

## **Reports for Singleton and Charlton Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### **Graham Zacharias**

#### **IGAS**

No developments

#### **Potholes**

Town Lane has been resurfaced/ repaired, after a fashion. The surface has been improved from lethal to poor. So many other major defects in the surrounding roads that I'm not presently minded to report

anything, locally, other than substantial incidents of damage.

#### **CHS (TRO)**

Update provided in TM's report

#### **Finance**

Nothing to report

### **Jeremy Rigby**

#### **The Leys Parking Project**

The works will start on Monday 24th July and last up to 3 weeks. Landbuild are delivering them. They will provide 9 x standard parking bays plus 1 disabled bay. The base of the parking bays will be [BodPave](#) plastic pavers on a sharp sand base infilled with shingle - this is a change to the original design which was to be soil and grass seed. The change is on the basis that the grass seed would probably be disrupted as soon as they are used and there is a risk of becoming muddy again in heavy rain. The shingle is more porous and will require less maintenance. Parking bays will be delineated by plastic markers.

**Update – WSCC Highways have refused to let us use shingle so grass seed will be sown.**

A tarmac footpath will run along the front of the parking bays to join the existing pavement in front of the village hall. The chestnut post and rail in front of the parking bays (with access gaps) will now be 0.5m high rather than 1.2m. This is on the recommendation of WSCC highways and will allow step over in emergency.

With these minor modifications the cost has been reduced by £581.09 and now stands at a total of £37,194.47 to Landbuild. The Parish contribution has been reduced from £890.56 to £34.47. However, it is recommended that a 'Disabled Parking Only' sign is also purchased for the relevant parking bay at a cost of approx £10-£15.

To avoid delays due to vehicles being left in place, 'Advance notice of works' leaflets are being distributed to residents In The Leys, Church Way and Downey Close plus the school and nearby properties in Charlton Road. A yellow road sign warning of the works and closure of the parking will be in place shortly.

#### **School Layby parking**

In order to inform appetite and options for a next phase, once Landbuild are on site and The Leys parking is underway I will obtain indicative costs for improving the parking arrangements in front of the school with a view to initially extending hardened parking as far as the end of the school playing field.

### **Centurion Way**

According to SDNPA progress between West Dean and Wellhanger Copse (above Cucumber Farm) has proceeded faster than expected, It is intended to open it up incrementally as sections complete but no date has yet been set for the section as far as Singleton to open, although it is hoped to be by this autumn. The route through Wellhanger Copse has been agreed and they have begun to mark it out. The main project officer returns 18 July after which I will get a further update on opening dates. Currently West Dean tunnel remains inaccessible due to ecology but various surveys continue to see if it can be re-opened in the longer term. There is no intention to develop the path from Singleton cricket club up to the Hat Hill access to be anything other than for pedestrians (the impressive ramp dropping down from the bridge is only to meet pedestrian access requirements). The next access for horses/cycles is not expected to be until it links with the South Downs Way.

Having spoken to Ian Graham, the Estates Director at West Dean College he confirmed that they are in discussion with SDNPA to assist cyclists in avoiding having to use the main road and it remains an ambition to provide a cycle track linking West Dean to Singleton via the college and Weald & Downland Museum. From the College perspective they are looking at a 2-3 year timeframe having flagged up that access, security and ticketing needs to be resolved. I have not yet established where funding would be expected to come from.

### **Mat Chesshire**

Singleton School

I met with the headteacher of Singleton Primary School at the start of June. I filled her in on what was happening and what is not at the moment, with respect to the accessibility parking project. She would like to be updated on any dates for works being started and also in advance for when any trees and chestnut posts get put in so that she can inform her parents. She said that she had positive talks with the Partridge previously and they had released ten parking spaces for the start and end of the school day. The headteacher had issued ten permits to families so that they could use them - how much they are used she is unsure. She will go back and talk to the new management about relaunching this, once the new arrangements are all complete. We discussed that it would be best when the new parking project was completed and new trees etc were going in, so that as a whole community we could work together and see what else can be done at the peak times to ease the parking issues that inevitably occur.

### **Playground**

I arranged a work party to take down the old zip wire. Many thanks to Darren and Jon locally who brought along all the tools necessary for the job. It took about an and a half to complete. All parts have now been removed from the site. Planning meeting for new zip wire and roundabout was held and it became apparent that further works were needed to prepare the area for installation. The original concrete foundations needed to be partially removed for work to be completed. The installation company agreed to send a quote over the weekend prior to installation starting the following week. This created a further shortfall as reported by Viv, to be covered by the Parish Council until the postponed fundraiser can be re held in September. Works should be signed off Tuesday 11th July.

I have created a list of jobs that will be required to be completed in light of the report received on the playground. I am in the process of prioritising these and making a start over the summer. Some of these jobs will make it onto the list for the village clean up in September/October. The kind of jobs that need doing include maximising the lifespan of the wooden fence posts and repairing some rusty areas. The latest plan for the fencing is to staple on some wire mesh to reduce the impact that strimming is having on the base of the posts.

