

Reports for Singleton and Charlton Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 16th March 2022

Henry Potter

Henry Potter

A recent (two weeks ago) Planning Meeting saw the Committee refuse an application for 26 new homes on a small plot that was once a Garden Nursery in Chidham. A previous application in 2019 was refused and an appeal against refusal was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. This is all good news as it is finally being accepted that new developments in The District must only be permitted in line with the overwhelming need for improvements to the infrastructure. There is no sign of this in the future at the moment. The site in south Lavant, locally known as 'the Daffodil Fields' which was refused planning consent was appealed last week and we are still anxiously awaiting the Inspectors decision on Old Place Farm, west of Madgewick Park. It has also been noted that the number of appeals being dismissed has increased during the past four or five months. At the same meeting, the reserved matter details were permitted in the case of the Whitehouse Farm Development. However, it was of great concern that, despite the proposed provision of a new much needed Community Health Centre, this was NOT wholly supported by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The CCG is the authority responsible for Health provision throughout the country. The reason for this lack of support was the promise of a new Health Centre provision in the proposed Southern Gateway Project in the south of the City. This is most likely to be at least ten years into the future and meanwhile the 4,000 + new residents of Whitehouse Farm, soon to be named Ravenna Heights, to the west of the City will have to scratch around searching for medical facilities. It just doesn't make any sense at all.

At the 8th March, SPECIAL Council Meeting, The Council Tax income for the forthcoming year, '22/'23 was considered and agreed. The amount received by CDC for a Band D property will be £175.81. This is a permissive rise of just £5 as allowed for in the 2011 Localism Act, larger increases MUST be subject to a local referendum. For WSCC this amount will be £1555.74 and the Sussex Police slice will be £224.91. For a band D Council Taxpayer in Singleton Parish the total will be £2,049.39 for the forthcoming year. At the next Council Meeting, on 15th March, a Motion has been proposed to support "an extension of existing 20 MPH speed limited areas across our District" and other measures such as "Quiet Lanes" in more rural areas which have the potential to improve road safety, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and improve air quality and to encourage more active travel for our residents and visitors. This is aimed at supporting WSCC future travel plan proposals. Considering the populace of the District is recorded as being of the older generation, I can think of hundreds of friends and associates who could not possibly take to a bicycle or walk too far! This conception seems a bit impractical. Also, cars travelling at 20 MPH (or less) using lower gears but higher revs is hardly going to improve air quality! I'm sure this Motion will receive a lengthy debate.

Elsewhere, the SDNPA are inviting tenders for the next stage of the Centurion Way extension from west of West Dean tunnel as far as the bridge east of the old Railway Station, through the Station Yard, and this will give access to the footpath which runs from this bridge down into Singleton Village, though this particular path will not be suitable to all users. I have raised the issue of users of the CW having to walk/cycle from West Dean school to the biomass boiler along the narrow stretch of pavement beside the A286 but I've had no response as yet.

Tony Marshall
Southern Water

Still no response from SW on the subject of repairs locally. I've sent another reminder and might yet hear something before the meeting.

I have seen SW representatives checking water levels in the manholes and discussed with them the situation; it's clear that they are keeping a very close eye on it. Fortunately, we've seen the water table remain low this year, so with luck, we'll avoid pumping within the villages this season.

Parish Design Statement (PDS)

Having previously approved the Design Guidelines, I've now tidied up the remaining text and the Appendices.

I would still like to add more photographs to the final document, so if anyone would like to get out and take lots of interesting local pictures, I would be delighted to see these.

Traffic / Community Highways Scheme

As I now have more time available to devote to this, Becky has asked me to take over coordinating the CHS proposal and related reporting.

We had a very useful meeting with Mike Thomas, Area Highway Manager for Arun & Chichester. Discussed the various options under consideration, with a walking tour of Singleton. He agreed to arrange for an engineer to visit in order to properly assess the proposals and options, taking into consideration the existing road layout etc.

We are all learning a great deal as we proceed and are keeping our focus on the goal of generally improving the lives of local residents and visitors, by reducing traffic speeds and enabling non-motorists (principally walkers, cyclists and horse riders) to move around more safely and freely.

Nothing is ruled out at this stage, but the primary areas of attention at the moment are:

- Improved parking and general safety outside the school
- Courtesy crossings by the Cricket Pitch, bus stop, Little Drove Mews and the school.
- Improvements to the north-bound bus stop
- Reconfiguring the Town Lane junction and 30mph limit extended past museum entrance
- Changes to road markings on the A286 to calm traffic flows
- Achieving 20mph speed limits in both Singleton and Charlton

The deadline for submitting the CHS application is the end of July, before which we shall aim to provide Council with a detailed summary of the proposals for final approval.

The SID has proved very effective, in places halving the number of vehicles above the speed limit (compared to when operated without the display). Even those travelling below 30mph visibly ease their speed when they see the display. We need more volunteers to help with this (the commitment really is minimal..), so if anyone would like to get involved or knows someone who might, please let me know.

I am undertaking training for using the speed gun – if anyone else would like to get involved in SpeedWatch, or knows someone who would, please let me know.

Heritage Boards

The application for funding has now been submitted and we are awaiting a decision.

