

REPORT OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021

Thursday 22nd April 2021 from 7.30pm
Remote meeting via Zoom

Present

Parish Councillors Alan Tyler (Chair), Simon Barker, Mark Gifford, Hazel Metz, Alison Mosson; Clerk Susan Turner; Ward Cllr Mark Ruffell, Borough Cllr Paul Gaskell.

Members of the Public – Paul Beevers, David Brown, Alex Conboy, Angie Fewster, Brian and Liz Karley, Michael Large, Sarina Smith.

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman Alan Tyler welcomed everyone to the Assembly. Though virtual, a least, he said, the opportunity to hold an Assembly this year. Parish Assemblies in 2020 were cancelled due to Covid. The hope is to host a real get-together later in the year.

The Minutes of the 2019 Assembly were reviewed, approved, and to be signed. The Chairman requested any other subjects for the Agenda; none were raised.

Apologies from PC Reid who we hope is enjoying a break in Wales.

'To take this opportunity to say again how much we appreciate Andy and how lucky as a village we are to have him. That we live in a very safe Parish with a low crime rate is in the main down to him. Wish to thank him for all his hard work, and for his report submitted to the Assembly.'

2 BRIEF REPORTS

2.1 Police Report The Chairman presented PC Reid's report **APPENDIX I**

2.2 Borough Cllr report (Cllr Ruffell to join the meeting from 8pm – see item 3.5.)

i Paul Gaskell attended the Assembly to hear Cliddesden's views re Upper Swallick. Paul is presently Ward Councillor for Basing, he is candidate for the new neighbouring Candovers and Oakley Ward.

ii Being asked if there was anything else he would like to raise, Paul mentioned the Water Cycle Study being produced for the Local Plan Update. This is one to keep an eye on, the draft at the moment does not include Cliddesden. It does cover the Candovers; recent focus in Candovers on flood prevention measures.

[TO NOTE The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study are shortly to be published as draft. 'SFRA is a strategic document and its purpose is to assess the risk to the whole borough from flooding from all sources, now and in the future, taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to assess the impact that land use changes and development in the area will have on flood risk.']

iii Michael Large raised a question regarding town centre regeneration, and is affordability going to be a problem? Paul agreed for the need to look at town centres. The leisure centre development is also in difficulties as based on retail funding. Lack of a political majority in Council makes decision-making more difficult and the present election period is a time of turmoil. Just need to get through this and be able to re-focus after the election. There is good take-up by buyers for the houses built so far at Manydown.

2.3 Parish Council Finance APPENDIX II The Chairman noted items of significance over the last two years. Particular thanks to David Brown and Alison Mosson for their donations (respectively) towards the re-roofing of the bus shelter and to purchase the second SID. Also £3K SEEN Covid Community Grant Funding awarded to the Shabby Gourmet for their self appointed role providing hot meals to Basingstoke Hospital staff.

For signature

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Covid and village support – The Cliddesden Support Hub Report by Hazel Metz

'When we first went into lockdown in March 2020 Cliddesden Parish Council decided to organise support for people living in the village who needed to isolate due to being vulnerable or having caught or been exposed to Covid-19.

'We delivered a letter to every household in Cliddesden and put an article in the April Village *Newsletter* asking who needed support and who could volunteer their services. I took on the role of coordinator, matching people who needed help with a volunteer who, where possible, lived nearest to them. Support was provided for things like shopping and prescription collection, some help was also provided with setting up people for online shopping and online repeat prescriptions.

We had offers of support from more than 20 kind volunteers and they provided support for approximately 15 vulnerable residents - some on a regular ongoing basis and some for one-off requests.

'As lockdown eased in August 2020 and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council had set up organisations which people could contact for ongoing support during the pandemic we decided to wind-down the Cliddesden Support Hub. I contacted our volunteers and those receiving help to make sure no one was left unsupported and gave them details for the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council helplines. This information was also given in the August Village *Newsletter*.

'A huge 'Thank You' to all those who gave their time to keep our village safe. '

The Chairman thanked Hazel for a great job... we had the support group up and running before BDBC and this shows the village attitude. We were then later able to hand over the BDBC / Basingstoke Voluntary Action.

Hazel noted that some people have kept the links going established during the support period.

3.2 BDBC Local Plan Update The Chairman noted that not much new to report. A lot of people replied to BDBC's first Local Plan Update consultation on 'Issues & Options' – and on the promoted sites including Upper Swallick (381 responses to the latter). Officer report on the consultation is still under review.

