

FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2022

ROAD /ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND ISSUES IN NEED OF ATTENTION

UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION ROAD WORKS --- NOW STARTED

I attended, on behalf of the Farringdon Parish Council, a Multi Agency Group meeting in Winchester to update us on the planned flood alleviation works which started on 27th June.

Ten people attended and covered HCC Highways, Environmental Agency, Emergency Planning, HCC/EHDC personnel and Farringdon/Chawton parish Councillors.

Most personnel are new to the system with at least 3 having just started their new jobs.

We were given a full update of work done so far over the last 6-7 years, on-going A32 road works and future non main road projects.

The A32 work started will add more capacity to the highway drainage system to help convey the winterbourne and will be undertaken in two periods of work as the A32 highway is to be re-opened from 9th-16th August to accommodate traffic flows in conjunction with two festivals of Boom Town and Jalsa Salana at Worldham.

It was stated that the works will not guarantee any major flooding but hopefully will help.

It is estimated that Boundary House to Farringdon crossroads replacement of drainage pipes will take up to 10 weeks and the road works from crossroads to "The Wheels" will take 5 weeks. There may be delays due to any new underground utilities being found that have not shown up on the extensive surveys conducted so far.

The resources and money for this part of the project has been finalized but future non A32 works may not yet have full financial backing.

Estimates at present seem to indicate £1.2m total cost but inflation and cost variances are seen as 15-30%!

Contractors, landowner consent and licenses are still being sort for non main A32 jobs:-

They are :- (probably be next year)

Increased diameter pipe work across field from "Boundary House" and new pipe work under "New Road" to existing ditch.

Proposed new pipe work to be added under Shirnall Hill from lower playing field to the gardens behind houses opposite "The Pheasant" where a ditch runs to back of "Boundary House"; this being the old route of the lavant stream when flowing.

Various under road pipe work clearances at Chawton and Lumbry Farm near Alton bypass.

The new gas pipeline from Fawley will not be a major problem at the A32 site as the new pipe work will be bored under the road. Apparently Brightstone Lane is less lucky with the lane being dug up at some stage; HCC are talking to contractors.

I expressed concern about the traffic use of the various lanes around Farringdon and was told that there was no way that the lanes would be closed or made one way.

Continuous monitoring of traffic flow, sign positioning are being looked at on a daily basis.

Banksmen will be monitoring road closed positions and will allow local residents to obtain access to their properties; likewise access to the industrial sites and the pub will not be impeded.

There will be traffic lights controlling the A32 after normal work hours and weekends as and when there is enough space available next to any excavation work.

We as a Parish Council are asked to have an up to date emergency plan as the last one was 2/3 years old.

I did pass on various photographs and road reports to the new HCC /EHDC representatives and expressed concern about the condition of all lane and road hedges, verge cutting, ditches and signage problems.

I also suggested more publicity; possibly that HCC should update us through the local paper and indeed at least update our local parish councils.

Driving to/from Alton via Chawton roundabout is possible for local residents and those trying to access below the existing road works when the road is totally closed can use "New Road" which is a B.O.A.T (Byway Open to All Traffic).

Brightstone, Gaston and Hall lanes now have increased traffic flow!!

Please report to myself any really big problems and then I can email directly the Highways Controller. Water table level now at 100.00m AOD which is normal for July.

More info at:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/strategies/scheme-a32-farringdon>

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LOCAL ROAD/LANE SIGNS

Following a survey of all the road signs within the village and its surrounding area, a report with suggestions listed has been written and the Parish Council will now overview the signage within our village and hopefully at no cost, signs can be updated by HCC.

Investigation has shown that several signs that are damaged (most reported previously to HCC) are still damaged and those thought not to require update have been directly reported to HCC website following the rules indicated by the Chief Engineer, HCC.

Majority of problems seen within or near the Farringdon Parish are listed in relation to their Road/Lane location and have been reported to HCC/EHDC via their websites and through "Fix-My-Street" which is accessed with direct reporting to local councils with feedback. It is apparent that approximately 50%+ of the reports are fixed and others are still to be resolved. Locally it is evident that road projects started may not be completely finished going by the number of signs + equipment left at the roadside!

Response by HCC is very slow on all reports (some are 2 years old) and typically although reports are acknowledged with job number, not much happens!

Following requests on updates, I have received various replies some saying "lack of workforce", "not a safety issue", "will be done when road next closed" etc, etc.

Over the last few years we always had a good communication with HCC highways personnel who would come out and view the various jobs but recently we have had minimal contact.

Also going by the operators that do appear and seem to be repeating a job done the previous month, there seems to be a lack of internal communication as well.