I would also like to raise a question with respect to the bins in the playground. There are two bins in the playground itself that need regular emptying by myself. Do we feel it necessary to have these, or would the council bin very close to the entrance of the playground be sufficient?

### **Tony Marshall**

#### **Town Lane 30mph limit**

The public consultation has now commenced and runs until 3 August; see <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/live-consultations-for-permanent-tros/chichester-live-tro-consultations/> for details. We all need to ensure that everyone with an interest makes their views known by responding to the consultation.

### **Southern Water**

I caught some video of the Charlton pump operating in June - which of course is clear evidence that this is no longer a purely seasonal problem. I've used this to keep the pressure on Southern Water and, after chasing Floyd Cooper again, I've been promised an update in time for next week's meeting. Every operative I speak to 'on the ground' (from the MTS guys, the camera guys right through to SW engineers) is of the view that the only solution to the need to overpump at Charlton is to replace the pipeline across the Leys meadow. However, this has then led me to wonder whether SW actually want to pump into the river at Charlton (and East Dean and Singleton) so as to relieve pressure at the Lavant wastewater treatment works, where their pollution record is more closely monitored - I'm awaiting a comment from Floyd Cooper on this point.

### **CHS**

I contacted Highways for an update on progress with this and they advised that they are 'still in Prelim design', which they aim to finalise 'soon' and pass to Detailed Design. They say they are on track and will have it ready for 'next procurement', with construction planned for 24/25; and that we should expect to hear more 'after September 23'.

### **Design Statement**

This is still in the hands of SDNPA for review; I've asked for an update on progress with this.

### **Charlton Road Flooding**

Despite the Environment Agency telling us that they did not see any point in them getting involved and having a meeting with us, we since understand that they were arranging a meeting with Goodwood to discuss the matter. We have no further information on this.

### **Jeremy Hunt**

As we head into the summer holidays I thought I would cover a few items which were published as part of our recent Summer newsletter. I'm not sure how many of you receive this publication, but I thought that it covered a number of items which would be of interest to the PC and of course to your parishioners, particularly for families, so I felt it was worth repeating in my report.

### **Discover budget-friendly days out in West Sussex**

The summer holidays are on their way and we've got a bumper bunch of ideas for you to make the most of the sunny weather right here at home – without forking out a fortune!

Find some great budget-friendly local activities on Experience West Sussex via the link below.

**Revel in the natural world:** whether it's a walk round one of the nature trails or parks, or a visit to the 170 acres that make up Buchan Park just outside Crawley, Experience West Sussex has lots of [ideas for enjoying the great outdoors – free of charge!](#)

**Get cycling:** take a look at our [free Cycle Journey Planner](#) where you can get turn-by-turn directions and maps. Choose from fast, quiet or balanced routes, see journey times, distances and how many calories you'll burn.

**Beach life:** who needs the Med when we have sparkling seas right on our doorstep? There [are 50 miles of coastline in West Sussex](#) – make a beeline for the beach where you can try rock pooling, take a dip or make your very own castle in the sand!

[More information](#)

### **Watery fun in the sun!**

Attention all parents, carers and grandparents! As the holidays approach are you hot on water safety?

Spending time with the kids around water at the beach, pool or at home is a great way to cool off and have fun but remember to always supervise children in and around water and [teach them the Water Safety Code](#).

Find more tips and advice on the link below about how to stay healthy and safe this summer.

[More information](#)

### **Get up to date with your child's jabs**

The school summer holidays are an ideal time for parents to make sure their child is up to date with their childhood vaccinations. Vaccination gives children the best protection against unpleasant and often serious diseases. It's never too late to catch up on any vaccinations they've missed. They are safe, free of charge in the UK and available from GP practices.

[More information](#)

### **Children become superstars at the library this summer!**

Do you know a child aged four to 11 years? Encourage them to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge at their local library from Saturday (8 July).

They'll receive a booklet and the more they read, the more scratch and sniff smelly stickers they'll collect.

There are fun activities in the library too, including a Character Hunt with a prize draw.

They just need a library card to join in the fun - [it's free to join the library](#) and free to take part!

[More information](#)

### **Help us have a wildfire-free summer**

Whether you're heading to the countryside or the coast this summer, our West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has safety advice for you.

This includes how you can help prevent wildfires as pictured above, which happened in Walberton last year.

[More information](#)

### **Add a fire station visit to your summer plans**

You can find out how our firefighters keep us safe and deal with emergencies at one of the free fire station open days taking place during the summer holidays:

July 22 [Worthing](#) (combined with Broadwater Carnival) 10am to 4pm.

July 29 [Bognor Regis](#) 10am to 4pm.

July 29 [Crawley](#) 10am to 5pm.

August 26 [Haywards Heath](#) 9am to 5pm.

August 28 [Shoreham](#) 10am to 4pm.

August 30 [Burgess Hill](#) 10am to 2pm.

### **Have a plastic-free summer**

This year we're supporting Plastic Free July and asking residents to join us.

It's all about asking people to 'choose to refuse' and make sustainable swaps leading to a reduction in plastic waste.