3.3 Neighbourhood Plan Report from Alison Mosson **APPENDIX III**. Also see item 3.11.

3.4 Ward Councillor Report The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ruffell to the meeting.

Upper Swallick Mark Ruffell said he suspected that, as a potential Local Plan site, Upper Swallick had a number of restraints. He strongly suspected it wouldn't be at the front of the queue for BDBC to develop. It would be expected that the agents are preparing a planning application.

Site allocation A lot of pain to be expected with the Local Plan across the borough. Other parts have previously have had to take development that's not been wanted. Other areas will view south of the M3 just as not being by them. However there is a lot support for Cliddesden from across the Ward in opposing Upper Swallick.

Matters will come to a head in the later part of this year, maybe even by the summer. By then will be considering sites and numbers allocated to Villages. Completely open at the moment as to whether the allocation to Cliddesden will increase.

One of considerations then will be whether should be content with smaller numbers or whether we should say we realistically should share some of the pain? Or is this opening a passage to yet more housing? Not a straightforward conversation.

Housing numbers – all change re methodology. Present housing allocation of 850 per annum becomes out of date after five years from the adoption of the Local Plan, ie by May 2021.

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Under the Government's new methodology, the figure works out as approx 877, but this will continue to fluctuate going forward, the number not fixed. Remains uncertainty over methodology, but now means that past underdelivery doesn't matter. What does matter is the five-year land supply going forward.

The BDBC land supply position is more positive. Other sites coming forward to application / being deliverable within five years. The nearer get to the five-year supply, the further the balance tilts back to current policies.

Question: Brian Karly noted that the five-year last supply at the last AMR (Annual Monitoring Report) was 4.4. It terms of determining the official land supply position, when does this come into force?

Mark agreed that the official report / official figures are only published annually. But at any stage any party can argue that there is or isn't a land supply at that particular moment in time. It is for planning officers to demonstrate to Inspectors that the supply is robust and they are engaging with developers at the top of the delivery chain, doing everything can to enable permissions to come forward. Argument to Inspector would be... 'can see dealing with larger sites, can see sites soon to be developed out, please don't let the tilted balance detract from very real concerns'.

Question: Michael Large asked if the 877 includes affordable housing, and how much? Also is policy not 'brownfield first'.

Mark said yes, the BDBC policys is 40% affordable housing and BDBC delivering that over the last five years. Yes policy is 'brownfield first' but not much brownfield on the BDBC register. Existing business and commercial are being redeveloped as such.

3.5 **Upper Swallick and STaNH** Report from Simon Barker.

The Upper Swallick prospectus was released in January this year. Contains a lot of buz words and pictures, none at this stage counts for anything – can't hold them to anything included in the documents to date. A lot of green space shown...

All intended to create an impression, but at the moment is nothing to comment on until a planning application is submitted. No doubt that they are working on a planning application. Up to now STaNH is looking for public support and preparing.

Hearts and minds and win the technical arguments

Can have 1,000s supporting the petition – but need the council officers to win this fight – need to win the technical argument – to prove our case meets the rules.

Re need How to achieve brownfield over greenfield? Not prepared to accept a decision that brownfield is not available. Hold officers to account on policy, require them to do what they say they're going to do.

Present situation

- The On-line Petition immediatly before the meeting = 8,3737 + 300 hard copy.
- CPRE Report on valued landscape sent to BDBC. Achieving valued landscape status will be a first layer of protection – is quite a thin layer.
- Conversation has been started regarding an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) designation. Will take long time, a work in progress.
- Petition is a means to an end to achieve a slot on the Agenda of the BDBC Full Council meeting for which 4K signatures required. Had looked to the last Council meeting in March, but BDBC decided that only 3,300 of the signature addresses were recorded as Basingstoke area. Need people locally to sign up. Council meeting delay proved positive, as will now initiate the debate after elections, speaking to new Councillors who will be in office to make the decision. So 4K signatures from within the borough will give STaNH 10 minutes to present a motion to debate, Councillors have to debate for 20 minutes.
- Raising funds In anticipation of the planning application, need to start prepare for producing the reports to counter it. In the past have used volunteers, where possible will now employ professionals.

Future STaNH is not just Upper Swallick. STaNH wil continue to work to secure the rural landscape of the North Hampshire Downs for the future.

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Question – Brian noted that Valued landscape is of interest to the Neighbourhood Plan. How does this fit with the Local Plan, if at all?

