

## **Reports for the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Karen Nash**

### **Southern Water Update**

Pleased to report that to date SW have sealed approx. 6032m of both public and private sewer networks, in East Dean, Charlton and down towards Singleton.

They have re-laid many parts of the sewer network, and high-pressure water jetting has been carried out. They have sealed approx. 18 manholes in Charlton and 31 from East Dean down the valley.

The manhole covers were replaced in the meadow field with new frames and new bolt down covers which they had embedded correctly in place due to the field prone to flooding.

All private sewers were checked to see if any storm water from the roof was going into the foul network system. For many properties where their storm water from the roof was entering the foul network SW discussed with the homeowner on how to remove by utilising slow drain water butts.

The pipe going through the meadow field has been cleaned, lined and patched. During the sealing work the pipe was inflated to 3.5 bar pressure which as a result 'straightened' the pipe and put it back into place, so going forward there should be no issues with this pipe.

The crews have also completed all the sewer sealing in Bankside, although they still have a way to go in Singleton village with sealing of both public and private networks which they anticipate will take approx. 6 months to complete. The work in Singleton is due to start on Monday 12 May 25, and due to the position of some of the sewers, road closures or traffic lights will be required. SW will give us good notification of the dates and the closures will be between 9am-4pm.

Happy to confirm that over this ground water season Singleton relief did not release any wastewater into the Lavant and even though the UV systems were setup in both Charlton and East Dean neither of these were used along with no tankers.

I can confirm that all equipment has now been removed from Charlton and the meadow field.

I am meeting with Floyd and Glenn on site in Charlton so they can access some damage caused by their lining vehicles to the verges and the entrance of Woodstock Suites on Tuesday 20/4.

Going forward once the works have been completed in Singleton, SW will then address what happens next. SW said that once all work has been completed in Singleton 'potentially' no tankers/pumping will be required this AW/Winter.

**Jeremy Rigby**  
**Centurion Way**

The next phase of the extension is due to open to the public in late spring 2025, which includes the Singleton station section and northwards past Hat Hill bridge where a new ramp connection has been constructed to access the footpath down to the cricket club. There is no firm date for when in 'late spring' it will happen.

A meeting was set up by SDNPA to consider the practicalities of a link from Singleton village to the CW Hat Hill access ramp. Local stakeholders including land users and the cricket club were involved. Two options are being considered:

- one parallel to the existing footpath (on the West Dean side) but then going direct to the A286 rather than through the Cricket Club field. This is dependent upon finding a way of safely deconflicting the unobstructed access for cattle from Cucumber Farm into the field. The Rangers are discussing this with Cucumber Farm.
- The other, preferred by the land users is keep to head down to the pumping station and then track parallel to the road, joining opposite Matchbox Cottage (not going into the Cricket club field). SDNPA are discussing with West Dean Estate as to whether they would be content for it to track on their side of the hedge going down to the road, rather than impacting grazing for Cucumber Farm.

Once/if a route can be agreed with all stakeholders the next stage will be to have plans drawn up and begin the planning permission process. In parallel SDNPA would assist in pointing towards potential funding sources. Currently this is not at any cost to the Parish Council, although it may be invited to make a contribution as the project progresses.

**Mark Rawlings-Smith**  
**Goodwood Motor Circuit Consultative Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 30th April, 2025

The GMCC meeting was well attended and informative. As a newcomer, the high level of collaboration across the parties involved is very notable. It seems Goodwood is managing and maintaining a high level of stakeholder engagement and involvement to the benefit of all concerned.

Specifically:

Goodwood Estate's Planning Manager (Hadyn Morris) provided an extensive explanation of various planning matters. These included:

- CDC Local Plan with strengthened wording relating to a 400m buffer zone to protect against inappropriate development.
- Temple Bar Logistics Centre (near Tangmere)
- Serious concerns relating to Persimmon land to the south of the motor circuit

There was also discussion to some length mainly between Jeremy Hunt and Haydn Morris exploring the potential changes owing to devolution and re-organisation. It is

proposed to consider this further in July's meeting to which Jeremy has been invited to speak on Devolution. As a Parish Council, I suggest we should consider any consequences to planning, either intended or otherwise.

