

## **Reports for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**

### **Tony Marshall Southern Water**

I never received a clear explanation as to why they were regularly jetting the pipes in Charlton – which ceased in early June. I did receive a map showing which pipes are asbestos or clay and this shows the pipe across the meadow to be clay, as is the pipe in from East Dean, but the section running down North Lane (which they were jetting regularly) is asbestos. I've been promised information about the life expectancy of asbestos pipes and any plans they have to replace them. Joff Edevane tells me that they have started sealing private drains in East Dean – and Neil Georges, Chair of East Dean PC, has confirmed that work there is underway. There has been no change to the position re Charlton and Singleton, which might be next year – but hopefully we should benefit from the work in East Dean, if this reduces the amount of groundwater in the pipes passing through our villages.

At the AGM Joff Edevane made a big thing about the sewer being 'foul only' and not designed to take surface water, but they happily take the extra money from all of us for accepting the surface water – unless householders 'opt out', which you can do if all your surface water (including drainpipes) goes to soakaways. After his use of the term 'illegal connection' at the AGM, I've pressed Edevane several times to come clean on how many households pay the extra and will continue to do so, because it seems that SW are quite happy to collect tens of thousands of pounds a year for a service they tell us they are not set up to offer – then make out that we're to blame for the problems caused.

### **20mph in Charlton**

I've now had confirmation from Highways that they are going to progress this as a TRO (and not require a 'mini-CHS'). The next step is collection of speed data, to confirm that existing average speeds are not significantly higher than 20mph; if they are, requiring physical changes to slow the traffic down, then this bumps up the cost and it would have to start again as a CHS. It's my firm belief that people using the streets for walking, cycling etc (as they would more if the speed limit were lower) is itself a traffic calming measure – so I'll be encouraging everyone to do just that while we have the speed strips in place.

### **Charlton dog bin**

We have the one bin in Charlton, currently at the bottom of the footpath leading up to Levin Down, and we have a choice between leave it there or move it somewhere else that's convenient, as the CDC does not have the funds to empty any more. A dog-owning resident has pointed out that since the new path through the tree plantation opened – and the gate between the fields on the north side of Charlton Road were chained shut – a lot of people do the circular walk (whether from Singleton or from Charlton) via the plantation and the Leys meadow. However, there is currently no bin, other than the one in the church car park.

Since the new plantation opened, there have been several calls for an additional bin at the entrance, but CDC do not have the funds to empty any more bins. So the suggestion has been put forward that the Charlton dog bin would be better placed on the verge in Knights Hill, outside the gate where the footpath crosses the Leys meadow. This is also easily accessed from the layby in North Lane.

As CDC bin lorries are unable to deviate from their current route, I asked CDC if this location would be acceptable and have been told that it would be, although we would have to do the move ourselves. So the question is whether or not we, as the Parish Council, wish to make this move.

### **Graham Zacharias Village Hall Update**

A significant amount of repairs, maintenance and upgrades have taken place in the past 6-9 months with new curtains, roof repairs and external redecoration. The inside is also scheduled

for painting in the next few months. Compliance and safety certifications are now in place and up to date.

While cash balances remain healthy, there is a focus on increasing the utilisation of the facility to avoid continuing operating losses. Fundamentally, we have a community asset which needs to be embraced more wholeheartedly by the community it serves. Therein lies the challenge! Finally, the ploughman's lunches and cream teas will once again be on offer over four alternate Sundays commencing July 28 and ending on September 1. Please spread the word...and anyone available to lend a hand, front or back of house, would be most welcome!

#### **Finances/potholes/Southern Water**

Nothing to report.

#### **Sam Cox**

##### **Planning**

I don't believe that there are any outstanding matters and assume you will circulate the usual list as part of the meeting docs.

##### **Goodwood**

No action taken by me, Debs was going to attend a liaison meeting, so I am sure will have commentary.

##### **General Maintenance and Playground Maintenance**

1) The 3rd party annual playground inspection has recently taken place and a report has been shared with a number of recommended actions. Some of the more meaningful recommendations should be addressed and discussion has been had as to how this might be achieved. There will be cost implications to this and I will bring an overview of the situation to the meeting for discussion as to the best way forward. Assuming some of the minor items are agreed to be risk accepted, there will be meaningful cost implications to the remainder, which will require further council approval. It does highlight the need for communal maintenance to some aspects where possible, the Willow House has now been cut and repaired by Jayne Mayhew, a big thank you for all her hard work. Going forward if volunteers cannot be found to maintain this and other similar features, we will need to consider removal, given very constrained budget.