Valued landscape Simon referred the question to Mark Ruffell who said that we know BDBC is looking at valued landscape across the borough, inevitable that the subject will be considered for the Local Plan Update. But don't know where the CPRE assessment around Cliddesden fits in. Need to take all borough councillors with us and consider the value of all landscapes across the borough.

Paul Gaskell noted the problem in a borough-wide context. Lots of valued local countryside, attractive villages, rural features, they are all under threat from opportunistic developers and pressures for housing. Concentrations of town houses in the countryside is all wrong wherever it is. Even the people in urban areas are fighting against more urbanisation. Paul Beevers' motion went on to EPH (Economic Planning and Housing Committee) because its focus was environmental issues and all in favour of this. But north of the borough won't accept a motion which means they have to take all the development because the south is protected.

The Chairman noted Cliddesden presently has an housing allocation for at least 10 dwelling, and some 22 houses have been built – but classed as windfall and so don't count to this allocation. Cliddesden as a small community is doing its bit.

However need to be aware how careful have to be in how bring to this to Council. Show awareness of need for development – appropriate development – in all areas.

Michael Large pressed the issue that planning can't ignore what might happen in town centres as result of the pandemic.

Cllr Ruffell left the meeting with the thanks of the Parish Council.

3.6 Pond and Drainage Report from Su Turner

The pond was last cleared October 2011, a Parish-led effort volunteer effort also involving local company and landowner. This opportunity isn't available now in part due to regulations covering disposing of the silt.

The Parish Council has received contractor estimates for clearing the pond and taking away the silt (£60 per tonne disposal only) – at best in the region of £25K. Water testing classes the spoil as 'hazardous waste' due to runoff from the road.

Hampshire County Council position is that the pond isn't their responsibility as they don't own it but that, now by their own recommendation, they should clear it as a flood prevention measure. Funding remains the issue to overcome... cuts, Covid, etc. A new County Councillor after the May election will be an opportunity to focus attention on the need for urgency.

The storms and flash flooding in August last year has focussed attention. Subsequent meeting with the Highway Engineer led to a commitment to include the pond silt traps on HCC's routine maintenance schedule. And for all the grips above Cliddesden – channels in the verges which take water from the road – be included in HCC's annual programme of priority grip maintenance. This was completed by contractors in February this year – for Farleigh Hill and Hackwood Lane / Northgate Lane corner.

Also that the gullies (grids/drains/silt traps in the road) be all included in the maximum three times a year cleaning problem – on Church Lane as well as Farleigh Road.

Clearing grips and gullies is about trying to slow down and reduce the amount of surface water and silt reaching the pond. Beyond that, if adjacent landowners actively manage their land to prevent runoff, this can only help. The Parish Council is also look for new sites to dig grips / soakaways – please let us know if you have anything in mind. Highways have looked at the wide verge opposite / just above the Village Hall entrance but there are shallow BT cables here.

For signature

These measures can only help to a degree – the opportunity for water to be diverted is limited – by HCC’s own admission ‘no Highway drainage system will take heavy rainfall away immediately’. The capacity of the pond remains central to flood prevention – as is the function of the pond outflow.

The Chairman noted that he is waiting to work with Hampshire Flood & Water Management towards understand exactly what is happening with the outflow and how restrictions in the channel can be overcome.

3.7 Neighbourhood Watch and reporting Report from Simon Barker.

Simon reported NW membership is increasing, now 40 members including all present. Businesses at Pensdell Farm and the Jolly Farmer now also part of scheme.

Key message is request for information Please report any and all instances of crime, anti-social behaviour & suspicious activity:

- crime in progress = 999
 - crime discovered, anti-social behaviour or suspicious activity = 101 or www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/
1. Preventing escalation. Example – Andy intervening early when young people from Basingstoke gathering at the school and Farleigh church. Two ‘possession of drugs’ prevented worse and further harm.
 2. Evidence of the criminal / antisocial activity which is occurring. Every report submitted is logged – important to show need. Every Government department is under pressure for resources. Reporting every single crime leads to benefit in the long run even if not at the time. Builds up picture which says Andy needs to be here not deployed elsewhere.

Very easy to report online. Noticeable jump in reported crime figures for 2019-20 due to more people reporting.

To record thanks to PC Reid, and to the Estate security for their support.

The Chairman thanked Simon for excellent job he does, his work is very much appreciated.

Paul Gaskell left the meeting with the thanks of the Parish Council.

3.8 Speed Indicator Devices Report from Simon Barker

Simon reported both SIDS working well for some time. The early glitch with the antenna on one seems to be sorted. See **APPENDIX IV** for approved SID locations.

