



EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCIL STATEMENT 2021-22

QUICK SUMMARY OF YEAR - Chairman Councillor Mitchell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all councillors who have worked hard in their spare time for the community. These roles are voluntary and at times the councillors must engage in tasks that require the full resolve of a volunteer and for that I thank them for their hard work and dedication. Having ten councillors is a good thing as it means that more hands can ensure that we do more for East Woodhay. At the moment we have 9 councillors, so we have 1 place to co-opt a 10th councillor if you are interested in joining us.

I would also like to thank our clerk Amy White and our litter warden Patricia Barnes who both work extremely hard for the Parish.

Now that we have come out of the 'lost 2 years' of pandemic, the EWPC have been running hard at many projects for the benefit of the EW community. We are fortunate to have a team of extremely capable and energetic Councillors.

The biggest highlight for the EW parish must be the submission of the Neighbour Plan document to B&D and government for final consultation, approval and then acceptance. This has been a herculean task for many people, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their many hours worked to submit this document. This document will be our roadmap for the future. A document for the community, by the community, with significant parishioner involvement and many, long hours of presentations, consultation, debate, and discussion. THANK-YOU all. This has been 5+ years in the making and we are 99.9% there!

Your East Woodhay Parish Council has completed and participating in many projects. Each Council member will now give an update from their area of responsibility.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Cllr Mitchell

Summary:

	Actual		Budget		
Income	£	85,087	£	37,766	225%
Expense	£	96,834	£	38,303	253%
Variance	-£	11,747			

General Comment on Finances

The EWPC has had a reserve of over £40K for many years. The problem has always been finding projects to spend the money on. The EWPC principle for ANY capital expenditure is, 'Can we get a grant to help fund that project', first, and then use our built-up community financial reserves, second. This principle has served EWPC very well over the years and the diligent use of S106/CIL monies in the past few years has meant considerable amounts of money being spent for the benefit of EWPC residents at no tax cost to EWPC residents. However, the PC always looks for ways to use the reserves on projects of value to the community.

INCOME : The PC derives its income from the annual Precept, applied for grants and a small amount of rented income.



EXPENSE : 253% of budget – major spend on projects are detailed below.

We have split up the spend on things in this year's report into 1) Spent from run rate 2) Spent from reserves 3) Spent from CIF / CIL Reserves

1. The PC spent £34K of the £38K (precept & annual income) on keeping things going and regular spend
2. The PC spent £17K from our reserves last year on one off projects
3. The PC generated £37K last year from grants and spent £35K of this

Spending from our reserver is a good thing as it is using the money rather than sitting on it. See Financial Waterfall in Appendix of this report or on your seats.

Major projects undertaken in the year

1. Parish Field Path creation (CIF)
2. Boule Court creation (S106)
3. Outdoor Exercise equipment on rec ground (S106)
4. New CCTV equipment (Reserves)
5. Purchased a Speed Monitor (Grant)
6. Made safe several trees on PC property (Run rate)
7. Grant to St Martins for Church Tower appeal (Run rate)
8. Consultancy costs and completion of Neighbourhood plan (Reserves)
9. Consultancy for Watermill Bridge planning (Reserves)
10. Woolton Hill Playground repairs (Run rate)
11. Deer fencing for rec ground (Reserves)

PC CHARITY GRANTS IN FY21/22

In the last financial year, the PC spent £1,500 on grants (FY20/21 £500) which was 100% of the allocated budget, to the following local organisations:

Grant to St Martins Church Tower Roof Appeal	£1,500
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Current Account: The PC current account at the end of the budget year stands at £ £55,321 (LY £66,392) (31st March 2022). £40,000 is held in an interest-bearing account with Redwoods Bank.



