

Reports for Singleton and Charlton Parish Council Meeting – Monday 18th November 2024

Jeremy Rigby

School Verge Parking

The taping off of the verge seems to have been successful and parents have found other locations to park while dropping off and collecting children. It is understood that it is planned to buy and install wooden posts for a more permanent and aesthetic solution

The Leys Bike Posts

CDC have reimbursed the Parish £518 of the £608 paid for the bicycle posts. The bicycle posts were a requirement for the major grant from the Rees Jeffries Charity towards the car parking. The CDC funds are a Rural Development Grant in response to an application by the Parish, and cover 80% of the costs.

The Leys Parking

The hardened parking has recently 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 Parish has recently been advised of the imminent installation of 3 x Electric Vehicle charging points at The Leys Parking, providing 6 x sockets.

Singleton Defibrillator - Beside the Village Hall

Last site check 4 November 2024

Next check due 4 December 2024

Main electrodes/pads expiry 31 January 2025

Battery replacement due 30 May 2025

Spare electrodes/pads expiry 31 May 2025

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.

In response to Parish representations SDNPA will now support the development of a link that can provide year round access for wheeled users (cycles/mobility scooters/pushchairs etc). Improving the existing footpath west of the Lavant for higher access rights (e.g. - cycling) is not a practical option, therefore a separate path is being explored.

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). WDE have allowed for a potential path alignment to follow a recently planted ride near to the field boundary adjacent to the existing footpath.

NT tenants at Cucumber Farm (Henrietta Norman and Elizabeth Benson) are supportive in principle, subject to no (minimal?) impact on farming operations, recompense, mitigation etc. An alternative proposed route for consideration has been put forward which has yet to be assessed.

Graham Zacharias

Potholes

Reported issues on the A286 going out of Singleton towards Cocking and, again, on Town Lane

Finance

Reviewed and amended Financial Regulations document which is up for approval at this month's meeting

Other

Wrote to Wendy Goacher regarding the tree which partially overhangs the Glebe Field playground. This will be reviewed by a tree surgeon and appropriate actions taken to remove all dangerous branches.

Tony Marshall
Charlton 20mph

Highways agreed to all of our suggested changes to the speed limit repeater signs (reduced in number and some location changes) and these have been incorporated into the plan. They can't replace the one in North Lane with a 'No through road' sign as this is a whole different process.

The Road Safety Team and Sussex Police have also given the plan the Green light, so this leaves only the Public Consultation to complete. I'm confident there will be an overwhelming majority in support, so hopefully that's just a formality. We're still awaiting confirmation of the dates for the consultation.

I'm awaiting details of the precise locations of the signs for the start and finish of the 20mph limits on Knights Hill and the East Dean road, so that I can double-check the verge widths and order the village gateways to coincide with these.

Karen Nash
Weald & Downland Donation

On 24/9 I emailed Darron Carver at The Weald & Downland to ask if they might look at the possibility of contributing approx. £2,500 towards the repairs of the playground. On the 9/10 Viv and myself met with Darron to discuss the Highways scheme and he confirmed that unfortunately the Weald are not in a position to make any donations for at least six months.

Southern Water Activity

On Friday 11/10 MP Andrew Griffith and his secretary Teresa met with myself and some Charlton residents to highlight our concerns with pumping and tankers in the village during the next AW. We showed Andrew the main areas of concern. I proposed that SW speak with Goodwood to ask if tracking could also be put down in the field adjacent to North Lane so they can reposition the tankers to keep North Lane clear.

Since this meeting SW have been able to release early funding to start the repair works needed in Charlton and Glenn McCubbin is hoping to release further funding to continue into Singleton. Another on site meeting with SW reps and Andrew Griffiths is scheduled for the 15/11.

On 11/11 SW will start setting up a groundwater management site in the meadow field, this is part of their preparation for the groundwater season, and will consist of us setting up the following:

Track matting across the field North of the River

Heras fencing around the compound areas and Bog Mats where the plant items will be situated.

Installation of the pump equipment and generators. The generators will be situated approx. 80 m from Knights Hill to reduce noise disturbance.

SW are attending the PC meeting so they can provide an update to all of the above. Glenn McCubbin is in regular contact with me, and myself and Deb's now receive a weekly report from him.

Charlton Village Clear Up

2/11 After a planning meeting I held on the Friday evening, a fantastic team from Charlton helped in the village clear up, clearing verges, cleaning signs etc, which was a huge success and great to see Charlton involved with the clear up this year.