Thanks to Andy Fewster who has taken on the task data analysis and recording – taking the data from the recorders into a readable format which will show traffic speeds and volumes – and give key times when speeding most occurs – which will help inform police enforcement. (Andy Reid will bring speed gun whenever possible.)

3.9 Village Gateways and signs Report from Mark Gifford

The pandemic has increased the amount of people coming into Cliddesden. This and the threat from Upper Swallick has increased appreciation of Cliddesden, and prompted the thought to make our signage and entrance more appropriate and more welcoming. Looking at some of the signs we have, they are a bit of a mish-mash. The Parish Council discussed options, asked through the *Newsletter* (received one or two responses). Have consensus what don’t want – not signs and road markings everywhere, don’t want clutter, and not white.

So dark wood (or wood effect) and very simple. Sign to say: ‘Welcome to Cliddesden, gateway to the North Hampshire Downs.’ **APPENDIX V**

Still a work in progress, and we will continue to ask the Village as to the route we go down. We want signage appropriate for Cliddesden and the Conservation area. Do we go for real wood? Do we design, organise and have made ourselves, or do we go via council and their contractors? Do we want to replace some or all of the existing signs? We will have to work according to Highways spec, Health & Safety, and have the gateways installed by licensed contractors.

AGREED The Assembly unanimously supportive of the proposals to date.

For signature

3.10 Parish Lengthsman Report from Su Turner

Article on the origins of the scheme and the work Lengthsman can do was included in the last *Newsletter*. A Parish Lengthsman contractor is funded by HCC to be employed by a group or 'cluster' of Parishes. Cliddesden is part of the Candovers cluster which is administered via the Candovers Parish Council. The Lengthsman (or usually two people working together) is assigned to Cliddesden for five half-days during the year for the equivalent of £1K-worth of man hours.

The scheme is a useful resource for the Parish. Suggestions sought for works that could be done to improve 'Village Upkeep' and the appearance and function of the Highway – as per tasks detailed in Schedule 1. **APPENDIX VI**

During the most recent (April) visit, the LM repainted the signpost by the pond, tidied the pond grounds, intended to clear gullies in Village Hall entrance road as per resident's request. Simon Barker reported covers taken off and top inches of soil removed. Difficulty was that these gullies very narrow, definitely not highways standard. LM was lacking a trenching spade and will return to these on the next visit. Chairman noted the LM contractors are generally thorough and do a good job.

3.11 Further thanks

- i To the Neighbourhood Planning team and for the amount of work being completed. Mark Gifford included particular thanks to Brian Karley who has been the 'glue binding the team together'. The Plan and team would not be at this stage were it not for his diligence, and he has driven the process and been the rock everyone worked from. Without his support the process would have collapsed. Every single person has put in time and effort. A huge amount of work has been done in the past few months evidence by the amount of material presently in from of BDBC.
- ii To all *Newsletter* editors and distributors, particularly at present to Rachel Beresford Davies who at the moment is sole editor, and to Hazel Metz for organising the (now reduced) distribution.
- iii The Chairman added that so many people in the Village do so much and are willing to help. This village spirit is brilliant and a lot of people work very hard.

Meeting close at 9.30pm with thanks to all present.

For signature

Date

APPENDIX I**PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORT APRIL 2021 – PC REID****CRIME REPORTS 2019**

Criminal Damage	6	domestic dispute (2) car windows (4)
Non-Dwelling Burglary	2	both in Woods Lane
Other	2	
Assaults (Dog Bite)	1	
Burglary Dwelling	1	Station Road
Theft	1	Horse clippers
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Total	13	

CRIME REPORTS 2020

Assault - injury	2	Village Hall & Private Dwelling
Assault – no injury	3	
Possession of Drugs	2	
Theft	2	Bronze dog statue - Planter
Other	2	
Criminal Damage	1	
Public Order	1	
Non-Dwelling Burglary	2	Southlea sheds
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1	Pensdell Farm
Other	1	
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Total	17	

CRIME REPORTS 2021 –TO DATE

Arson	2	Millers Stables
Theft	1	Staddle Stones
Public Order	1	By the school

Items in the Parish this year include a report of a washing machine being dumped in the centre of Farleigh Road on February 6th, a suspicious vehicle seen in the parish on February 11th and a fire in Hackwood Lane on February 27th, which was found to be in order.