AMENITIES COMMITTEE – Cllr Rand

The Amenities team have a number of responsibilities within the parish, including:

- Parish Field and Brownies Corner
- Recreation grounds at Woolton Hill and Heath End and facilities therein, for example benches, picnic tables, exercise equipment, tennis court and CCTV
- Upkeep of the war memorials at St Thomas' Church and East End, and the Elliot Cohen Memorial in Church Road
- Upkeep of the bus shelters at Ball Hill and in Broadlayings
- Phone Boxes at Ball Hill and East End
- Five parish notice boards
- Trees growing on EWPC-owned land- namely within the WH recreation ground, HE recreation ground, Parish field, Brownies Corner (to include Meadowbrook once land ownership comes to EWPC)

The regular meetings and minutes, together with our Terms of Reference are published on the Parish Council website and together with the Parish Clerk, Amy White, the committee consists of the Councillors Susan Cooper, Paul Hurst and Mark Rand as Chair.

The Amenities time is split between projects and ongoing maintenance:

Projects:

Our main projects focus during the past year has been the implementation of 'play equipment' into the Woolton Hill recreation ground. This equipment is paid from money resulting from the S106 funds, which are allocated following building work in the area (mainly the Harwood Paddock / Meadowbrook development)

As there is already existing equipment for children the focus has been on providing for teenagers, adults and families. To this end and, with agreement from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC), a **boules court** (£8,368), **exercise equipment** (£12,405) concrete **table tennis tables** (£4,450) and have been installed. The suggestions for these have come from East Woodhay Society and others in the community.





We are currently in the process of installing and **picnic tables** in the recreation ground and then benches which will complete the existing S106 'play equipment' spend.



To accompany and protect these extra facilities, we have installed an additional high-definition **CCTV** with 4K resolution with zoom (£2,115) to cover this end of the recreation ground. As there have been reports of anti-social behaviour in the recreation ground car park we are in the process of ordering an additional camera so that the whole of the car park can be covered. This will enable extra detail of any issue to be shared with the police.

Over the coming months we will be designing **lectern style information boards** for both the Parish Field and the Woolton Hill recreation ground. The recreation ground one will include the rules of boules and we encourage everyone to make full use of these new amenities.

We are committed to improving the **biodiversity** in the Parish Field and the lectern board near Brownies Corner will contain information on what is in the field as well as its history. We are looking for somebody to lead the biodiversity project and please let us know if you are interested in this.

Also, as part of the S106 contract for the Harwood Paddock / Meadowbrook development, Bloor Homes agreed to return community land at Meadowbrook back to East Woodhay Parish Council upon the completion of building. We are delighted to announce that after 4 years of negotiation, Bloor Homes have transferred the land to BDBC. During the negotiation, Bloor Homes showed little interest in progressing the return of this land. Thanks, must be given to the BDBC legal team in ensuring Bloor Homes met their contractual obligation.

On hand over of the land from Bloor Homes, BDBC have recently signed off the onward transfer to EWPC. The transfer is now with the Land Registry for the registration of the land to EWPC and it is anticipated that it will be completed over the summer period.

It was originally planned that this land should become a **community orchard** and £10,000 was also allocated within the S106 contract to support the planting. With the transfer of the land now progressing we can at last plan to move forward with this project. Therefore, in the coming weeks we will be asking for volunteers from the community to establish a project team to deliver the community orchard. Our schools will also be involved. The £10,000 is available to support this and previous commitments of donations of trees will be utilised. We will also seek grants to support the project. A really exciting project to look forward to in the coming year.

As reported in last year's report the all-weather path was installed across the Parish Field in Woolton Hill and, after follow-ups from Cllr Graham Dick to Hampshire Council, the **dropping of curb** at Brownies Corner will link to this path, thus helping to enable greater access for all.

Maintenance:

The **routine annual maintenance** of Parish Council owned land, which was put out to tender at the beginning of 2021 has been undertaken by Scofell, who are based in Hampstead Norriss. We have been pleased with their approach and quality of work and will be continuing with Scofell. The price for the core work is being held for the coming year.