Environmental and Sustainability included the following points:

- Work progressing on a landscape restoration plan for the River Lavant in conjunction with the Western Sussex Rivers Trust. Includes sites between East Dean and Charlton and Singleton. Land close to the riverbanks will be allowed to flood at high river levels, re-establishing lost historic water meadows.
- A bat 'hotel' has been created in an outbuilding
- Solar will be installed on the dairy barn
- A couple more permissive paths have been created and opened. More under investigation.
- A new cheese called St Roche (which I've suggested could feature at the Village Hall Ploughmans later in the year!)
- A shelter building at the Education Trust was built.

### **Planning**

In the short time with this responsibility, there have been no contentious planning matters. At time of writing, we are reviewing a change to the application by the oil field. This change is centred around an adjustment to the proposed cable routing in response to objections. The review continues.

### **Jasmine Hathaway**

#### **Village Event**

Pre-Event Report:

Whole Parish of Singleton and Charlton summer BBQ Party

Date: Saturday 28th June 12pm to 5pm

Location: Singleton Village Hall and The Leys

Organized by: Singleton Parish Council

#### **1. Event Overview**

The Whole Village BBQ Party will be held on 28th June at Singleton Village Hall. Organized by the Singleton Parish Council, with the help from members of the community. The event will be a free community gathering aimed at bringing residents together for an afternoon of fun, food, and socializing.

#### **2. Objectives**

- Foster a sense of community and belonging.
- Provide a free and enjoyable event for residents.
- Encourage social interaction across age groups.

#### **3. Attendance**

- Approximately 400 residents will be invited to attend the event, hopefully showcasing strong community engagement and enthusiasm.
- Residents will be asked to bring their own drinks, cutlery and crockery.

#### **4. Activities and Entertainment**

Guests will enjoy a wide range of activities, including:

- Free raffle.
- BBQ, salads, and cakes served throughout the event

- Tea and Coffee
- Traditional village games such as Skittles and Boules
- Attendees will be able to take part in games such as tug-o-war, sack race and wheelbarrow races
- Informal socializing and family-friendly entertainment

#### 5. Highlights

- Hoping for an excellent turnout with positive feedback from attendees.
- Delicious homemade cakes and a variety of fresh salads will be particularly appreciated.
- Skittles and Boules games aiming to draw enthusiastic participation from all ages.

#### 6. Challenges & Recommendations

- Shaded seating
- Residents safety around bbq area
- Road closure notices
- Open to the elements weather wise
- Event insurance
- Risk assessment

#### 8. Conclusion

- The Whole Village BBQ Party we hope will be a great success and strengthen community spirit in Singleton and Charlton Parish.
- The Parish Council extends sincere thanks to all volunteers

### **Graham Zacharias**

#### **Potholes**

As most people will have noticed by now, a significant amount of resurfacing work has taken place on the A286 heading north out of the village and past Cucumber Farm. Sadly, inexplicably, no remedial work has been carried out to date on any portion of Town Lane for which I have submitted various reports/complaints. The most recent responses from WS Highways have claimed that these cases were closed as repair work had been scheduled. This was in early March and nothing has since been done. Maybe Jeremy (H) could inquire on our behalf as to why Highways is so reluctant to address this unacceptable state of affairs?

### **Tony Marshall**

#### **Singleton Community Highways Scheme**

This is all now complete. Although we didn't get everything we asked for - and some things we didn't - what we have is everything we're going to get from that project. And all things considered, it's a vast improvement on how it was before.

Thank you to everyone for your input into this, the culmination of several years' work, first initiated by Singleton Traffic Action Group, leading to the Parish Council Traffic Survey that was hand delivered to every home in the parish and then many months of subsequent meetings of the CHS Working Party (which consisted of parish councillors and a member of The Singleton Traffic Action Group) and of course, with the support of Jeremy Hunt, our dedicated County Councillor. Thank you one and all.

## **Charlton 20mph and Village Gateways**

All is on track to have the new speed limit set up very shortly. All the hurdles have been jumped and all that remains is for Highways to arrange for the work to be carried out.

They advise that we wait until the new signage is in place before installing the gateways, which will not only avoid damage during sign installation, but also ensure we can set it all to look right. As the width of verges varies, I'll be able to measure once again when we know exactly where they're going, then order the gateways (from the same company that supplied Singleton).

