

## **FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2025 – ROAD / PARISH REPORT**

Again, a very quiet last two months with little/no work from Hampshire Council on various highlighted/reported problems.

**UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION ROAD WORKS** - We are still awaiting the result of HCC planning application for the continuation of the alleviation pipe work/ditch through the rear of the gardens east of the A32 following the Lavant stream route.

**LOCAL ROAD/LANE SIGNS** - HCC have updated most of the road/lane signs in the village but there are still some sign changes which are awaiting completion of work by HCC (date currently unknown).

**ESSO SOUTHAMPTON to LONDON new pipeline** - Locally groundwork looks completed with re-seeding of adjacent land. There has been further work on reinstating lost hedgerows.

**LOCAL ISSUES WITH ROADS AND LANES** - 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. AT PRESENT LITTLE OR NO WORK IS NOW SEEN BY HCC.

**MAIN A32 SOUTH to Farringdon crossroads** - Ditches at side of the A32 require clearing, also evident drainage pipes under side roads are still partially blocked. Responsibility deemed with landowners.

**KITCOMBE LANE** - No reports of any problems. Monitoring of off-road vehicles continues with no recent reports. The drainage system at the edge of Lords Wood is being investigated as to ownership.

**FARRINGDON CROSSROADS (north to the 30mph limit)** - Refurbishment of the old telephone boxes / Parish notice boards now completed with work carried out by your councillors. The Memorial Rose Gardens (by the bus shelter) have been updated with 16 new 'Marlene' roses planted by Councillors. Two new white "Peace" rose trees were added to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII.

**NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT** – After numerous years, new "Woodside Lane" signs have been installed (sadly one was hit within the 1<sup>st</sup> week of installation). The ditches along the A32 are still a problem with litter, rubbish and vegetation in them. Although again reported to HCC, It appears that the onus is still on the land owners to clear! There are still old/broken signs and rubbish near and on the Chawton roundabout. Again, although reported several times, no action by HCC or contractors.

**BRIGHTSTONE LANE** - Drains and ditches are now filling up quickly with some drains totally blocked. HCC state they provide yearly drain and road clearance by pump lorry and road sweeper. 7 out of 22 drains have been cleared recently but are basically filling up again. Following a flash flood and storm the lane was blocked by water (nearly 6ft deep) under the old bridge (one vehicle and driver trapped—eventually rescued by Police, Ambulance, 4 fire engines and support vehicles including some 22 personnel!) The lane was further closed for 5 days with SE Water doing water pipe changes and the again while Open Reach partially repaired overhead telephone cables following the fallen trees after a recent storm. The Parish Council are in communication with HCC about this and are awaiting a response. Poor verge cutting was reported to HCC but with no response.

**SHIRNALL HILL** - Drains at Chase View / Shirnall Meadow entrance dealt with and are being monitored. Following heavy rain, mud over drain grids have been cleared.

**CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE** - Local signs have been updated. Old telephone box repainted and tree overhanging the notice board has been cut back with owner's permission.

Massey's Folly has undergone some ground clearance work - scaffolding has been erected at rear and front of the building to repair roof. We have contacted EHDC for an update on the planning permission outcome but still awaiting response (Case Officer has been on an investigation for over a month). Track by Church has been nicely updated and work is now complete.

**THE STREET** - Blocked drain and drainage problems still apparent, may need to be reported again.

**CROWS LANE** – In relation to the poor verges/road edges, the Parish Council were told by HCC that we cannot fund / repair this as it would go against legislation. At the moment HCC are aware of the situation, but it does not meet the threshold for repair at this stage. We will continue to monitor and report any deterioration.

**GASTON LANE** - Gaston Lane (Caker Stream bridge) is still **CLOSED** until bridge repaired. (currently until 13<sup>th</sup> January – but it's believed this date will be extended)

**HALL LANE** - Poor visibility along lane especial near Ivy Cottage with some hedges still uncut. Some bad potholes which have been reported and accepted by HCC as needing repair – no date given for repairs yet. Two road signs now no longer seen--- beware! The SDNP sign at the junction of Hall Lane and the B3006 has been reported as a sightline obstruction. The left-hand junction sign on the B3006 still not replaced after 2 years but has been highlighted yet again to HCC

**FOOTPATHS AND HEDGES** - All paths and bridleways are being monitored; most are passable. HCC Rights of Way did list six paths within the parish and were on the cutting list for last year, although not a lot of work was carried out. The council has heard that HCC are no longer engaging local contractors to cut hedges. Locally there are Ranger volunteers doing this job—we wait for an update. All hedges and overhanging trees to be cut back from the road, lane edges and those bordering any footpaths and bridleways. Rights of Way may only cut footpaths to 1.5m and bridleways to 2.5m width. We believe that the Byways Open To all Traffic (B.O.A.T)'s are still under HCC control). Problems can be reported to Cllr David Williams or directly to the Rights Of Way website.

**PLAYING FIELD / PLAYGROUND** – We are awaiting the Annual Inspection of the playground. Future work on timber play structures will take place weather permitting. The Zip Wire was inspected and repairs made just before Christmas – now open for use again. Fencing around the playing field and adjacent to the playground has been repaired and some trees pruned (skirt lifted) just before Christmas. The hedge/trees adjoining the A32 were cut back in November – we will monitor growth.

**COMMUNITY 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. 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 (Water table now to normal; rising slowly)** - Local water table level measured as 107.80m on 1<sup>st</sup> January and is fairly normal. There have been no further meetings at Winchester with the Flood Action Group.

Please Report Any Road/Environmental/Footpath Problems directly to me: [david.williams@farringdonpc.org](mailto:david.williams@farringdonpc.org) or to any Parish Councillor, our Clerk, or via The [Parish Council Website](#). Hopefully the more instances of you reporting a problem will raise the priority of the job!

Compiled by Cllr David Williams.

Refer to Parish Council website for latest village updates - <https://farringdonpc.org/>  
Next meeting: Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 @7pm in ROYAL OAK FUNCTION ROOM.