Safety is key and in the past year a couple of important actions have taken place. The first has been an inspection of all **trees** on our land which resulted in some key remedial work. Tree inspections will now continue on a regular basis as advised by experts. The second was some important repairs to the **children's play equipment** in both the Woolton Hill and Heath End recreation grounds. Inspections for this equipment are undertaken regularly by BDBC.

Last year an extra drain was installed in the Parish Field at Brownies Corner and this has proved to be effective in maintaining the flow of water at times of high rainfall. To help keep water flowing there is a deep **soakaway** (4m by 12m) in this area but over the years this has become filled with silt. Working with Hampshire Council, this has now been cleared.



The Permissive Footpath across the Parish Field is now in constant use and has been converted into a semi permanent path to the National Trust specification. The Parish Council reminds users that the use of the path is subject to restrictions and these are posted at each entrance.

The **Parish Lengthsman** continues to undertake maintenance work on an as requested basis.

Thanks should be recorded to **Sean Early** who maintains the Parish Field for all the hard work he has put in, especially including keeping the ditches clear.

FOOTPATHS REPORT – Cllr Watson

With a view to making footpaths within the Parish more accessible to our community, I undertook about a year ago to ascertain how many stiles might usefully be replaced with self-closing gates. This has proved to be something of a mammoth undertaking!

There are 43 footpaths in the Parish, spread over approximately 14 miles, ranging from North End to Ball Hill in the north, via Heath End and East End to Woolton Hill and Hollington in the south.

With the invaluable assistance of John Priest, I have now completed the logging of all 43 footpaths and we now have a database showing the locations of all the stiles which are suitable for replacement. The number of stiles which could usefully be replaced is 60. Based on a cost estimate (not a quotation) I obtained a year ago for wooden self-closing gates, the cost of replacing all 60 stiles would then have been about £18,000 (i.e. about £300 per gate, including VAT), excluding installation and storage costs. With the cost of raw materials having increased substantially since this time last year, it is clear the replacement costs now are likely substantially to exceed last year's figure.

I have therefore explored some of the alternative funding options which may be available. HCC have offered £5,000, possibly rising to £7,000 if I am able to secure Lottery Funding. I am in the process of re-formulating my initial application for Lottery Funding, which was rejected primarily on the basis that I had not demonstrated sufficient community support/interest. As part of the new application, I now have a survey form signed by between 50 and 100 people (some of the forms have yet to be returned to me, hence the approximation) confirming support for the replacement project. One of the signatories is Kit Malthouse, which may lend some heft to the application.

I am also investigating the possibility of obtaining additional funds from the Greenham Trust.

All this pre-supposes, of course, that relevant landowners will co-operate in agreeing to replace stiles with self-closing gates. This will necessitate a liaison process with them, which will no doubt have to be co-ordinated under the auspices of our Clerk. Likewise, obtaining quotes for the sourcing of gates and their storage/installation.

In summary, the hard graft involved in producing the database will now be supplemented by the additional work involved in three further phases: (i) liaising with landowners, (ii) procuring funding in addition to any funds the Parish Council is prepared to provide, and (iii) obtaining quotes for replacement gates and their installation. It remains to be seen how long all of this will take, with much depending on the reaction of landowners as to how much funding is required and how many gates we can replace.



EMERGENCY PLAN

The Emergency plan was updated and re-submitted to Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council.

The purpose of the plan is to identify the most likely risks to our communities (e.g. the impact of severe weather). It also identifies the most vulnerable groups within our area and determines how any risk might be managed using our local resources, should it arise.

The plan is owned and maintained by assigned members of the three councils and has been distributed to Hampshire CC, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire Service and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council where it forms part of a larger County wide plan.

POLICE UPDATE- Cllr Cooper

As we are all aware we are fortunate to live in a low crime area, which happily this makes this Report fairly short.

However, this does not mean it is a no crime area even though the last couple of months have, so I am informed by our local PCSO Joshua Revett, been quiet even for this parish. For example, there have been two burglaries from residential properties in the WH area, reports of a drunken man leaving a pub and driving off in his van and “management of shotgun licence holder” – hopefully just paperwork sort of management!

