the opportunities this will bring to strengthen our schools even further.

Compilations

I am very pleased to report that Compilations is continuing to receive regular reports from clubs, etc., and individuals in Compton and East Ilsley. The magazine is a way for everyone to keep information flowing and for us all to be aware of what is happening in and around the area. Even Facebook users tell me they appreciate having a hard copy to look at!!

East Ilsley currently has 100 copies, and these are now delivered to **some** of the residents and not just left in the two pubs. A number of East Ilsley residents have told me they think Compilations is no longer part of East Ilsley, and their village does not have a magazine. I wonder if this is something that needs addressing?

In Compton, the 720 magazines are delivered to every residence. I know that this is greatly appreciated. Lynn organises the distribution and has a loyal band of distributors who venture out in all weathers. She is a diligent task master, and I value her highly.

I send out reminders of the deadline two weeks before the date, and, again, a few days later (and sometimes on the deadline day!!) Nearly everyone now gets their articles to me **before** then. There have been a few occasions when people have 'missed the boat', but a deadline is a deadline.

More advertisements are helping with the cost of printing. Again, I would like to sing the praises of the Print Room at West Berks Council. The two-man team are a joy to work with. They are very helpful and always do their very best to get the magazine to me in time for the first of the month.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Councils for entrusting their Parish Magazine to me.

Appendix 6: Downlands Sports Centre



The Downland Sports Centre is one of seven centres operated by Everyone Active (EA) on behalf of West Berkshire Council. It is a dual use facility located on The Downs School campus, Compton.

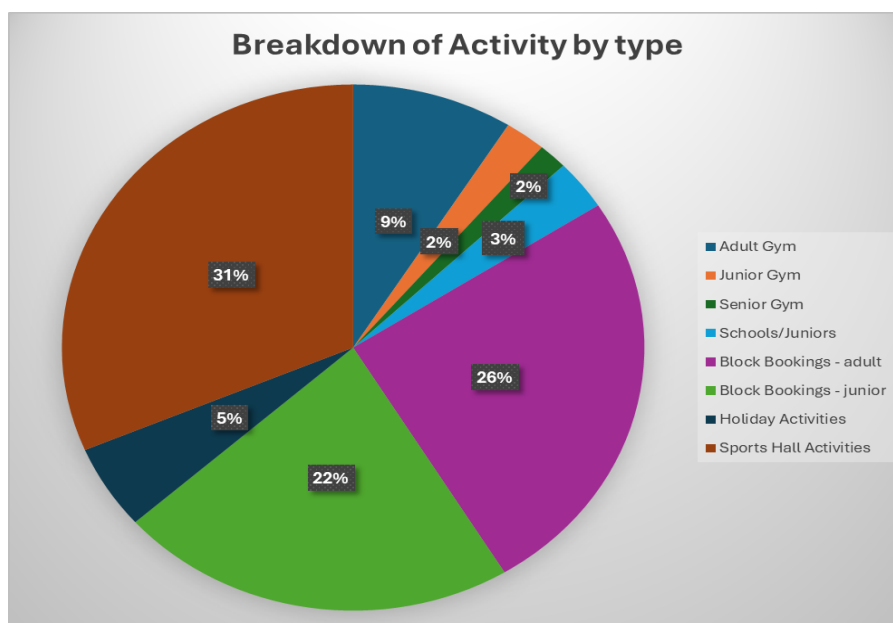
It was built in 1983 and comprises a small gym, office, toilets, changing rooms, associated storage and a three-court sports hall. The leisure contract with EA commenced on 1st July 2023.

The Centre is open to the public from 6pm to 10pm Monday to Thursday in term-time and 8am to 10pm in school holidays. It is currently available for private hire on Fridays and weekends. Access to the sports hall is restricted at exam times.

Attendance data for the second year of the contract (July 2024 to July 2025) recorded 4438 visits, an 8.7% (356 visits) increase over the previous year. There has been a steady increase in attendance at Downland from January 2025 to July 2025, which shows a 30% increase (599 visits) compared to the same period in 2024. For Contract Year 3 to date, attendance levels have continued to rise.

Attendance for second year of the contract across the following activities:

| Activity | No of attendance |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Adult Gym | 397 |
| Junior Gym | 101 |
| Senior Gym | 72 |
| Schools/Juniors | 136 |
| Block Bookings – adult | 1127 |
| Block Bookings – junior | 983 |
| Holiday Activities | 230 |
| Sports Hall Activities | 1392 |



At the end of July 2025, 19 participants held membership at Downland Sports Centre, an increase of 17 from July 2024.

One complaint was received by WBC during the second year of the contract, regarding communication on a block booking during the school exam period.

There have been no significant staff changes since the last report.