2) With regard to general maintenance of the village, I have previously asked on several occasions for suggestions of any areas of maintenance required and have received only 1 request from the public, being the pavements near the W&DM (see below). Please do come forward if there are aspects that you feel need maintenance - both to volunteer to help and to suggest the items of concern.

3) Following a meeting with Southern Water's tanker contractor, a request for remedial works to the village verges, pavement clearing and hedge repair has been submitted. We await imminent response as to approval of these works and timing, which I hope to be able to update in person at the meeting.

#### **Jeremy Rigby**

##### **School Verge Parking**

Quotes for the works and potential funding have been pursued by the Clerk to inform fund raising targets. It looks like it will need to be in the region of £50,000. The school are, as you would imagine, all in favour of the project and the proposed design but will not be contributing any funds to support the project. Any works ought to be programmed during a school holiday period to minimise congestion.

I am aware of the proposal by Southern Water to repair the verge. While this is welcome it will quickly be returned to the current poor state by parents parking on the verge for

school drop offs and pick ups. I think that the PC should reflect on whether it is morally correct to ask SW to spend money that will promptly become nugatory and again look very bad. Factors to consider are:

- should a decision be taken to install posts to protect the grass and prevent cars parking on the verge once it has been repaired?
- this would in effect reduce the road to single carriageway when cars are parked, similar to Bankside.
- WSCC highways do not consider it a priority to merit funding to allow safe parking for school traffic,

Grants to improve school children transport do not fund any options that accommodate vehicles; they are focussed on encouraging 'active' travel – walking and cycling

If a decision were made to prevent parking on the verge, would this then preclude the need for the PC to continue to progress the parking project or would it be a temporary measure?

There might be a view that if the school is particularly concerned it could raise the issue and pursue funding it through it's own channels (Diocese/WSCC).

#### **The Leys Bike Posts**

I have received the report template to submit an end of project report to CDC to receive a grant of £518 towards to the cost of the bike posts (total cost £648 + VAT). To claim it I will need to offer some statistics around footfall in the village such as take up for cream teas and visitors to the church. I hope to be able to submit the claim in August.

#### **Centurion Way**

SDNPA priorities remain to link the West Dean end of CW with Singleton station by clearing the footpath. A contractor has been appointed for this work and it is expected to begin soon.

Discussion continue with ecological groups and residents around the Wellhanger / Littlewood Farm sections. An update meeting is being scheduled for August and I have been invited to represent the PC.

As regards the establishing of a link between the Hat Hill access ramp and the village itself the SDNPA position is that they require someone to act as the focal point for co-ordinating stakeholders and work with them to identify an acceptable route, arrange planning permissions and be involved in identifying funding sources. Having raised this at the AGM I have been approached by one member of the village who has offered to assist.

#### **Singleton Defibrillator -Beside the Village Hall**

Last site check	8 July 2024
Next check due	7 August 2024
Main electrodes/pads expiry	31 January 2025
Battery replacement due	30 May 2025
Spare electrodes/pads expiry	31 May 2025

#### **Peter Gattrell**

##### **Drones**

##### **Drone Classes and Subcategories**

The UK drone legislation divides drones into three main classes: A1, A2, and A3. Each class has its own set of rules and regulations.

A1 Subcategory: Fly over people, but not over crowds. This subcategory includes drones with a flying weight of less than 250g.

A2 Subcategory: Fly close to people. This subcategory includes drones with a flying weight of 250g to 2kg.

A3 Subcategory: Fly far from people. This subcategory includes drones with a flying weight of less than 25kg.

### **Registration and Competency**

To operate a drone in the UK, you need to register it with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and obtain a Competency Certificate (CofC).

Registration: You need to register your drone if it weighs between 250g and 25kg or has a camera. You can register your drone online through the CAA website.

Competency Certificate: You need to obtain a CofC if you want to fly a drone in the A2 or A3 subcategory. The CofC requires you to pass an online test and demonstrate your understanding of drone safety and regulations.