There was also a report of Nottingham Knockers in the area, although no suspect was identified. The police ask that such suspected persons be reported to them this, as may well prevent another person falling into the cycle of repeated visits and handing over cash. Please also warn neighbours, particularly elderly or vulnerable neighbours, not to open the door to strangers or buy, or sell on the doorstep.

The police are also aware that there are ongoing problems of ASB and drug use/possible drug dealing at the WH recreation ground, both after school and in the evenings. Joshua patrols the area on his late shifts but has not come across anything of note as yet.

All the above is fairly typical of what would be expected, and has been experienced in the past. Although it is interesting to note there are no reports of cars having been broken into in The Chase car park. Unfortunately, such incidents have occurred fairly frequently over the last few years. Maybe this is down to the regular police patrols I am told now occur.

Please keep reporting any suspicious activity that involves both people and vehicles, if it is the latter try and get the registration plate as the police can carry out checks to find the owners. Furthermore, please report any rural crimes such as hare coursing, illegal hunting or thefts of farm equipment as this is a district priority.

The police service would like the public to be aware that Operation Aztec, the National Firearms Surrender campaign, is running from 12 to 29 May. During this time members of the public will be able to take firearms into police stations and hand them over the front counter.



Finally, as ever, please use 999 if you need police there and then, and believe it to be a dangerous or life threatening situation. For non-emergencies use 101 or submit a written report via the Hampshire Constabulary website. As our PCSO often reiterates that they cannot look into matters that are not reported.

PLANNING COMMITTEE & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
Cllr. Titcomb (Planning) & Cllr Hurst (Neighbourhood Plan)

Who? As with all Parish Councillors, we are volunteers with an interest in how the Parish develops from a planning perspective. We are not experts; we do not have any power of decision or enforcement; but are here to represent the more 'local' view on planning matters, including appropriateness of design or impact on the local community or environment. We will always encourage individuals to make their own comments to Basingstoke and Deane's Planning Department, which generally makes final decisions regarding planning matters.

We are available for individuals to talk with us regarding planning matters and have been working especially hard this year to develop a good relationship with the team at the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Over 99% of our Parish falls within the AONB and it is important that their views are given greater weight in planning decisions in the years ahead.

The Planning Committee consists of five councillors, with the welcome addition of Simon Bowden, joining me (Karen Titcomb), Andrew Watson, Martin Hainge and Susan Cooper. Once again, enormous thanks are due to Susan who continues to undertake an excellent job dealing with Agendas, Minutes and Responses on planning matters.

This year has seen Phil Jarvis lay down the planning maps as he seeks more time for other demands on his personal time. Phil has been a councillor for over six years and his experience and assistance have been greatly appreciated by us all; we wish him all the best for the future.

What? It has been another busy year and we have noticed an increase in the number of applications to build home offices or additional accommodation – to facilitate a new 'lockdown' induced lifestyle. This is a continuing theme mentioned in last year's report.

With most planning applications within the Parish, we will endeavour to undertake a roadside view of the site before our response is made. We are also available for applicants to discuss their proposals with us in advance of making an application which sometimes makes the process easier.

In the past twelve months (May 2021-2022) we have reviewed:

- Some 95 applications into BDBC (this includes retrospective planning, extensions, home offices, new builds, separate garages, stables, barn conversions, swimming pool complexes etc).
- This also includes an additional potential of up to 21 new houses in the Parish in back gardens or agricultural land (plus the additional potential of up to 350 at Wash Water and up to 50 in Mount Road).
- Some 27 applications for work on trees (either trees with TPOs or within the conservation areas of the Parish)

Where and When? We aim to meet twice a month on a Monday around 6pm in either East Woodhay Village Hall or Woolton Hill Church Hall. Anyone is welcome to join us – just let the Parish Clerk know



in advance so that we can put out a chair for you! Agenda and venue are published three working days in advance of each meeting on the Parish Council website. EWPC responses to applications are available on the Parish website shortly after each meeting and full details are on the BDBC Planning Portal.

