

## **Reports for Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7pm at Singleton Village Hall**

### **Jeremy Hunt**

Just a couple of CC happenings that might interest you:

Firstly, the Government's Fire Reform White Paper 2022 is out for consultation until 26th July and we are currently preparing our response. The white paper has three themes:

**People** - proposals to modernise the workforce practices to deliver greater flexibility in service deployment and response, support partnership working and resilience and to promote talent and leadership skills.

**Professionalism** - proposals to improve the professionalism of the fire and rescue service to ensure recruitment and training are appropriate to deliver a modern fire and rescue service.

**Governance** - proposals to clarify accountability through the transfer of fire governance to a single elected individual. The white paper focuses on the aim to have the control of the F&RS transferred to the PCC. However, there are two further options. For large municipal areas or combined authorities, with a mayor, control can be transferred to the Mayor or, for services embedded within a CC area, such as WSCC, control can be designated by the Leader of an appointed Cabinet Member. In both these cases there is an expectation that this will be balanced by a dedicated scrutiny committee. This is virtually identical to the current model we already have in WS.

Our proposed response will be presented at Public Cabinet on Wednesday 20th July, which of course is open to the public, either personally or by webcast ( <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/watch-county-council-and-committee-meetings-online/> ) For more details on the consultation, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-our-fire-and-rescue-service>

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has confirmed a case of avian influenza in a herring gull in the Arundel area. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advises that avian flu is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the health of the general public is very low. As a precaution, however, it is important you do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find. If you find any dead wild birds in any location, including swans, ducks, geese, gulls, or birds of prey, please report to the DEFRA helpline in the first instance. Telephone: 03459 33 55 77

The largest-ever local authority roll-out of electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the UK was launched on Monday (20 June) in West Sussex. West Sussex County Council, Adur and Worthing Councils, Arun District Council, Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council signed a contract last year with Connected Kerb, one of the country's leading providers of EV charging infrastructure solutions, to install and maintain thousands of charging points across the county. The ground-breaking project will deliver transformational improvements to EV provision in the region, providing better access to charging facilities, particularly to those without off-street parking. Residents will be consulted over where they want the charging points located. Chichester District Council decided not to join the scheme. However, this only applies to the council owned car parks and other organisations, such as PC's and village Hall Committees, as well as local residents in the district can apply for charging points in their areas. Applications should not be made to WSCC, but direct to Connected Kerb. However, please note that this is a long term scheme and applications will be assessed against a set of criteria, so not all will be successful. For further detail, and information on how to apply, go to: <https://www.connectedkerb.com/west-sussex-chargepoint-network>

Town and Parish News letter - as usual this month's edition contains some useful information for councillors to promote to their residents. Two important issues which are highlighted below are:

#### Help us share our BBQ safety message

Our West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service have launched a new campaign, in partnership with West Sussex Recycles, to encourage people to follow these three steps when putting their disposable barbecues in the bin:

Sizzle: Don't underestimate the heat of the barbecue as temperatures soar when cooking

Sit: Leave the barbecue to cool down for several hours

Soak: Cover the barbecue with plenty of water and remember: if it sizzles - it's still too hot to be binned.

The aim is to reduce the number of disposable barbecue-related bin fires this summer.

#### Public rights of way – what landowners and land managers need to know

A reminder that landowners and land managers are responsible for maintaining public rights of way that cross their land, making sure that the paths are clear, accessible and don't pose a risk to footpath users.

The [Countryside Code](#) outlines the rights and responsibilities of landowners and managers with regard to Public Rights of Way that cross their land.

Please share this information with your community.

#### Local Issues:

Lastly, I presume you are aware, but just for confirmation, both the Eroica cycling event, based at the motor circuit, and the Red Bull air races, proposed to take place to the north of the horse race track, have been postponed - for technical reasons - for this year.

Finally, don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

#### Henry Potter

Advances are being made in the review of the District Local Plan and it is expected to be available soon for public consultation and then presentation to the Planning Inspectorate in October, for approval and acceptance. This Review has been a long and complex process considering all of the constraints we are faced with, mainly, of course due to the poor infrastructure we live with. All we can hope for is, that considering these constraints, to achieve a new housing target of 625 per annum, is not possible and a lesser figure could be acceptable.