Poo Bins

I have put a sticker on the general waste bin next to the playground to clearly show that the bin can be used for dog waste – no sign of the bag dispenser though?

Pete Gattrell

Dog Bag Dispenser

The installation of a dog glove dispenser on The Glebe Field was made on 12/11/24. Living now beside the bin close to the church. Hopefully this will encourage dog owners who walk around the park to pick up after their four-legged friends more frequently.

It's sad to see Sam leave the parish council and I'm thankful for his time and effort. Regarding the responsibilities of maintaining The Glebe Field play area which was one of his responsibilities, the council will make a decision in the upcoming meeting on how we move forward.

Andrew Griffith

The meeting with MP Andrew Griffith on the 8/10/24 provided him awareness of the short comings southern waters contractor's made earlier this year regarding the efficiency of their services. Karen will have a more detailed explanation. She has also organised another meeting with Andrew for the 15/11/24 for an update on the matter of which i will be in attendance.

Finance Report

Total in Current Account (15/11/24) – £19,712.81

Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) – Playground Repairs £3,158.68.

Playground Roundabout Surface £500.00

General Maintenance £500.00.

School Parking – £2,100

Total Reserves - £6,276.68 (includes CDC Grant)

Balance in Savings Account – £7,151.56

Funds Received - CDC Grant for Bike Posts - £518.00. Bike Posts have already been paid for so this grant will go into our reserves. Decision needed on which reserve to allocate the money to.

Henry Potter

The government budget of 31/10 has raised possible problems for the Council with the introduction of an increased Employers contribution towards employee National Insurance contributions. Unless this increase is waived for Local Authorities, which is unlikely, this increase will cost CDC in the region of £500,000 per annum. Consider the liability for Council Officers, office staff, Street cleaners, refuse collectors, parking staff, parks attendants and £1/2 million is near the mark. So we must prepare for increases in Council precepts. Magnify this by WSCC and Sussex Police any increase will be considerable. There are circa 373 Local Authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland so any relief will cost the Government circa £200 million which is why I fear that relief from this increase is unlikely.

In the matter of the Southern Gateway Redevelopment Scheme, which was on the Agenda for Cabinet and was presented to full Council last month, there is still little progress due to the uncertainty of relocating the numerous bus stops which are currently contained in the bus terminal. It has been suggested that these bus stops be moved into the Avenue de Chartres and

South Street. However, at the Cabinet Meeting on 05/11 a public question was tabled suggesting 'how wrong it was to divert bus passengers onto a busy road adjacent to the Avenue de Chartres multi story car park, the bus terminal should remain' The response by the Leader of the Council was 'the vision of a Transport Hub in this location will be close to a railway station, bus stops, toilets, EV charging points???, bicycle racks, cafes and of course car parking. How all of these facilities will be accommodated within this Southern Gateway area remains to be seen. And yet again another member of the public addressed the Cabinet last Tuesday saying that the bus terminal must stay. Always in mind is to have improved pedestrian routes towards the City centre which, considering the ageing population of Chichester, shouldn't feature high in priorities. However, further assessments of the Scheme will proceed using monies from the Local Enterprise Partnership which was secured to support the Southern Gateway Proposals. This was initially £5 million but it is gradually being used.

Following a request from Councillors, the Cabinet will receive and note a 5 year Resource Monitor Update. Concerns have been recorded about the high levels of funding for various projects which resulted in this request. At end of October funding approvals have amounted to £4.46 million but at the 05/11 meeting Cabinet were asked to agree further funding of £8.228 million! This will include £0.25 million for the purchase of replacement Refuse collection and a Green Waste collection vehicle. I will add that the two year trial of 2 Electric Refuse collection Vehicles is less than successful. £8 million will be set aside for refurbishment and investment in the Councils Leisure Centres. The contract with 'Everyone Active', who currently manage the three Leisure Centres, expires in 2026, after 10 years, and preparations are being considered for the re-tendering process. These Centres clearly need reinvestment.

Though it is just over your Parish boundary in Lavant CP, the many developments to The Rubbing House have resulted in Enforcement action to have these infringements of Planning Laws removed and these are extensive. This Enforcement action has been appealed and the Planning Inspectorate are holding the Appeal at East Pallant House on the 28th of this month.

Finally I must praise Southern Water for the effort and steps they have undertaken during the past summer months, and are ongoing, moving to West Dean early next year. Rainfall in the recent months, barring any late deluges, indicate that this winter should be drier than the last two. Fingers crossed.

That concludes my report.