Planning Issues Confronting This Parish Going Forward:

- We need to work with neighbouring Parishes, who are facing similar threats, to ensure that we protect green spaces between our hamlets and villages and that there is no joining up into one urban conurbation.
- The proposed development, submitted by Bewley Homes, for up to 350 new homes at Wash Water is a hugely inappropriate development on this site and our objections are set out on the BDBC Planning Portal. This proposed development involves both East Woodhay and Highclere Parish Councils - because of the size and complexity of the application we, together with Highclere Parish Council, enlisted the help of a Planning Consultant at a cost of £1500 per Parish – the professional help was most worthwhile.
- The proposal apparently being put forward, but not yet formally submitted, by Thakeham Homes for 50 new homes in Mount Road is another development which we would be unable to support; among other reasons for objecting, it is contrary to many of the planning policies which are contained within our emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- Other ad hoc building in the hamlets also gives us cause for concern, as the cumulative effect of these will add to the erosion of the countryside.
- This last point was alluded to in last year's Report and we continue to be unable to support any but the most exceptional applications for the construction of additional, new homes in the Parish, outside the settlement policy boundary. Whilst BDBC have not yet fulfilled their 5 year housing requirement, this Parish has more than fulfilled its quota, as confirmed in last year's Authority Monitoring Report and acknowledged with a zero allocation in the ongoing Local Plan review. We have no identified need for additional housing and cannot support the continuing 'urbanisation' of our Parish and the unplanned 'sprawl' into the countryside by which we are presently threatened.
- We continue to be concerned about the amount of additional traffic which will inevitably be attracted to the new Sun Grove site in East End and the adverse impact the project will have on the AONB and Conservation Area, as well as on local residents. Concern has been registered with Hampshire Highways regarding construction traffic causing degradation of the road shoulder, blockage of drainage ducts, drainage manhole cover subsidence, and destruction of roadside verge and ditch markers. A safety inspection of the road conditions of Abbey Wells Road from Woolton Hill to East End has been requested.

Neighbourhood Plan - Cllr Hurst

This has been a significant year for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It has seen much time devoted by the volunteers to the NP with real progress made. The following stages have been completed over the year:

- Draft NP published
- First 6 week consultation process (Regulation 14 consultation) with public meetings.
- Processing and responding to all the feedback from the consultation
- Update of the NP document incorporating the feedback
- Completion of the required legal documents to be submitted with the NP
- Submission of the NP documents to BDBC and legal sign off for the next consultation phase



- Completion of second 6 week consultation process (Regulation 16 consultation) with representations made to BDBC

We have now entered the final phases of the NP process, with an independent examiner appointed who has commenced reviewing all the submitted documents. This is a detailed legal review and the examiner highlights any changes that need to be made by BDBC and EWPC to the NP to gain sign off.

Unfortunately on review (over the last week) the examiner has identified that the BDBC environmental assessment does not cover the specific conditions required to assess the part of the River Test catchment area in the parish. This means that the BDBC document does not meet a legal requirement for the NP. The impact area is a very small part of the parish (around Pilot Hill) but it is a legal requirement introduced in 2018. Therefore, BDBC must perform an assessment of the area, consult the relevant environment agencies with the results and repeat the Regulation 16 consultation. The examiner has stopped reviewing the NP and will not recommence the review until these stages have been completed. BDBC have informed EWPC that this will be a delay of around 12 weeks before examination can start. This is deeply frustrating as the area concerned is so small and has minimal risk of development, but BDBC legal advice is very clear that the assessment must be made and the relevant consultation completed.

Once sign off has been made by the examiner we can move into the final referendum stage.