Plastic waste can easily be avoided by using things like reusable shopping bags, water bottles and coffee cups.

Find out how you can reduce your plastic waste on our blog 'Easy swaps for a plastic free July' via the link below.

[More information](#)

### **More investment on our roads this summer**

Investment in maintaining the [county's highways has received a total boost of £14.5million this year.](#)

This follows a sharp increase in the number of potholes reported by those who use our 4,000km road network.

The agreed funding will be used to provide resources to repair potholes, including additional gangs working on the road network and procurement of an additional road patching machine, bringing our total to three operating within the county this year.

We will also be carrying out drainage works and refreshing signs and lines across West Sussex to improve visibility and safety.

Help us by reporting any defects you see on your summer travels using the link below.

[More information](#)

## **Other News**

Head to our [Newsroom](#) to find all the latest news. Below are some highlights:

West Sussex residents can continue to [access free independent support](#) after the county's community advice service was recommissioned.

West Sussex's [brand new Training Centre and Fire Station for Horsham took centre stage](#) as county council cabinet members were given an advance tour of the site. It became fully operational last week.

We want to hear from you if you currently provide unpaid care for a family member or friend, if you have previously cared for a loved one or if you expect to in the future. [Take part in our Carer Support Service Review here](#). Closing date: 27 July.

The [A286 at Midhurst has reopened](#) after work to shore up fire-damaged buildings.

A [multi-million-pound programme of investment in refurbishing children's homes](#) in West Sussex is progressing well.

## **Local Issues**

### **Town Lane - Speed Limit extension.**

I see that permission has been granted to advertise the proposed extension of the 30mph limit. It is now out for consultation, so it is excellent news that it is going forward. Assuming that the TRO progresses as normal, I am hopeful it will be scheduled for installation in 24/25.

### **Town Lane Repair work.**

I updated you at the last meeting that this work was scheduled for early June. Unfortunately, following a highway steward's inspection there were some changes to the works schedule, which delayed the work. However, I understand this work was completed a couple of weeks ago.

### **The Leys Car Park**

I believe this is progressing well and signed papers were due to be delivered to the council recently. I know your Clerk is liaising directly with our officers, so she might have more up to date news by the time of the meeting, but hopefully it will be good to go very shortly.

### **Communities Highways Project**

I don't have an update for this report, but will try and bring one to the meeting.

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/>

Also, a reminder that all our public meetings are webcast live and are also archived, so you can always view them later. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/watch-county-council-and-committee-meetings-online/>

### **Henry Potter**

The Council has begun to take shape after the massive reshuffle of appointments since the May election and with so much training of new members there has been little else happening.

One important change is the Council's new ability to levy a suitable level of contribution on all new developments in order to mitigate the impact of housing on the A27. This impact is highlighted in the emerging Local Plan Review in Policy T1. This Levy will contribute towards the necessary improvements required to sustain cumulative additional traffic arising from new housing.

Because of the above mentioned statement, the Council's Planners will resume considering new medium sized application, this practice was paused towards the end of last year due to the uncertainty of funding for these necessary improvements. Already there were two sizeable paused applications included in last Wednesday's planning agenda. However, a recent update by the

Councils Chief Planning Officer announced that due to the late publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework not coming to Parliament before this recess, and our dependence on this review, our Local Plan will not be ready to submit to the Planning Inspectorate probably until next year. Not good news at all!!

Finally, some pothole repairs have been carried out in Halnaker recently using the hot spraying technique which appears to be a great improvement on plugging holes with cold asphalt which simply doesn't work! I am monitoring these repairs to see if they are more durable, and if the use of this process becomes more widespread.

## **Clerk**

### **Defibrillator and CPR Training**

A permanent entry will appear in the Valley Diary giving the details of where the defibrillators are situated in Singleton and Charlton. I have also contacted the St John Ambulance about training courses. There are two options, AED & CPR training which we would have to pay for or, there is a free First Aid Awareness session, the First Aid package covers the above but is discussion and knowledge based only, so no practical training. The AED & CPR training is £125.00. Please discuss.

## **Finance**

### **Finance Report**

Useable Funds in Current Account (17/07/23) £9,771.63

Playground Reserves held in Current Account - £19,898.84

Accessibility Project Reserves held in Current Account - £16,158.84

**Total in Current Account – £ 45,829.01**

Balance in Savings Account – £7,028.55

### **Funds Received since 16/05/23**

Balance of CDC Grant for the playground - £6,971.00

Kings Coronation Grant from CDC for the playground - £500.00

IGas Grant for the playground - £2,000

Payment for Coronation Mugs - £129.00

Private Donations for Playground - £100.00

Interest on Savings Account - £14.62

Donation from Goodwood Estate for the Parking Project - £5,000

Payment for Coronation materials - £10.00

Henry Smith Donation for the Playground - £1,000

Henry Smith Donation for the Parking Project - £1,000

### **Grant Due**

Rees Jeffreys Grant for the parking project - £21,000

**Total Raised for the Playground - £57,000.00**

**Total Raised for the Parking Project - £37,160.00**