

Reports for Singleton and Charlton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 20th January 2025

Tony Marshall

Work started on 7 January, improving the courtesy crossing by the museum (they've added posts and a tactile surface) - and at the time of writing they are working on the junction at the bottom of Town Lane. The work is scheduled to be completed by mid-February, so hopefully not too much disruption.

Charlton 20mph

We've been given dates for the public consultation: between 16 January and 6 February. We need to encourage everyone to respond positively, so that this work goes ahead as planned.

Jeremy Rigby

School Verge Parking

Work has been commissioned to install more permanent / aesthetic protection along the verge beside the school playing field.

Local residents in the Leys are frustrated by the weight of traffic parking in front of properties along from the newly surfaced parking place and have taped off the Goodwood owned open land between their houses and the Lavant. The school has been asked to remind parents to park considerately.

The Leys Parking

The hardened parking has sunk in two bays, causing a build up of mud. Landbuild, the installers, have been approached to make good, no response has been received as yet.

The recently installed Electric Vehicle charging points are expected to be fully commissioned by Connected Kerb in February with 7KW Geckos connections. There will remain unrestricted, free access to the bays for all vehicles.

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. The route through Wellhanger copse, restrictions due to bats at Singleton tunnel is still under discussion with the landowner (NT), ecologists and local tenants. There also remain concerns about users leaving the track through farms that have not been resolved.

In response to Parish representations, SDNPA will now support the development of a link that can provide year round access for wheeled users without having to use the main road to West Dean.

The key landowners – Edward James Foundation (West Dean Estate) and National Trust have been approached and support in principle has been gained for a new path on their land (subject to agreement, design, tenant discussion etc).

SDNPA have worked with Singleton PC to identify key stakeholders including the Cricket Club, PC, residents representative, Cucumber farm tenants, National Trust, West Dean Estates, Friends of Centurion Way, Sustainable transport and WSCC Rights of way. An initial meeting of these stakeholders was scheduled for the beginning of January but has had to be postponed due to illness. A number of options have been suggested by interested parties including running parallel to the existing footpath, approach from the pumping station opposite the Weald and Downland Museum and a longer diversion towards Singleton Station. The initial meeting will introduce stakeholders to each other, consider initial views regarding practicality/acceptability/affordability and identify project milestones including, design, consultation, planning and funding. SDNPA are prepared to provide project support and assistance in identifying funding sources. There have been strongly voiced concerns by residents close to the cricket ground about unrestricted parking causing obstructions to their

properties. It should be noted that there will be more convenient access points to CW nearby at Singleton Train Station and West Dean as well as further towards Cocking as the route continues to develop. The Singleton link project is several years and many pounds from any practical completion.

Karen Nash
Southern Water

Unfortunately the new MITA (cloth) filter and 2 electric pumps were a lot heavier than SW anticipated, weighing in at just over 5.5 ton, therefore the original crane they had hired was not big enough and the crane that they had to use required just over a 7 metre span and the only piece of road wide enough to accommodate this was unfortunately by the gate of the meadow field.

They also couldn't drive the equipment into the field due to the ground conditions, even with the track-matting in place. So sadly, the only solution was to install the groundwater treatment plant itself in the compound just off Knights Hill where the electric pumps are currently situated by the bridge. However, Floyd has promised that the power generation and the subsequent noise and fumes will still be across the field away from the properties, and that the equipment in the containers is relatively quiet and is all electrically powered.

Regarding the off-road tanker access, that I have been discussing with Floyd to avoid tankers parking in the entrance of North Lane, so far, the position hasn't changed in that Floyd doesn't think the landowner is too keen. However, SW are going to approach them about it again. They are also aware of the damage they have caused to the gate on the entrance to the field, which was struck by one of their contractors. Floyd will keep me updated on this.

Now the funding has been released a lot earlier than anticipated, Floyd is hoping all of this equipment will not be needed and therefore removed earlier, however it has to be set up as precaution in case the weather suddenly changes to prevent our houses flooding and contaminated water being exposed in the meadow field.

On 13/1 Glenn delivered letters to all Bankside residents regarding the sealing of their laterals. Singleton sealing will be done as originally agreed in the new financial year starting in April 2025, however Glenn is pushing for earlier funding to be released.

Pete Gattrell

Not much to report except the dog glove dispenser seems to be a popular addition to the park. The new rubber floor installed around the playparks roundabout looks in great condition.

Graham Zacharias

Nothing to report.

Finance Report

Total in Current Account (17/01/25) – £9,689.11

Payments – Unexpected invoice from TEEC for website hosting for 2023-24 and domain name 2022-24 - £413.97.

Receipts – Received Donation of £100 from Moon Ball Productions who are producing the Dr Who documentary in Charlton. Discuss which reserve to put this into.

VAT to be claimed - £2,110.16

Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) –

Playground Maintenance - Payment has been made for the roundabout surface, this has reduced the reserve to £392.68 (There was a £500 contribution from Goodwood for the surface).

General Maintenance £1,018.00.

School Parking – £580.86, (£1,519.14 paid to Lawns & Hedges for the fencing).

Total Reserves - £1.991.54

Balance in Savings Account – £7,178.31

Henry Potter

Little to report this month except the deep concern regarding the Government proposal to implement Unitary Authorities throughout England by amalgamating County, District and Borough Councils into single Devolved Authorities with the potential to have an elected Mayor. It is early days yet but there appears to be a sense of urgency attached to this proposal and rushed decisions are seldom good for democracy. Diane Shepherd, our Chief Executive, has issued a statement which I have recently circulated to you. Diane will be giving a further update to the Meeting of All Parishes which is being held on line via the Zoom platform on 3rd of February.

The other thing I can mention which will affect Your Parish to a small, degree, on Monday 06/01 a meeting of the Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel considered requests from various Authorities for allocations of District Council held CIL Funds, which are considerable. Sussex Police have requested for consideration £117,000 for the phased introduction of ANPR Cameras at 13 locations throughout the District. Two of which I'm happy to say are, one on the A 285 in Halnaker and the other on Lavant Road, Chichester. The precise locations are not known at the present moment.

At the meeting on Monday, it was unclear if Sussex Police are aware that funding for this proposal is available, if Full Council approve the DPIP recommendation next week there is little reason for this scheme not to proceed forthwith without a 'phased' approach. All members of the DPI Panel agreed the sooner the better for our residents benefit, not just to cut speeding but to track criminals as well. Our Officers will engage with Sussex Police to progress the schemes as soon as possible.

Finally, I've noticed in the latest published list of Planning Applications, Star Energy are applying to install cabling to enable the on site electric power produced at their site in the forest to enter the National Grid. This can only be a good thing for our energy resources.