## **Vivien Nuttall Finance Report**

Balance at year end 31/03/25 - £6,470.89 of which £1,533.57 held in the reserves.  
Reserves – Playground Maintenance – £392.68, School Parking Project - £84.86, General Maintenance £1,056.03,

Balance in Current Account (14/05/25) - £20,344.46

Balance in Savings Account (14/05/25) - £7,203.70

2025/26 Reserves to date:

Playground Maintenance – £2,392.68, School Parking Project - £84.86, General Maintenance £1,517.71, Events £800.00 (£500 2024/25 & £300 2025/26).

Funds Received since 14/05/25 – Precept £15,299.50. VAT Reclaim £2,272.16. CDC Grant for VE80 £247.50, this has been used to purchase the Rusty Soldier.

## **Henry Potter**

The main focus this past month has been modifying the Local Plan to accommodate the comments and advice of the Planning Inspector after his initial study of the submitted Plan and having taken into account the representations made to the two hearing sessions held in the latter part of last year. These Main Modifications have been produced in a new document, the Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039, the Modification Consultation Version. I have a paper copy of this document if anyone wishes to read it, it is also available by visiting the CDC website. It is equally as comprehensive as the original submitted document with much redaction and substitution and there are some poignant changes.

The Council has also published an Annual Progress report on its Climate Emergency Plan. This Plan has a target of a reduction of 10% of greenhouse gases year on year. Between 01/10/2023 and 30/09/2024 emissions of 2,903 tonnes of carbon dioxide were recorded, only a 5% reduction on the previous year. The current action plan has resulted in 75 actions having been implemented, solar panelling installed on several public conveniences and Leisure Centres. Under the Warmer Homes Scheme 68 homes have had 131 measures completed, 3 more electricity vehicles have been added to the CCS fleet in addition to the 2 electric refuse collection vehicles. Much lighting in all CDC buildings has been replaced with LED units, and the list goes on. Costs?? The modifications to Westgate Leisure Centre alone cost £1.3 million!! Funded mainly by Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and £210,000 from the Councils Reserves. Incidentally, the Councils application for funding from the National Lottery "Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future" was rejected. This would have helped support a

network of climate action groups in the District. Work on this will continue but at a much reduced pace.

Finally, at the full Council Meeting, held on the 8th April, it was announced that the Chief Executive, Diane Shepherd, will be reducing her work with the Council to concentrate on the extensive programme towards the Devolution process. This is transpiring to be a very complex process requiring many meetings between the Executives of the Authorities involved, CDC and the other District or Borough Councils, East and West Sussex CC's and Brighton and Hove Council. To compensate for Diane's absence, John Ward has assumed a new role of Chief Operating Officer to oversee the day to day affairs of the Council. Eventually when the Unitary Authority reaches the 'Shadow' stage with an elected Mayor, Diane hopes to take full retirement after 40 years working at CDC during which time she rose to become the CEO for the past 13 years. This will possibly be in 2027. An extensive Public Bulletin has been issued by her Office. At another meeting, the Joint Employee Consultation Panel, last Thursday 08/05, it was announced that our Senior Enforcement Officer, Shona Archer is to retire in a couple of weeks after 20 years in the department. I have contacted Shona on numerous occasions during this time and considering the constraints and seemingly ridiculous regulations Enforcement work under, it is not an easy occupation. Far from it! I have forwarded the latest update on the Local Govt. Reorganisation for information and it is becoming apparent that the timetable will be slipping, so many important questions with no answers as yet.

And finally, after an examination by the Planning Advisory Services into the CDC Planning process, various changes were recommended most of which, the Planning Committee at the most recent meeting 07/05, agreed were unnecessary. Reducing the number of Members to 10, from 13, reducing the time allowed for each speaker to 2 minutes, from 3 and scrutinising PC objections which usually bring an application before a Committee for decision making. This would allow more decisions to be made under delegation by Planning Officers, a less Democratic way of doing things.

The principle behind these recommendations was to "speed up" the Planning process but Members generally felt these proposals wouldn't make an appreciable difference. The final decision will be from the Cabinet Meeting on the 13th and referred to the next Council Meeting.

It is always a pleasure to attend your Parish Council meetings and I shall continue to do so for the final two years as your elected Councillor. Thank you