The current programme of activity is detailed below:

All Activities

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>11-15 Years Parent Supervised Gym Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Gym Session durations may vary, see times below Juniors Only <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Adult Bowls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports & Activities Session durations may vary, see times below Adults Only <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Badminton 55 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports Hall Activities 55 Minute Sessions (Please note - playing time may be up to 5 minutes less to allow for court setup/changeover) Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Basketball 55 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports Hall Activities 60 Minute Sessions (Please note - playing time may be up to 5 minutes less to allow for court setup/changeover) Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> |
| <p>Gym Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Gym 60 Minute Sessions Adults Only <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Personal Training 30 Minute Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Gym 30 Minute Sessions Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Personal Training 60 Minute Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Gym 60 Minute Sessions Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Short Mat Bowls 55 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports Hall Activities 60 Minute Sessions (Please note - playing time may be up to 5 minutes less to allow for court setup/changeover) Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> |
| <p>Short Tennis 60 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports Hall Activities 60 Minute Sessions (Please note - playing time may be up to 5 minutes less to allow for court setup/changeover) Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Social Netball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports & Activities Session durations may vary, see times below Adults Only <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | <p>Table Tennis 55 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category: Sports Hall Activities 60 Minute Sessions (Please note - playing time may be up to 5 minutes less to allow for court setup/changeover) Everyone Welcome <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> | |

Following a consultation exercise in November 2024 as to whether Downland Sport Centre should remain within the leisure contract, a decision was taken that it should remain and Everyone Active have been reviewing the provision and offer to ensure that opportunities are realised.

Some grant funding has also recently been secured for some improvements to the facility and this project is currently being scoped.

Prices for 2026/27 (applicable from April 2026) will be:

| = Core Prices | Card holder | | | Non Card holder | | |
|--|-------------|---------|------------|-----------------|---------|------------|
| CARD HOLDERS | 25/26 | 26/27 | % increase | 25/26 | 26/27 | % increase |
| Memberships | | | | | | |
| Annual | £149.90 | £149.90 | 0.0% | £149.90 | £149.90 | 0.0% |
| DD - Regular - Adult | £14.99 | £14.99 | 0.0% | £14.99 | £14.99 | 0.0% |
| DD - Concession Fitness | £14.99 | £14.99 | 0.0% | £14.99 | £14.99 | 0.0% |
| DD - Junior Fitness | £14.99 | £14.99 | 0.0% | £14.99 | £14.99 | 0.0% |
| Gym | | | | | | |
| Gym (non-member) | £6.95 | £7.20 | 3.6% | £7.95 | £8.20 | 3.1% |
| Gym Induction | £20.00 | £20.00 | 0.0% | £20.00 | £20.00 | 0.0% |
| Junior Gym | £3.50 | £3.70 | 5.7% | £4.00 | £4.20 | 5.0% |
| Gym Senior | £4.20 | £4.35 | 3.6% | £5.20 | £5.35 | 2.8% |
| Aerobics / Fitness Classes | | | | | | |
| (60 mins) | £7.60 | £7.85 | 3.3% | £8.60 | £8.90 | 3.5% |
| (45 mins) | £6.50 | £6.80 | 4.6% | £7.50 | £7.80 | 4.0% |
| (30 mins) | £6.00 | £6.30 | 5.0% | £7.00 | £7.30 | 4.3% |
| Raquet Sports - Indoor | | | | | | |
| badminton adult 60 mins | £10.00 | £10.30 | 3.0% | £11.00 | £11.30 | 2.7% |
| badminton junior | £7.90 | £8.20 | 3.8% | £8.40 | £8.70 | 3.6% |
| Guest fee | £2.00 | £2.00 | 0.0% | £2.00 | £2.00 | 0.0% |
| Racket Hire | £1.20 | £1.20 | 0.0% | £1.20 | £1.20 | 0.0% |
| Bowls Club | £5.50 | £5.80 | 5.5% | £6.50 | £6.80 | 4.6% |
| Hall / Room Hire | | | | | | |
| Sports hall hire Adult (5 a side 2-3-4 courts) | £41.15 | £42.50 | 3.3% | £46.15 | £47.50 | 2.9% |
| Sports hall hire junior | £24.00 | £24.50 | 2.1% | £29.00 | £29.50 | 1.7% |
| WBCard Concession (swim / badminton / table tennis) | | | | | | |
| WBCard Concession (swim / badminton / table tennis) | £2.25 | £2.30 | 2.2% | £0.00 | N/A | 0.0% |
| WBCard Concession (gyms) | £4.20 | £4.35 | 3.6% | £0.00 | N/A | 0.0% |
| Wbcard cost (for non-resident) | £20 | £20 | 0.0% | £20 | £20 | 0.0% |
| WBCard cost (for non-resident jnr, snr, conc) | £10 | £10 | 0.0% | £10 | £10 | 0.0% |
| Wbcard replacement cost | £3.00 | £3.00 | 0.0% | £3.00 | £3.00 | 0.0% |
| WBCard Concession (badminton / table tennis) | | | | | | |
| WBCard Concession (badminton / table tennis) | £2.20 | £2.25 | 2.3% | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0.0% |
| WBCard Concession (gyms) | £4.10 | £4.20 | 2.4% | £0.00 | £0.00 | 0.0% |
| WBCard cost (for non-res) | £20 | £20 | 0.0% | £20 | £20 | 0.0% |
| WBCard cost (for non-res jnr, snr, conc) | £10 | £10 | 0.0% | £10 | £10 | 0.0% |
| WBCard replacement cost | £3.00 | £3.00 | 0.0% | £3.00 | £3.00 | 0.0% |