Rebecca Trowell

Accessibility Project update

We continue to progress with our singleton accessibility project. This will provide parking facilities for the ramblers, school, village hall and visitors to The Leys. We have met with Chris Patterson (SDNP) who has kindly provided us with lots of feedback on our CIL funding application. We have photos of the damage caused by dumped cars in undesignated areas as well as an artist impression of what we are trying to achieve. We drafted a CIL application and put it forward for submission. It's highly competitive and we wait to see if we are successful. This will provide 50% funding. We have also expressed an interest to the Reece Jeffery's fund and they have accepted our initial brief and invited us to apply. Reece Jeffery's will provide 40% funding and we hope to raise the other 10% through the community. The facilities will have a number of car parking spaces, charging points for electric cars, bike rack and a pathway that enables pedestrians to walk safely to their destination. We will be using sustainable, natural products where possible when creating the parking area. We are working with the School, Village Hall, Highways and Jeremy Hunt on the detailed plans to ensure we have commitment from all parties.

The planting license that Graham is applying for will allow us to make sure that only designated areas are accessible to cars. This will also help to ensure that the village continues to have a rural feel. The defibrillator will be moved to the village hall and telephone box removed. The heritage board will be put in its place and we are confident it is going to look fantastic when finished.

We are currently collating our project documents and will be presenting these to the stakeholders shortly. They will be made fully available to Parish Council members and then the rest of the Parish on the website.

Robert Mayne

Henry Smith Charity

The Trustees of the local Singleton & Charlton Charity met in November 2021 to review applications for grants. The grants to individuals and families were distributed in December. The Trustees will also consider applications for grants at other times during the year.

The funds are used to support local people and organisations.

Relocation of the Defibrillator from the Singleton Telephone Kiosk to the Village Hall

The installation position of the Defibrillator on the exterior wall of the Village Hall is being considered by the Village Hall Committee. Quotes are being obtained for the disconnection of power to the Telephone kiosk from BT's contractor and for the installation and reconnection of the Defibrillator to the Village Hall power supply.

Roads, Pavements, Potholes in Charlton

Potholes continue to be reported via the 'Love West Sussex' smartphone app and some repairs have now been undertaken by West Sussex County Council Highways Department.

Sussex Wildlife Trust/Levin Down

Following an enquiry by Gay Godfrey into the use of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding by the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Trust has reported back that most of the funding will be used to replace several gates across the site, making them easier to use and safer for the livestock. They will also be doing some works around the badger sett in the middle of the reserve where the pipe is now protruding out into the path and creating a trip hazard. Some of the funding will also be used to fell trees with Ash die back, although most of that work has been done by Goodwood over the winter.

Pete Williams

Emergency Sheds

The two Emergency sheds's contents have now been combined. The Village Hall Committee are considering taking on a long-term loan of the spare, for the use of the library. We can recall this loan if we need the space and this is written into the agreement which is currently with the Village Hall Committee for discussion and signature. We are retaining the middle of the three small sheds.

Asset Register

The annual Asset Register review is almost complete. Assorted small items have been lost or used and not returned, but these do not amount to any considerable value. The next stage is to obtain a replacement value for things the Parish Council own or are responsible for, in order to ensure we don't overpay on our Insurance. This is up for renewal around October.

Post by Playground

There is a lockable traffic post at the Church end of Glebe Field. I believe this was installed to prevent fly tipping. It does however present a potential safety issue should there be a serious accident on Glebe Field or the Playground. While Emergency Services would not have to walk far, they do prefer to have the facility to get as close to the patient as possible. Currently the Clerk holds the key, and while Viv would of course be happy to unlock if she's notified, this causes a delay (that's assuming she's at home and gets a call). We have a couple of options to consider:

A - Recognise that fly tipping isn't actually an issue and lower the post until such time as there is a need for it to be used
B - Purchase and install a numbered key safe at Glebe Field and notify the Emergency Services of it's access number

Following the Goodwood Aerodrome Committee Meeting yesterday, the large event planned for Early July is still not confirmed, but I gather is extremely likely to go ahead. I have asked to be put in touch with the organisers, so we can discuss traffic arrangements. Goodwood is renting the land for the event but are not the organisers of it. Hopefully the organisers will be in touch soon and I will keep the PC updated

Jane Mayhew

Playground Project

Great news on the donations received and promised. Viv , Becky and I had a meeting to review the progress of the project and agree next steps action plan. We felt a 'JustGiving' page would offer a platform to the wider members of our community to donate. Some logs will be moved from the Goodwood field into the corner by the willow den to from a natural climbing area. We are gaining additional quotes for equipment and generally will prepare a presentation on the project for the May AGM. Whilst I will help prepare the presentation I will be unable to deliver the presentation as I will be on holiday.

Jubilee Celebrations

Agenda item to discuss ideas for the events and make preparations. I will liaise with the village hall committee. Agree a start time etc.

Graham Zacharias

IGas

No new developments.

Potholes

Continue to review and report (albeit with seemingly little progress, esp. on Town Lane)

CHS

Planting Licence being sought.

Finance

Brief explanation for the 15% precept increase provided for the website.

Policy

Employer discretions policy (pensions) currently being updated.

Vivien Nuttall - Clerk

Finances

Balance in Current Account (14/03/22) - £-82.23

Playground Reserves held in Current Account - £20,470.00

Balance in Savings Account (14/03/22) – £7,003.33

VAT to date - £3,376.28 (not claimed)

Money Received – For Playground

Pippa Kelly - £5000.00

Village Hall - £800.00

National Lottery - £9,470.00

Judy & Phil Fathers - £200.00

Goodwood Lennox Fund - £5,000.00