### **Operating Areas and Restrictions**

There are certain areas where drone flying is restricted or prohibited. These areas include:

Airports: You cannot fly a drone within 5.5 kilometers of an airport or any area designated as a restricted airspace.

National Parks: You need to obtain permission from the park authority before flying a drone in a national park.

Military Areas: You need to obtain permission from the military authority before flying a drone in a military area.

Crowded Areas: You cannot fly a drone over crowded areas, such as sports events or festivals.

### **Safety Considerations**

When flying a drone in the UK, you need to consider the following safety factors:

Height: You cannot fly a drone above 120 meters.

Distance: You need to maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters from people and buildings.

Speed: You cannot fly a drone at a speed greater than 50 knots (93 km/h).

Weather: You cannot fly a drone in bad weather conditions, such as strong winds or low visibility.

### **Penalties for Non-Compliance**

If you fail to comply with the UK drone legislation, you may face penalties, including:

Fine: You may be fined up to £1,000 for flying a drone without permission.

Prison Sentence: You may be sentenced to up to 5 years in prison for flying a drone recklessly or negligently.

Drone Confiscation: Your drone may be confiscated if you are found to be flying it illegally.

### **The Drone and Model Aircraft Code – Document Attached.**

### **Finance Report**

Total in Current Account (16/07/24) – £11,796.22

Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) – Playground Repairs £2,000 + £2,000 in 2024/25 budget.

General Maintenance £100.00 + £500.00 in 2024/25 budget.

School Parking – Grant awarded from Star Energy of £2,000 (not claimed yet)

Balance in Savings Account – £7,124.91

### **Funds Received since 20/05/24**

Interest on Savings Account - £26.54

**Jeremy Hunt**

Obviously everyone has been distracted by the recent elections, but I would like to reassure you that the work of your County Council, supporting you and your residents, has gone on uninterrupted. Heading into the summer break here are a few updates, including some which I hope will help support your parishioners, including your youngest residents and their parents, so please spread the information as widely as possible.

Finance: Although we are only just into the fourth month of the current financial year, we are well into formulating our budget plans for 2025/26 and our four-year Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2022028/29. An update on these plans - and the financial challenges we are facing - will be presented at Public Cabinet on July 23rd at 10.30 at County Hall. Papers will be published ten days in advance of the meeting on our website:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/committees-and-decision-making/cabinet/>

Highways Update. A further package of multi-million-pound road repairs and improvements has started in West Sussex, proactively tackling our current pothole issues and also investing in larger-scale resurfacing across the county's 4,000km road network. Following additional funds being added to last year's budget for highways maintenance, West Sussex County Council is committed to tackling the impact of persistent, severe weather on the highway with both reactive and proactive measures. This financial year, in addition to our base budget for highways maintenance and operations of £43.8million, we have invested:

an extra £4million to support highway maintenance, including pothole repairs.

an additional £7million to increase our carriageway resurfacing and treatments programme to more than £20million, enabling highways teams to deliver one of their largest programmes of works to date.

a further £2million to tackle the significant carriageway patching backlog across the county following the very wet conditions over the last six months. This work will start in early summer to maximise the best working conditions.

The county council has so far received £4.3million (£2.161m in 2023/24 and £2.161m for 2024/25) from additional government funding announced in 2023. We are using this funding to deliver additional carriageway resurfacing works, with delivery having already started and the programme due to run to September 2024. A further £10million from council funds has been committed for next year (2025/26) to continue the work needed to make our highway network more resilient for the future.

These latest figures for highway repairs and improvements show that we're not just talking about the challenge - we're taking action. Our highways teams are continuing to work hard to fix the issues, completing [multi-million-pound improvement programmes](#) and demonstrating our commitment to our [Better Roads campaign](#). We have teams of highway officers out on the network identifying and assessing safety-related defects including potholes, both through routine inspections and by responding to customer reports. Our safety repair gangs are then tasked with fixing the safety defects. During this busy period, we are currently fixing around 1,000 safety defects a week. Last year, our safety repair teams completed more than 46,000 safety defect repairs, of which approximately 30,000 were potholes. This is an increase of more than 5,000 from the previous financial year. In more rural areas, we used three Velocity spray injection patchers to repair more than 23,000 further defects while also delivering proactive patching covering 26,000m<sup>2</sup>, which is equivalent to covering more than 130 tennis courts.