Having attended the recent meeting at Winchester. it was very noticeable that most of the offices were empty and when queried was told most were working from home and only attended the site 2 days a week!

ESSO SOUTHAMPTON to LONDON new pipeline.

According to ESSO online information.

Southampton to London pipeline work at A32 is destined to start September 2022 and will be an auger bore (no trench across A32) but guess some disruptions up to then by preparation workforce.

Woodside lane will be dug up and new pipe laid across just above old railway bridge and is destined to start August 2022.

Brightstone lane will also be dug up for new pipe just above Pies farm (July2022?)

Parish Meetings continue, refer to website and notice boards.

<https://farringdonpc.org/>

Next meeting: Wed 20th July 2022 @7pm in committee room at Chawton Village Hall.

LOCAL ISSUES WITH ROADS AND LANES **MAJORITY REPORTED TO HCC/EHDC**

MAIN A32 SOUTH to Farringdon crossroads

Expected road works to start September/October.

KITCOMBE LANE

Monitoring of off road vehicles. No reports of any problems

FARRINGDON CROSSROADS

Road signs are under review.

Waste bin next to bus shelter requires monitoring as filling quickly by Bahnstomers coffee cups!

A32 NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT

Lay-by: Taken over by the A32 road works at present.

“Woodside Lane “sign is being investigated.

Several fallen trees branches in need of clearance by landowners, owners have been notified.

Kerb edging still covered in grass and soil in most cases + some side drains blocked.

Various old signs attached to road signs should be removed.

BRIGHTSTONE LANE

Overhanging tree removed and 30 mph sign now repaired

Other reported problems exist.

Covered kerb stones along the lane require clearance, most of the side ditches have debris in them requiring clearance. 2x Chevron signs are in need of repair.

Drains under old bridge are blocked; all reported to HCC.

Beware of lane side edges when driving through and above LORDS WOOD where several vehicles have had damaged tyres. Reported

Esso pipeline disruption in coming months as work has started clearing side areas just above Pies farm where the pipeline will cross the lane.

SHIRNAL HILL

MAPLECOMBE security fencing and road edges being monitored - reported to HCC.

CHURCH ROAD

No work at the Massey's Folly site with site secured.

The roadway from Folly past the Church entrance is still being investigated as to repair costs. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money may be used here. Road signs in this road are being investigated into their suitability.

THE STREET

Blocked Drain outside BROWNINGS ORCHARD and roadway mud outside GILLS HOUSE ; these have been photographed and reported to HCC—as yet no action.

CROWS LANE.

Westview. Parish is still looking at solution to the poor condition of the verges adjacent Westview Gardens. Possibility of CIL money being used for this project.

GASTON LANE

Ditches along lane are in need of clearance . Reported to HCC.
Drains near Barley Wood farm are sometimes blocked and being monitored .
Brickwork under the Caker stream bridge is being monitored for subsidence.

HALL LANE

2 signs reported as damaged or not meeting regulations. Reported to HCC

FOOTPATHS AND HEDGES

All paths and bridleways are being monitored to accessibility, most are getting overgrown.

Six paths/bridleways are on the HCC cutting list for cutting normally starting July. Please note it is the responsibility of landowners to keep all hedges and overhanging trees to be cut back from the road, lane edges and those bordering any footpaths and bridleways. Rights of Way will only cut footpaths to 1.5m and bridleways to 2.5m width.

Problems can be reported to myself or directly to the Rights Of Way website.

PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE GARDEN

PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY GROUND

Please use this area under government guidelines

Pigeons were causing a problem over the swings and hopefully deterred by attached bird spikes.

Minor cosmetic problems on equipment to be rectified following a playground inspection.

This has still to be actioned by the Parish Council.

Logging of weekly checks on the apparatus should be in hand.

VILLAGE GARDEN

Garden work by volunteers continues and has made this a very successful area both for local residents and walkers on the circular route from Chawton.

All ideas and help from the community appreciated.

Damaged fencing and gate problems have been rectified.

Adjacent parking, use of passage and access to Right Of Way is being monitored.

Illegal parking on the right of way should be reported to the local authorities directly.

FLOODING

Local water level measured was 100.00m AOD; normal for this time of year. There was a meeting of the Flood Action Committee at Winchester HCC. (See above)

Flood alleviation works has started and will take 10 weeks on first stage (A32 Boundary House To crossroads) then 5 weeks on A32 works south of the Crossroads

Further information about the drainage scheme, is available at the Flood Alleviation Projects weblink

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/floodalleviationprojects>

To report footpath problems use: <https://row.hants.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>

To view the Parish Website use <https://farringdonpc.org/>

PLEASE REPORT ANY ROAD/ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO ME OR TO ANY PARISH COUNCILLOR OR TO OUR CLERK

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