The following was the expenditure on the production and publication of the NP and to support the associated public meetings (all costs reported in EWPC finance minutes):

Generation of NP documents	£1483
Update of website	£ 370
Publication of NP documents	£1433
Public meetings support	£ 848
Total	£4134
Grant for NP	£1765
Total funded by EWPC	£2369

The costs remain low (especially in comparison with other parish councils) due to much of the effort being made by volunteers and by the successful application for grant funding.

Most importantly and looking when we reach the referendum stage, please do take the opportunity to vote in support of the Neighbourhood Plan – it has been a long time coming, but this Parish needs it and needs you to vote for it, so that it can be invoked when necessary to provide support for objecting to inappropriate development within the Parish going forward.

HIGHWAYS REPORT – Cllr Dick

HIGHWAYS REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

The past 12 months have seen further disruption caused by ongoing impacts of Covid to local highways maintenance works by Hampshire County Council. However local issues continue to be reported by EWPC and pursued with appropriate authorities to try to resolve local highways problems where



possible. Details of reported issues are regularly updated on the EWPC Highways Issues Log, to be found under “About the Parish Council : Highways” on the Parish Council web site.

Additional to the regular reporting of potholes, tree overhang and damaged signage for repair certain significant issues have been the subject of additional correspondence with HCC.

Abbey Wells Road: Concern about the state of this road between Woolton Hill and East End has been registered with Hampshire Highways regarding construction traffic causing degradation of the road shoulder, blockage of drainage ducts, drainage manhole cover subsidence, and destruction of roadside verge and ditch markers. A safety inspection of the road condition has been requested.

Watery Lane: Concern about the surface degradation of the section of this important link road to Kintbury at Gore End has been raised and is the subject of ongoing action by HCC Highways.

“Milking Bridge”: At the request of EWPC a safety inspection of the bridge at the east end of Woolton Hill Road was carried out. No immediate safety issues were detected, but HCC have undertaken to carry out repointing work on the bridge.

Woolton Hill Road: The regular flooding near the school has now been resolved with the only ongoing issue on this busy stretch of highway being the loss of a traffic calming bollard, which is temporarily replaced by a traffic cone whilst a new replacement bollard is awaited.

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS

During the year EWPC has worked with HCC Highways engineering department towards improving aspects of local access.

Brownies’ Corner: With the welcome establishment of the Permissive Path across the Parish Field it has become apparent that access for wheeled transport (wheelchairs, child buggies etc.) is impaired by the absence of dropped kerb crossing points to and from the entry gate at Brownies’ Corner (junction of Church Road and Woolton Hill Road). Following design discussions with HCC engineers, enhanced paved access, including appropriate dropped kerbs at an appropriate crossing point, will be introduced later this year.

Trade Street: Trade Street is frequently used as a return circuit route by many of those who have delivered children to the (pre-) schools but come into traffic conflict with vehicles attending the Doctors’ Surgery. It is also a designated route for buses which must unavoidably exceed the remaining road width left available to them by vehicles parked on the road for patient attendance at the clinic. The result is ongoing damage to the road edge opposite the car park entrance and beyond. In 2019 the EWPC determined that part of the Harwood Paddock S106 Transport Contribution be used to improve the traffic flow in this vicinity. Following discussions with the practice management and with HCC plans have now been drawn up by HCC Engineering and approved to create lay-by parking opposite the entrance to the surgery with the intention of alleviating some of the opposing traffic conflicts and reducing road degradation. Work is expected to commence later this year.

Tile Barn Row: A further portion of Harwood Paddock S106 funds was designated to improvement of pedestrian safety along the section of road from Paddock End to the entrance to Meadowbrook. Designs are now in place for the creation of a paved pedestrian walkway along the side of Tile Barn Row. Work is expected to commence late summer.



Mount Road: Concerns have been raised elsewhere regarding safety, particularly of pedestrians on roads with minimal verge width. In particular concern has been reported to HCC with regard to schoolchildren walking along Mount Road to and from the schools. This has also been raised with local police and the schools and is reported elsewhere.