The Annual Report of the District Council has been published and shows the continuing support given to residents and businesses and communities as we hopefully emerge from the Pandemic of the past 2 plus years. The High Streets are also being supported with Government 'Welcome Back' Funding, media campaigning and improvements to the public realm. Since March this year 17 new additional units of temporary accommodation at Freeland Close are in use for homeless people. It is hoped to reduce the reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation for those with no home. Looking to the future, a Future Services Framework has been initiated to address uncertainties caused by the Covid pandemic in order that the Council continues to deliver the Services, and to the same standards, that our residents and businesses expect.

Another key achievement has been the Health and Community Well-being Service where referrals have reached the pre pandemic levels. This helps folk with weight management, quitting smoking, physical activity and alcohol issues, these having risen during isolation during lockdowns. By and large the future looks a little brighter.

However, on not so much a bright note, I attended a online 'Workshop' held by Southern Water last Friday where they opened a consultation period to engage with their customers. They admit without reservation their poor track record and proposed many measures they will be pursuing in the future. First of all, with a estimated population growth of 7%, which I believe to be an UNDER estimate, by 2040, the South East of England will see a SHORTFALL in water supply of 1 billion litres per day. Unless we all take steps to reduce our water consumption considerably, we could be in a serious situation. SW are considering a de-salination plant at Littlehampton but that could be as late as 2040, 18 years hence. They also expect by 2050 to reduce to zero!! storm water overflows of the networks. Some slight comfort for residents in the Valley, but within 28years?? Nothing like ambitious enough. There will be more on this as the consultation progresses.

### **Tony Marshall**

#### **Traffic / Community Highways Scheme (CHS)**

The working party has now agreed on a draft proposal to put before the PC for approval. The proposal contains the following sections:

1. **Executive summary**
2. **Why Singleton and Charlton needs a Community Highways Scheme:**  
An outline of the history of road evolution within the parish and why this presents us with a unique problem.
3. **The traffic calming virtuous circle:**  
A brief look at how the various elements of traffic calming link together to create a scheme in which each element enhances the effectiveness of the others.
4. **Overview of locations within Singleton**
5. **What is a 'Courtesy Crossing'?**  
There is no official definition, so we explore the extent to which courtesy is necessary at all crossings that don't have traffic lights.
6. **Removal of 'fast road' markings and signage:**  
If a road looks like a fast road, drivers will drive faster; replace the visual appearance of a fast road with that of a village street and they slow down. We look at how this principle can be put to good use within our parish.
7. **20mph speed limits:**  
Local government policy is now to encourage 20mph limits in residential streets; it certainly makes sense in ours. But we also explain why having 20mph between Cobblers Corner and the cricket pitch entrance would transform road safety along that stretch, while only adding around 3 seconds to journey time.
8. **Town Lane:**  
As well as courtesy crossings at the museum entrance and the junction, we make our case for altering the shape of the junction and reducing the speed limit to 30mph.
9. **Centurion Way / Cricket Pitch crossing:**  
Plans for a courtesy crossing slightly south of the entrance, to enhance safety for players/visitors at the cricket club, walkers and local residents.
10. **The Bus Stop:**  
Carefully thought out plans to reconfigure the entire bus stop, with a courtesy crossing, to create safer access to the northbound side.
11. **Cobblers Corner:**  
The Victorian heart of Singleton, we set out how making this look more like the junction it used to be and less like a bend, will calm the traffic heading north/south and east/west.

**12. A286 Midhurst Road – Budd’s Hill:**

We outline plans to slow traffic as it arrives from the north and provide a courtesy crossing for walkers and residents approaching the village centre from the north/west.

**13. School parking:**

Our plans to create parking spaces for parents to safely drop off and pick up directly outside the school, extend the layby and add a courtesy crossing for those arriving from the south side.

**14. Charlton:**

In line with local responses to the survey, the proposals are simple: reducing speed limits and village gateways.

**Appendix 1. Community Traffic Survey:**

A detailed summary of the results of the 2021 survey.

**Appendix 2. Improvement Scheme Priority Assessment Scorecard:**

The scorecard used by Highways and the Local Authority to assess the value for money of any proposed scheme; we believe that we should score highly.

**Appendix 3. A brief History of the development of Singleton and its roads:**

A more detailed explanation of our road history, based on information provided by local historian Richard Pailthorpe.

The proposal is a long read, but it brings together all the elements of a comprehensive scheme that we believe will calm the traffic through our villages and dramatically improve safety for non-motorists.