Our Planned Delivery team worked across 189km of roads in the last financial year, which were either completely [resurfaced or had surface dressing, micro-asphalt treatments, or large-scale areas of patching](#) and completed:

75 full resurfacing schemes were completed, totalling approximately 43km. The new road surfaces are more durable, making them more resilient to potholes, and smoother, which lessens road noise.

Surface dressing was used at 31 sites, with 66km of roads treated. Surface dressing involves coating the road in bitumen and chippings and relies on the action of the traffic using the road to embed the chippings. It is used as a cost-effective method to prolong the lifespan of suitable roads.

277 sites received micro-asphalt treatment, covering a total of 69km. This treatment delays the need to do more significant work and minimises disruption to residents and road users.

11km of large-scale areas of patching were completed at 48 sites.

We are responsible for maintaining around 4,000km of road: A and B roads are ordinarily inspected monthly, C-class and main distributor roads on a three or six-monthly basis and declassified roads are typically inspected annually. However, our highways officers cannot be everywhere, so the public's help in spotting and reporting concerns are really appreciated. Details, including [an online reporting form](#), are on our website. If a pothole is an immediate risk to public safety, you should call 01243 642105. We also have information on our website explaining the process of [identifying and repairing potholes](#). For more information go to: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roadworks-and-projects/road-projects/better-roads-road-funding-information/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roadworks-and-projects/road-projects/better-roads-road-funding-information/)

WSSCC Here to help - Advice and practical support with the cost of living. West Sussex County Council and its partners are here to help, offering practical support and advice to anyone who needs it. Drop into any of our 36 libraries for free;

information, books and enquiry service

Information and advice

Internet access and help to get you online

Events and activities

Access to support from a range of partners, for example health and wellbeing, or financial advice

To find out more go to [library support online](#).

Contact our Community Hub/Household Support Fund - Our Community Hub is open seven days a week and offers information and advice across a broad range of support available. You can call us or fill in a contact form online. You may be eligible to access help from the Household Support Fund, which is available through our [Community Hub](#) and can help support eligible residents who are struggling with costs towards fuel or food bills. For full details, including how to apply, see the Community Hub pages @: [Community Hub](#) You don't have to be receiving benefits to access help from your local council. If you do receive benefits, they won't be affected in making an application via this scheme.

West Sussex Records Office. Explore the history of West Sussex via our Record Office's new website, giving residents even better access to the history and heritage of the County. Visitors to the website can be transported to years gone by from the comfort of their own home through access to digital records. The online catalogue uses a specialist digital preservation system enabling users to search through the records and access up to 36,000 images available to view, download and purchase. West Sussex has a rich history and our new website has made it easier to access this history, by modernising the way residents can access services through the use of digital channels and technology to make it as simple as possible. To help users to get the most out of the new website, advice on searching the catalogue is available, along with new research guides and further information about the collections. There are also new pages on all the Record Office's projects and latest news.

The online shop also has a host of books DVDs and CDs available to purchase, some of which can't be found anywhere else. Residents can also visit their local library to use a public

computer, and staff will be able to help get you started on the new website. For those in need of a little extra help, the library offers digital support with the chance for a one-to-one session with a digital volunteer. Contact your [local library](#) for further information.

For those residents who still want to make a visit to the Record Office in person, the website is still a handy tool. The new Reader Order Management system can let the team know what documents you'd like to view in the [Searchroom](#) by requesting up to three items in advance, helping customers make best use of their research or study time when they visit. You can also use the website to find out what events and talks are taking place and book your place online. Start exploring today at <https://www.wsro.org.uk/>.

And for our younger residents - Marvellous Makers is coming to a library near you. Children of all ages can visit your local West Sussex Library and join Amelia, Riley, Bob the dog and friends as they get creative to complete the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge, Marvellous Makers.