Appendix 7: Flood Warden

The Roden has been running through the village for a couple of weeks now, and judging by the surface water around East Ilsley, the Pang will be running through Compton in the next couple of days.

Although the groundwater level started to increase quite late (mid Dec 2025, normally in October or November), we have had nearly twice the normal monthly rainfall in January and February, causing the groundwater to be high enough to surface in Ilsley.

Project Groundwater intends to carry out a nature-based flood alleviation project on the Upper Pang. This will involve minor redirections (to the original route) and the addition of scrapes to slow the flow of the water. The pond and associated outflow in East Ilsley will be unaffected by these changes. This project is being carried out in conjunction with Dyson (the landowner) and is due to be completed during 2026, once the detailed design is complete.

Can all residents with riparian responsibilities ensure their stretch of the water course is clear?

Since last year's Parish Council APM, I have attended Pang Valley Flood Forum meetings in April and Oct 2025. The next meeting is on the 24th March 2026.

Residents may find the information on the Pang Valley Flood Forum website (<https://www.floodalleviation.uk/>) useful, especially the real-time groundwater levels. The PVFF have recently enhanced the display of the groundwater level, showing a prediction of future levels based on different rain levels.

Appendix 8: Compton Scouts

Compton Scouts continue to maintain strong membership numbers, with around 90 young people aged 4 to 14 involved across Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The site continues to support the group well, providing space for regular meetings and outdoor activities.



A recent weekend activity involved woodland clearance, helping to keep the area safe and usable for future events. The group extends its thanks to the Parish Council for continuing to cut the grass, which supports the smooth running of sessions throughout the year.

Appendix 9: Compton Guides

This year, the Guides have had a sleepover at a Trampoline park with other local units, attending The Ugly Duckling pottery painting and are just back from a trip to Code Ninja's.



Compton Guides celebrated their 50th Birthday party in December (the anniversary was in the summer) and invited ex-leaders and Guides from local units to a party to end the year.

We did a night hike with several other Guide units in Bucklebury and will have an Easter egg hunt soon.

The summer will be spent as much as we can outside, with campfires and water fights to end the year.

Appendix 10: Compton Players



Overview

The Compton Players produce two plays per year; one in the spring and one in the autumn, and we regularly host other events and enter local drama festivals. Over the last year our membership has flourished in terms of diversity and numbers.

However, we are always looking for new members to join; everyone is welcome to come along to meet us and there is always something to do, be it on stage, behind the scenes, marketing or front of house. During production rehearsals we can generally be found in the hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm. We run monthly play readings (second Tuesday of the month) which are open to everyone; they're just for fun and a chance for potential new members to come along and find out more about us.

We are very proud of our history within the village and love to be able to share what we have built up through the village hall - in July we'll be providing tech support and lighting for the Compton Primary School Year 6 production.

Productions

Our 2025 productions marked a directorial debut, a celebration of long-standing achievements, and a premiere. Firstly, Aphrodite in spring was Jasmine Gartshore's first show as a director and in the autumn, Eric Saxton directed Ladies in Retirement as a celebration of his 60 years as a Compton Player (he first produced it here in 1973!).

We also entered Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by member Pete Watt into two local drama festivals where we received excellent adjudications. All productions were extremely successful both in terms of audience reaction and also financially; while we are a not-for-profit group, we do need to maintain enough funds to produce our shows, and we are currently in a fairly stable financial position.

Our spring production this year is Cluedo which will take place from 23-25 April, followed by entry into drama festivals with The House with the Lights Still On, following which our autumn production will be Calendar Girls from 19-21 November.

Equipment Upgrade

Early last year we purchased a new Mac computer (along with some new lights) following our Murder Mystery fundraiser and our performances since have been enhanced hugely by the new software we are now able to run.

Future Plans - Introducing ROAD Festival

As regular festival entrants who spotted a gap in the market, the Compton Players are proud to announce that we will be launching a new project - the Ridgeway One Act Drama Festival (or ROAD Fest) in May 2027. We will be hosted at Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury and will be inviting amateur companies from across Berkshire, Oxfordshire and the surrounding areas to take part in the week-long event which will be professionally adjudicated and help to put amateur theatre in West Berkshire on the map.