**Southern Water**

As per Debs’ email, while I was away, work was undertaken on sewers in Charlton. I’ve since received the attached information from Southern Water showing the work being undertaken – if anyone becomes aware of more of this work underway within the parish, please let me know, so that we can keep on top of progress being made.

**Parish Design Statement**

I have now had a response from SDNP with various comments on the draft and, once the CHS proposal is submitted, I’ll go through these and raise points as appropriate with fellow councillors.

**Heritage Boards**

The texts for the Charlton and Singleton boards have been completed and are being sent to the printers next week. We are most grateful to the SDNP, Goodwood Estate, Weald & Downland Museum, the Cricket Club, The Fox goes Free, The Partridge and Tree Medics for their donations and financial support. A date needs to be planned for their erection, probably best during September.

**Barry Shrimpton**

**Village Clean-Up**

Date to be arranged

**Notice Boards**

Order been placed for the Singleton Notice Board

Material will be fitted to the Charlton Notice Board in the next few days

**General Improvements**

Parish improvements (primarily planting for Q3 2022 & Q2 2023) will be handed out at the meeting.

## **Graham Zacharias**

### **IGAS**

No developments to report.

### **Potholes**

The usual suspects! I have yet again logged a report relating to the area past the W&DM going up Town Lane. This area has been repaired recently but the job was both shoddy and inadequate. Not only were exiting holes only partially filled but a large area of damage in the centre of the road remained untouched. This whole stretch needs resurfacing. I also reported another bad hole on the A286 before the farm. General state of the highway is poor.

### **CHS:**

This major project is nearing submission, the details of which will be covered in a separate report (Rebecca/Tony)

Finance: nothing to report.

## **Natalie Hesketh-Bown**

### **Playground**

Great news for the first phase of the playground project. We have successfully placed our order for the swings (2no. timer cradle swings for the small children, 2no. Flat seat swings & cradle swing seat). We have also ordered the sports wall which has a football net and the Basketball Goal. We managed to get the price down from £26,836 to £22490.21 - An amazing £4345.79 saving

The CDC application was successful - this has given the playground project a £15k boost. This money will be used towards the second phase. During this phase we will be aiming to complete the following:-

- Track area which will include small humps for children to ride on with their bikes
- Bounce area
- Picnic Benches

Quotations have been requested from 2 companies - once these are received a meeting can be scheduled to discuss the options.

Money wise, for phase two we have anticipated that we would require approx £25k. We are looking at raising approx £10K from the village and private donors. The "just giving page" has gone live -

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/singletonandcharltonplayground?utm\\_term=dVKk9JAq2](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/singletonandcharltonplayground?utm_term=dVKk9JAq2)

There have been conversations held with regards to a family fun day to get local involvement with sponsored races etc - this is still yet to be confirmed but could be a great way to get the community together and also raise some funds for the playground.

On 4th July we hired the village hall and met with local families in Singleton along with parents from the local schools to the plans - please see the attached handout that we gave to all families. I believe it was a real success - a huge amount of support was shown for the project and the future plans.

## **Vivien Nuttall – Clerk**

### **Finance**

Balance in Current Account (18/07/22) - £5,124.80

Playground Reserves held in Current Account - £22,815.00

Accessibility Project Reserves held in Current Account - £5,500.00

Heritage Board held in Current Account - £600.00

Balance in Savings Account (18/07/22) – £7,003.33

### **Money Received**

Donation of surplus funds from Owen's bench for the Playground - £165.00

Donation from W&D for the Heritage Boards - £300.00

Donation from The Fox Goes Free for the Heritage Boards

Playground Project

Phase 1 – 2 x Swings, Sportswall Goal and Basketball = £22,490.21 – **Ordered**

Phase 2 – 3 x Picnic Benches & Track - £30,552.68 approx.

Phase 3 – To be agreed.

Surplus money already received = £324.79

Money pledged = £18,250.00 (15K CDC, £3K IGas, £250 CDC Jubilee fund for bench)

Total Available for Phase 2 = £18,574.79

Match Funding pledged if we raise £5000.00 on JustGiving - £5000.00

Therefore, potential of another £10,000.00.

If successful, this will leave us short of £1,977.89 for Phase2 (Natalie may be able to negotiate on prices received)

**Then we will need to start fundraising for Phase 3 – Updating the existing playground.**