With free materials from the library and online via the website, the challenge encourages youngsters to keep reading over the holidays by offering rewards, including a medal and certificate if they complete the challenge and read six library books of their choice. Children can take part any time from Saturday 13 July – Saturday 14 September. All that participants need is a library card, which are available from all West Sussex libraries. After registering online for the challenge at [arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src](http://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src), children receive a special code word. They then reveal this to staff at their local library to get their Marvellous Makers fold-out poster and first set of scratch-and-sniff stickers. The main challenge is for children aged 4-11 years, but younger children can take part in the Mini Challenge, collecting stickers as they share library books over the summer and receiving a special gold sticker and a certificate when they finish. Last year was a huge success, with 11,500 children and young people in West Sussex taking part in the challenge. I hope families will be inspired by this year's creative theme.

We are also looking to recruit volunteers aged 14 and over to support staff in promoting the Summer Reading Challenge, developing their skills and gaining valuable experience working with children and families. Applications can be submitted at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/src](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/src).

### **Local Updates**

Charlton 20MPH Scheme - Initially this scheme was rejected by our officers as it didn't score high enough for a Communities Highways Scheme. However, following discussions I had with Cllr Marshall, I had further discussions with our highways team. I have now persuaded them that a village wide TRO scheme would actually be the best - and cheapest - way forward. They have looked into this and agreed with me that such a scheme makes perfect sense. I am therefore pleased to confirm that a community TRO scheme for a village wide 20mph limit will now be going through due process. The first steps is for our highways team to collect some speed data, so expect to see some speed loops through the village - hopefully - soon. The TRO

is no guaranteed, but these are very positive steps forward and, at this moment, I can see no reason why it won't get approved. I have updated Cllr Marshall WSCC Residents Newsletter. Lastly, just a reminder from my last parish update, that every month we issue a Residents Newsletter, which is sent to all residents who subscribe to our free email service. Signing up for our email alerts means you don't need to check our website to find out the latest information. Instead, it will be delivered free, straight to your inbox. To subscribe just go to: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWSCC/subscriber/new>

Finally, please 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/>

And lastly, if you have any issues relating to the County Council that I might be able to help you with, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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### **Henry Potter**

At the Cabinet Meeting on June 11th, Members agreed to recommend to full Council the release of £420,000 from reserves to cover the cost of specialist Professional Services to support the Planning Authority in defending Planning appeals. In addition a further £74,000 was agreed, again from reserves, to provide funding for legal and expert advice during the years 2024/25. The reason being, the Council has received a number of speculative Applications for housing some of which have become subject to Appeals. These appeals are sometimes very costly and time consuming hence the need for substantial funding. Whether this will be worthwhile remains to be seen since the new Government plans to increase housing supply by unsustainable numbers.

Also during the same Meeting, Cabinet agreed the release of £206,206 towards the cost of replacing the public toilets in Tower Street, Chichester.

Interestingly, the very following day, 12th June, the Planning Committee voted to defer a decision on the demolition of the toilets until the decision was agreed by Full Council. There has been much aversion by the public to lose these toilets, but there is evidence of subsidence to the foundation of the building so something must be done. I fully supported the recommendation to demolish the block, knowing that the money had been set aside for the replacement. There appeared in the Chichester Observer 3 weeks ago a rather derogatory letter questioning my support for what is obviously the best option, demolish and renew which is supported by most of the responders to the future of these very necessary toilets.

The Council have begun a 'Let's Talk' consultation period for members of the public to engage in debate regarding the Climate Emergency Action Plan beginning with an on line session which took place on July 1st. Face to face meetings are planned, in Petworth at the Leconfield Hall, the Grange Centre in Midhurst and at the Assembly Rooms in North Street Chichester, on Thursday 25th July from 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm.

A great opportunity to voice your views on Climate Change. I understand refreshments will be provided. Even more detail will be found in the next copy of the Councils 'Initiatives' magazine.



Finally, an advance warning has been announced the northbound carriageway of Westhampnett Road will be closed, for a period of 8 weeks commencing on 12/08/24, in order to reinforce the Highway support wall of the River Lavant. The closure will be between St James Road and Church Road, but restrictions will be lifted each Friday afternoon for each weekend and for additional days to accommodate the Goodwood Revival Meeting. Several bus services will be re-routed. The southbound carriageway into the City is supposed to be uninterrupted for the duration of the works. I'm sure this will cause absolute chaos around the Eastern entrance to the city and the retail shopping Parks. But then what would Chichester be without roadworks everywhere!