May I also take this opportunity to thank all members of the Parish Council for their total support over the past years. I also wish to make a special mention of The Chairman for his continued support and assistance and of Cllr. BARKER who continues to provide an excellent service to the residents within his Neighbourhood Watch role.

Thank you also to Su the Clerk of whom I am always indebted for all her help and assistance across several areas.

Many thanks

Andy REID

PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORT APRIL 2021 – FINANCE

Brief look at finance for last two years.

APPENDIX II

OF NOTE

i DONATIONS

Particular thanks to David Brown and Alison Mosson for their donations towards the re-roofing of the bus shelter and to purchase the second SID (respectively). Also to County Councillor McNair-Scott for a donation from her devolved budget, also towards the bus shelter roof.

In 2019/20 the Parish Council account received donations of £1K from Cllr McNair-Scott and £1.9K from David which together covered the bus shelter re-roofing.

In 2020/21 a donation of £2,925 from Alison for the second SID. (Anna's grants budget for this year all committed to Covid-related support.)

Also in 20/21 the Parish Council account received the £3K SSEN Covid Community Fund grant awarded to Maz and Simon Pennington, the Shabby Gourmet, for their support providing hot 'on the go' meals to Basingstoke Hospital staff. This funding was paid via the Parish Council account and so shows as an additional of £3K on the 'Income' and 'Expenditure' figures for 2020/21.

ii NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FUNDING

The Parish Council account presently holds £4,073.99 of 'Locality' grant funding received for last year and not yet used. Unless required in the next couple of months, will return to Locality and re-apply for any funding needed later in the year.

iii NEWSLETTER

Printing costs in recent years to deliver a Newsletter to all households have been in the region of £910. This year, with delivery of printed copies much reduced, and online copies much increased, the print bill in total has been £337.75

iv PRECEPT AND RESERVES

The Parish Council precept for 2021/22 is £8,877

An increase of 2.5% on 2019/20 and equates to £36.18 per annum per Band D household. An increase of 95p per Band D household for this year.

Bearing in mind will be double this for a band H dwelling and half for a band A.

The budget for the coming year shows reserves of c £14K.

It's deemed prudent to hold as 'contingency' a sum up to the level of the Precept – so the Parish Council is holding a 'General reserve' of £8,877, with additional 'Earmarked reserves' of just over 5K toward flood and water management (pond clearing etc).

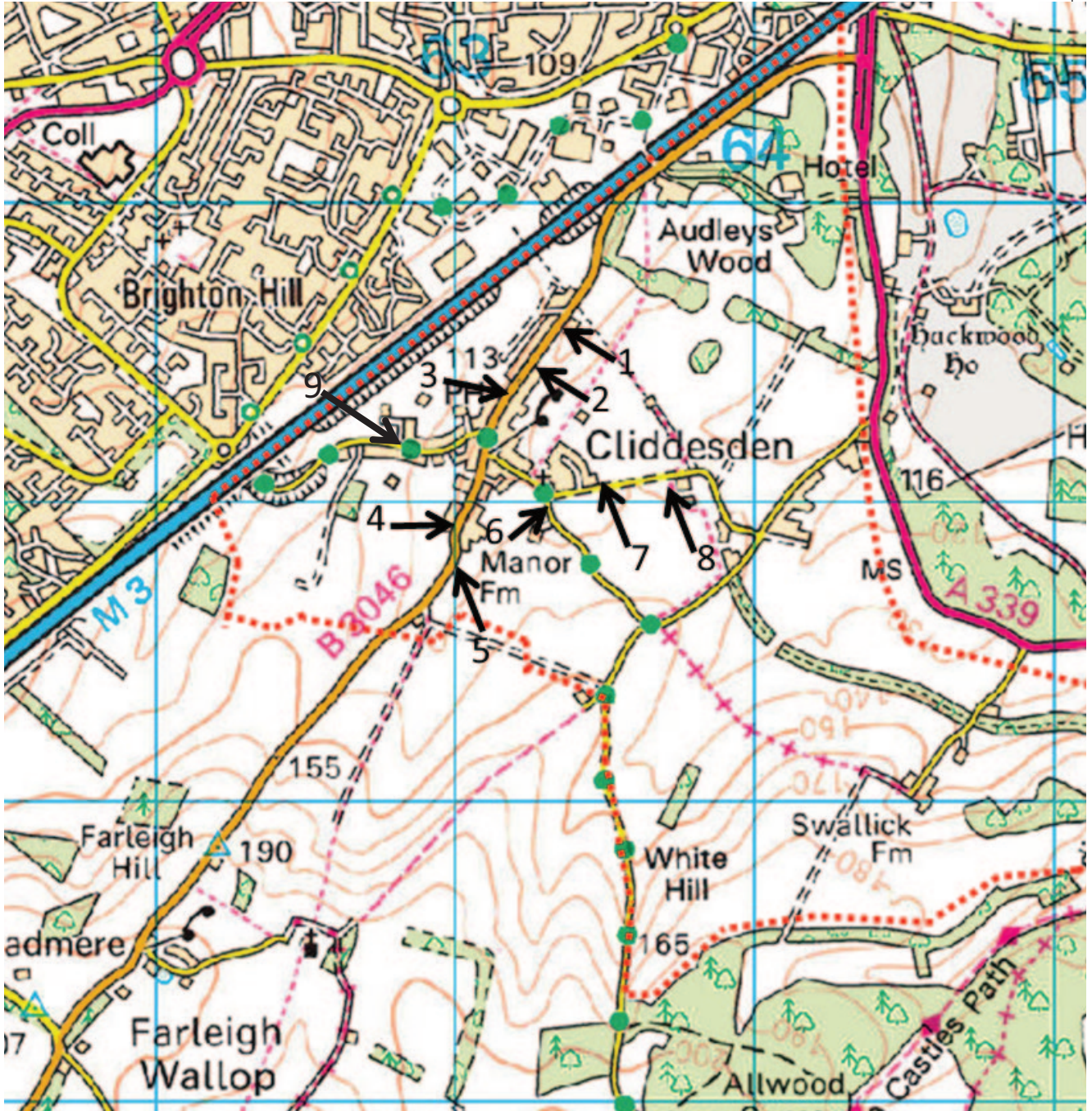
PARISH ASSEMBLY APRIL 2021 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