EWPC will continue to raise highway issues of local concern with the responsible authority, either Hampshire County Council or Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council, and we welcome parishioners bringing matters of concern to our attention.

HIGHWAYS SPEED REPORT – Cllr Hainge

Last year the Parish Council took the decision to work with Hampshire Police and the Safer Roads team to implement “speed calming” measures in the Parish to re-enforce the speed limits which exist and to remind motorists that they should be adhered to.

The purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) was made and the programme was agreed and implemented as of September 2021. To date we have covered 14 different sites throughout the Parish, focussed on those areas where there is a 30 mph limit and a “feeling” that motorists are not adhering to the speed limit.

The unit has given us the facts that we require to identify the next actions that we need to take. In conjunction with the Hampshire Police we will be conducting a “Speedwatch” programme on the roads which have the worst speeding problem. Further we have also contacted the headmaster of the Woolton Hill Junior school to discuss education through the parents of the children about the dangers of speeding.

The capital cost of the SID unit was £3,525 which included the portable Speed Indicator, spare battery and the Bluetooth data collection unit.

In addition EWPC paid HCC £875 for the set up and review of the sites complete with installation of the posts and extensions where necessary.

A regular charge of around £70 for every movement of the unit.

The programme is on-going, and you will see the unit throughout the Parish in the coming year.

DITCHES

The winter of 2021/22 was not a particularly harsh one or wet. However, with the Parish Council's persistence and focus on the problem of ditches and the land owners' and home owners' continued support, the parish ditches are getting more and more functional. New flooding issues around Brownies corner and the BT exchange on Woolton Hill have both been treated and are no longer long-term problems.

The general maintenance work that we have encouraged to happen across Parish certainly is paying off. There are several land owners / householders who have worked hard to ensure their ditches are in good working order and the Parish Council, on behalf of the residents of East Woodhay thank them for this diligence. As always there are some landowners who do nothing.

The PC remind the community of the following rules around ditches and water flow:



1. Every land owner has to accept water from higher land
2. Every land owner is responsible for the passing of water across their property
3. Every land owner is responsible for the ditches and culverts that are on or adjoin their property

Land owners and householders who have not maintained their ditches despite PC requests continue to be socially irresponsible. The PC's view on poor ditch management in a community is the perpetrators are extremely anti-social and their lack of action causes unnecessary harm and is potentially dangerous to their fellow parishioners. The PC we will continue to work on this topic.

Administrative Policies and Procedures (updated May 2022)

We have improved and updated our working procedures and now have a Terms of Reference for both the Amenities Committee and the Finance Committee; these are on our website. In September 2021 we received our second FOI request which has been resolved this month. Details will be available on the ICO website and our minutes. We have also dealt with a related complaint against the Council in November 2021. Again this has been resolved and no further action has been taken. These have taken up a lot of time and effort and we are confident of our procedures before, during and subsequent to these issues.

EWPC is pleased to have given a grant of £1500 to St Martin's Church in aid of their new tower roof. We continue to offer support in obtaining grants to applicants, should EWPC not be able to do so.



OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR ARE 2022/23 – Chairman: Cllr Mitchell

- Maintain the level of Councillors at 10
- Continue to work with the community and BDBC, ensuring official S106 approval procedures are followed, to deliver the desired spending, by the community, of S106 monies.
- Continue to work with landowners and house owners to ensure there is awareness on ditch maintenance
- Continue to work with landowners to make countryside more accessible to all by removing stiles and replacing (at the PC's cost) the stiles with gates
- Final signoff and adoption for the Neighbourhood Plan project (6th year in a row for this goal!)
- Work with the community traffic safety team, to bring forward recommended projects to improve road safety in the Parish.
- Get visibility of the PCSO within the Parish
- Continue the improvement of the biodiversity of the Parish Field, working in partnership with the local school
- Complete the community Orchard on Meadowbrook land

***** END *****



FY2021-22 WATERFALL

