

ITEM NO: 12 Report on Parish Online – Digital Mapping System**1. Summary:**

- i) One of the workshop presentations at the Hampshire Association of Local Council (HALC) mini conference on Wednesday 4th November 2020 was: “Digital Mapping: an essential part of modern council management”.
- ii) The presentation slides are appended to this report.
- iii) I was the only member of the Council who attended this workshop and the presentation was, in my opinion, very interesting and being a user for many years of the current GIS system operated by New Forest District Council (NFDC), I could see potential additional benefits to the Council from using Parish Online.
- iv) A follow-up session was arranged and Graham Chillcott attended with me, as I believed he could find some of the mapping tools etc of considerable interest as he progresses the development of the Parish Design Statement (PDS). This was held on Monday 9th November 2020.
- v) The following section gives an overview of the current NFDC GIS system, which is available for members of the public on the following link:
<https://maps.newforest.gov.uk/PublicMap/Default.aspx>
- vi) Members of the public can use these maps and access the layers that are available including the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for the NFDC area.
- vii) The Council as a result of its yearly subscription has access to this system and additional Parish layers.

2. Parish Online and the Workshop presentation on Digital Mapping:

- i) The Parish Online website is available to peruse on this link:
<https://www.parish-online.co.uk/>
- ii) The mini conference programme held on 4th November 2020 introduced the workshop as “An essential tool for helping local councils use digital maps to store and manage assets, produce neighbour plans and engage with the public”.
- iii) The workshop covered the following topics:
 - An introduction to the world of mapping
 - Practical examples for using it in: asset management, grounds maintenance and neighbour plans (among others)
 - Case studies by councils in Hampshire
 - Data shared by principal authorities in Hampshire
 - What software is available, and what deals are available
 - Myth busting and Q&A

- iv) Whilst at first sight the Parish Online system offers a similar “package” to that which the Council receives from the NFDC GIS subscription, the follow-up presentation did show that the “content” is held and controlled by the operators at the Parish level and can be much more responsive to councillor input and requirements.
- v) In the follow-up demonstration to Graham and myself it was shown, for instance, that tags can be allocated to say an asset or an item to enable instant access to its history in a similar manner to “pop-ups” in other visual display systems/pdf files etc. This is not new technology but would allow a totally interactive system to be built up on such matters as highway and drainage incidents linked to location, footpath notes and inspections details, asset information etc.
- vi) Through HALC a free training event has been arranged by Parish Online on Friday 4th December 2020 and the following Councillors Chillcott, Goodwin and Herra have indicated that they wish to attend, along with David Rigby, our Clerk.
- vii) As this report has been prepared before this training session it is expected that attendees will be making comments on this training session at the Council meeting.
- viii) Parish Online have indicate that they will be offering a 20% discount to attendees.

3. New Forest District Council – GIS

- i) The Council currently has the following persons authorised to use the NFDC GIS mapping system: Councillors Chillcott, Goodwin and Herra, plus the Clerk. All councillors can be added at no extra cost.
- ii) The Parish GIS system has an annual subscription fee of £125.00 (£104.17 nett). The last fee was paid on 11th November 2020 for the period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2020.
- iii) The current Service Level Agreement with NFDC commenced on 1st October 2019 and runs until 30th September 2022.

4. Parish Online

- i) The Parish Online system has an annual subscription fee of (currently) £183.60 (£153.00 nett).
- ii) There is no service agreement to use Parish Online
- iii) The first year’s membership would be subject to a 20% discount.
- iv) A free introductory trial period of 30 days is available.

5. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Parish Council resolve:

- 1) To consider a trial period of Parish Online by nominated councillors who wish to participate
- 2) To request the Clerk to formalise the subscription details that would apply to the Council and the cost of possibly ending the service agreement with NFDC on 30th September 2021, and
- 3) To reconsider this matter at a later Council meeting.

Prepared by John Goodwin and issued on 24th November 2020

Appendix - Parish Online Presentation Slides

Parish Online
 Digital Mapping: an Essential Part of Modern Council Management
 Hampshire ALC, 4th November 2020

Summary

- Geography is central to the management of all councils
From Local Plans to the management of assets and services
- Since 1791, OS has maintained definitive mapping to help councils
- In 2000, MasterMap was launched in digital form
Provided FREE to councils under PSGA (together with AFGS photography)
- Digital maps are much more efficient and informative than paper maps... but, you need a digital mapping system
- Most councils do not use digital mapping effectively
Only 50% have signed the PSGA agreement
 Of those, many do not have a digital mapping system
 Those with a system often don't use it
 Overall, less than 10%?

Hampshire is one of the leading users of Parish Online

Area	Count	Percentage
West Lothian	200	24%
West Sussex	180	22%
Suffolk	87	11%
Hampshire	43	5%
Gloucestershire	40	5%
Leicestershire	30	4%
Cambridgeshire	24	3%
North Wales	12	1%
London	12	1%
North Yorkshire	11	1%
Bedfordshire	10	1%
Devon	10	1%
Staffordshire	10	1%
Bedford	10	1%
Somerset	10	1%
Northants	10	1%
West Midlands	10	1%
Wiltshire	10	1%
North East	10	1%
Northamptonshire	10	1%
Cardiff	10	1%
London	10	1%
North Yorkshire	10	1%
Yorkshire	10	1%
Greater London Authority	1	0%

Summary 2

- Parish Online and Pear Technology are the only two Digital Mapping Systems designed specifically for Local Councils
- The two systems are different and complementary
Parish Online is web-based and intended for wide use across a council
 Pear is a desk-top system intended for more specialist use (eg cemetery management)
- Parish Online and Pear are in a partnership to promote digital mapping
- NALC recommends both systems
See NALC's Digital Mapping Toolkit at nalc.gov.uk/publications



Parish Online – 1400 users and growing



Introduction to Parish Online

Parish Online

ParishOnline

A system to View and Interact with Maps



- Entirely web-based:
 - *no hardware or software installation or maintenance*
- All council data stored securely by Parish Online
 - *no danger of losing data*
- No GIS knowledge required:
 - *easy to use*
 - *comprehensive Online Training and Support*
- For use by all Council staff
 - creates a common platform for sharing/managing data

Functions



- **Access Up-to-Date National Data**
OS MasterMap and Addresses, APGB, Natural England, English Heritage, DEFRA, EA, etc
- **Access District Data**
View and interrogate district data (if provided). Bus routes, grit bins, waste collection, Local Plans etc
- **Record Parish Assets (Asset Register)**
Trees, allotments, publicly owned land/buildings, street lights, bins etc.
Add associated data such as maintenance reports
- **Analyse Data**
Search, overlay, measure, extract data (eg addresses from a polygon), mark up
- **Print Data**
'print' data into Neighbourhood Plans, reports, planning inspections and websites

Typical Applications



Other Benefits of Parish Online

- Everybody has access to the same up-to-date information
- Parish Meetings are more modern/efficient and attract young people
- Parish can involve residents in council business – recording hedgerows, trees, assets of community value
- Communicate between tiers of councils

Pricing

ParishOnline

Pricing is designed to be easily-affordable and cost-effective

- Between £30 - £3,000 per year based on population
- Average price per council is less than £150 pa
- Log on to www.parish-online.co.uk/signup to find the price for your council

BHIB FREE Offer

ParishOnline

BHIB will pay for Parish Online for any council which:

- Insures with BHIB on a 3-year agreement
- Uses Parish Online to maintain its Asset Register

Why? Because:

- Under-insurance is the biggest risk to councils
- A well-maintained asset register reduces BHIB management time



Parish Online Seminar 4 December

- Book the date
- Morning and Afternoon sessions