ALISON MOSSON

APPENDIX III

PARISH ASSEMBLY APRIL 2021 – APPROVED SID LOCATIONS

APPENDIX IV



PARISH ASSEMBLY APRIL 2021 – GATEWAYS & SIGNS

MARK GIFFORD

APPENDIX V

WHAT IS A PARISH LENGTHSMAN?

Parish Lengthsman of old were employed to walk the length of the Parish keeping the roads in good order. Canals and railways also had their 'lengthsmen'.

For the modern day scheme County Councils have reinvented the term to apply to a contractor, assigned to a group of Parishes, who undertakes 'Highways'-related work which is important to the Parish but which would not otherwise feature on centralised County work schedules.

The scheme is funded in our case by Hampshire County Council for £1,000 worth of man hours per Parish per year. It's a reflection of the success of the scheme (and its popularity with Parishes) that funding continues and is guaranteed for 2021/22.

SCHEDULE ONE: DUTIES OF PARISH LENGTHSMAN

This schedule lists the duties the Parish Lengthsman may undertake.

1 Drainage

- Clearing existing drainage grips
- Maintaining ditches
- Cleaning channels
- Clearing outfalls
- Rodding pipes (off highway)
- Flood prevention works (as specifically directed by the Parish Council as 'further works')

2 Signage

- Cleaning (non illuminated)
- Minor repairs

3 Other Minor Works

- Remove soil/detritus
- Cutting back vegetation overhanging the road or footway
- Clearing footways of weeds/moss
- Removing vegetation from parapets or fences
- Grass strimming
- Reporting defects
- Sweeping
- Litter picking
- Removing flyposting
- Unauthorised sign and graffiti removal
- Cleaning street name plates
- Cleaning bus shelters
- Minor repairs to street furniture
- 'Village upkeep'.



PHOTO from eHive (Kingsnympton)



PHOTO Hampshire County Council

SCHEDULE TWO: EXCLUDED WORKS

This schedule lists the duties the Parish Lengthsman may not undertake.

1 Cleaning, repair or any work on:

- Street lighting
- Illuminated signs and bollards (ie any street furniture with an electrical connection)
- The live road;

and

- Patching and structural repairs
- Excavation due to possibility of underground apparatus
- Emergency call-outs to highway incidents.

CLIDDESSEN'S LENGTHSMAN

is assigned from the 'Candovers Group' for five days' work in the Parish per year. He has cut back hedges overgrowing the road and pavements; cleaned the bus shelter; cleared grips; cleared the pond silt traps; strimmed public footpaths; cleaned and painted road signs.

If there are other jobs you would like to see done in the Parish – complying with schedule one – please contact any member of the Parish Council or email clerk.cliddesden@parish.hants.gov.uk