

# Report of the Parish Assembly 2017

Monday 24th April 7.30 for 8pm Heckfield Memorial Hall Committee Room

**Present** Cllr Janice Hughes (Chairman), Cllr Bob Alymer, Cllr Adam Knight  
Cllr Keith Alderman, Cllr David Sexton, Cllr Alan Woolford, Clerk Susan Turner  
District Councillor Anne Crampton, County Councillor David Simpson,  
County Conservative candidate Tim Davies. Members of the public: two.

## 1 **WELCOME & CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

*The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Assembly. She introduced the Parish Councillors and thanked them for work done in the previous year – summarised in a April Whitewater Benefice Magazine article (see [Appendix I](#)).*

*She thanked District and County Councillors for their support over the year and attendance this evening, and particularly the two member of the public who attended.*

*The first agenda item was the road closure of the B3349 scheduled from 31st July to 27th October and to begin, did anyone have any questions to raise?*

## 2. **OPEN FLOOR Q&A WITH RESIDENTS & COUNCILLORS**

### 2.i **B3349 closure SE Water 'phase 3' Aug to Oct**

Tom Runton asked if recent resurfacing of Vicarage Lane and Hound Green Close / Hudsons Meadow was connected with the pending B3349 closure? He said the road repair was 'brilliant' (though it was also mentioned that an improved surface encouraged increased speed). He commented that Vicarage Lane was under constant pressure of vehicles from school traffic, to large farm vehicles, to 'weekend drivers'

It was noted the resurfacing was part of a Countywide surface treatment programme 'operation resilience' and not connected with the SE Water works.

Regarding the road closure, Bob Alymer explained that an initial meeting was held with Hampshire Highways, SE Water, Clancy Docwra and local Parishes – to consider options. The next stage would be to invite SE Water to give a public presentation explaining their proposals. The proposal from the meeting was for the B3349 closure to include Vicarage and Bottle Lanes with passes required for residents.

County Cllr David Simpson said it was accepted that the impact of traffic short-cutting through Rotherwick had not been sufficiently foreseen or planned for. Hopefully this time it could be better considered and planned in advance – with sufficient information and communication.

Bob Alymer said the intention was for a public presentation, a leaflet drop, plus notices on Facebook and in the Whitewater Benefice Magazine.

It was commented that

- Particular problems are caused when drivers ignore the signs.
- Clear signage is needed from sufficient distance – eg notices from the A33 warning that Bottle Lane is closed.
- Precise closure signs are needed – with dates, location, durations – to prevent drivers continuing in predictable hope the signs aren't current or not being enforced.

## **2.ii Hart Local Plan consultation**

Mr Runton asked to address the Assembly regarding the Hart Local Plan.

Starting with the Whitewater Valley Preservation Society (WWVPS), the Society was established in 1980 in the Heckfield Village Hall.

'The vision of WWVPS is to protect the River Whitewater and its valley. Its mission is to defend the valley from inappropriate development and its resultant impact on the river.'

see <http://www.whitewatervalley.org.uk>

WWVPS has joined with Winchfield Action Group and We Heart Hart to form the Rural Hart Alliance (RHA).

RHA opposes Greenfield development and believes this Local Plan to be a missed opportunity to regenerate Fleet.

RHA's case is evidence based:

- Fleet is 40% Hart population; RHA is seeking the support of the rest of Hart.
- Mapping data (provided by Tristram Cary, Getmapping plc) indicates that Fleet has the lowest population density of any town in England and Wales, of 13/ha, (the next is Newbury with 16/ha).
- Fleet is in need of regeneration as has occurred elsewhere – eg in Alton and Wokingham.
- So 'invest in Fleet, increase areas of housing density, save green fields'.

Would Mattingley Parish Council please consider supporting RHA to contribute to the mass of opinion needed?

Time is very short as the next Local Plan Consultation period starts in two days' time, 26th April, ending on 9th June.

Tom Runton will email the Clerk with further information and updates.

Ward Councillor Anne Crampton commented (in summary):

RHA has some good arguments but de-railing the Local Plan process at this stage will allow developers to move in with speculative Greenfield applications.

Also Hart may lose its new homes bonus which will mean cuts to services which Anne can't support

Fleet Councillors and possibly Hook Councillors will not support more houses being built in Fleet and/or Hook – and so creating a stalemate where again the Local Plan won't go ahead.

So a compromise has to be found. Until a Local Plan is submitted to the Inspector, Hart is vulnerable to development applications anywhere.

It is possible that some Greenfield allocation, eg Riseley, may not be needed.

## **2.iii Glebe Wood project & request for volunteers**

Keith Alderman said local volunteers are needed and support will also be sought from Whitewater Nursery (Hortus Loci).

Tom Runton said he had an interest in the wood and also in establishing the boundary with his property. The fence line was lost in 1988 though the line of the wire on the trees was still evident.

Comments

- The site used to be a football pitch
- Two memorial sites to the north of the site need to be recognised
- Now a fantastic space for wildlife
- Need to maintain balance for people and wildlife
- A wonderful resource for the community
- Glebe Wood is the 'Magic Wood' for younger children
- Note a safety concern regarding a small gravel pit adjacent to Hound Green Close which holds water.

**2.iv Hound Green care & upkeep**

There has been a recent influx of younger children in the community with associated concerns for traffic speeds on Vicarage Lane, and on Reading Road.

'SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING' signs were needed on the roads.

Plans to maintain the Green for community use need to be aware of the roads at all times. The ditches and trees did in general provide some barrier to the road.

The clerk asked if it was correct that a culvert used to run from the Green ditch at the vicinity of the bus shelter under the B3349 and alongside the garage. Adam Knight confirmed this followed the line now planted with Leylandii and the culvert was thought to be beyond salvaging.

**2.v Phone box**

Adam Knight and Alan Woolford are co-ordinating the Phone Box restoration. It is to be removed for refurbishment and then relocated to the Green on the concrete base where the old bus shelter used to be.

It was suggested that the words 'TELEPHONE' be replaced with 'MATTINGLEY'.

Ideas are being sought for its use.

Anne Crampton suggested

- a wifi hotspot
- a focal point for a Community plant / herb garden with information cards / recipe cards in the phone box.

**2.vi Further questions**

Why are there two noticeboards in Plough Lane?

Bob Aylmer explained that one is a mapboard – and one of five positioned around the Parish in May as part of a Countryside Access Project in part funded by HCC Countryside Services and part by Hart via S06 allocations.

When is Fleet library going to reopen?

Anne said it had been scheduled for 18th April which was now 15th May (but the project was nothing to do with Councillors).

**Close**

*The meeting closed at 9.15 with thanks to all present.*

**APPENDIX I: ARTICLE FOR APRIL EDITION WHITEWATER BENEFICE MAGAZINE**

We are pleased to welcome our new parish clerk, Susan Turner, who has taken over from Ron Darley, who has relocated to the pastures of Yorkshire, where we wish he and his wife a long and fruitful retirement. Susan is an experienced clerk, who is also clerk to Newham and Mapledurwell & Up Nately parish councils, and can be contacted by email at [clerk.mattingley@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.mattingley@parish.hants.gov.uk), or telephone 07515 777060.

In our last article we made mentions of projects being planned, and we update as follows. On Hound Green, picnic tables and seating have been installed, together with a litter bin, and a bench on both sides of the football pitch. A number of bird and bat boxes have also been positioned in surrounding trees. The council has agreed with Hart D.C. the extent of the SINC (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) on the green. This restricted area has been clarified as involving the edge of the green alongside the B3349 and the corner of Vicarage Lane with Hound Green Close. These areas are the habitat of wild flowers and resulting fauna. This greater understanding of the environmental requirements will enable the council to manage the whole green more positively, especially with respect to more frequent grass cutting when required.

The council is in the final stages of taking over the management of Glebe Wood (formerly known as Millennium Wood adjacent to Hound Green, from the Woodland Trust. Once the legalities have been completed, the parish council, together with the Woodland Trust will formulate a plan to enhance the woodland, and improve public access to the wood.

It has long been the aim of the council to remove, renovate and relocate the old BT telephone box from the lay-by on the B3349 to more central position on Hound Green. With the help of some local volunteers, we aim to complete this relocation within the next few months.

Regular walkers will have noticed a number of map boards which have been erected around the parish at strategic points — adjacent to road and footpath intersections. These map boards highlight the numerous footpaths which criss-cross the parish, and along, with the ongoing works to upgrade old stiles with self-closing gates, aims to improve both knowledge and accessibility into the countryside for residents and visitors alike.

The council is a member of the "lengthsman's scheme", for which we receive limited funding from the County. The lengthsman in medieval times was a person employed by the parish to walk the length of the parish and clear drains and vegetation to keep access routes open. In the modern era, the lengthsman is not a full time position, but a person/company shared among a number of parishes for a few days each year. Should any resident have an issue, particularly with ditches, but also overgrowth obstructing lanes or road signs, could they please contact our clerk, Susan, whose contact details were mentioned earlier in this article. Susan will then co-ordinate the completion of these works. We would stress that the lengthsman is not allowed to work directly on the highway (for example fixing potholes), and these works must be carried out by the appropriate highway agency.

Most residents will be aware of the plans of a property developer to develop Bramshill House (the old police college) and its grounds. This a highly complex issue involving a grade 1 listed building, (a Jacobean mansion house, and only one of two in the country). Although the house is within Bramshill parish, one of the accesses to the property, and the entrance lodge are within Mattingley. The council has agreed to support Bramshill parish council in their detailed review and response to this development.

All parish council meetings are open to the public and are held generally on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall at Heckfield. Our April meeting, the annual assembly, will be held on the 24 April at the same location, delayed a week due to Easter.

Lastly, the council has decided to maintain its precept (the amount the parish raises through council tax) at the same sum as last year, so residents should see no or little change to the parish element of their council tax bill for the coming year.