



Report of the Parish Assembly 2019

Monday 20th May 2019, 7.30pm Tap Room, New Inn

Present: Cllr Janice Hughes (Chairman), Cllrs Keith Alderman, Frazer Hamilton, Adam Knight, David Sexton. Clerk Susan Turner; Guests: Ward Cllr Ann Crampton; County Cllr David Simpson; Tom Ryder-Runton, Whitewater Valley Preservation Society. Public 2

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Assembly, thanking guests for attending but noting lack of public presence. Apologies received from PCSO Nick Greenwood.

2. REPORTS IN BRIEF

2.1 Report from Ward Cllr Anne Crampton – see **APPENDIX I.**

2.2 Tom Ryder-Runton, Whitewater Valley Preservation Society.

- i **River system contamination** Tom noted the significant fly-tip in Upton Grey which included a lot of medical waste, posing a threat to local groundwater and the river system. Imperative this type of waste be cleared immediately. This is just one manifestation of wider problem of pollutants, contaminants entering the water courses and so the food chain. He cited recent reports of cocaine found in shrimps – see **APPENDIX II.**
- ii **Health benefits of natural river environment** Whitewater environment provides great opportunity for Hart DC to promote and facilitate physical and mental benefits of being in natural environment.
- iii **WVPS** WVPS is approaching its 40th anniversary, being founded in 1980. Its remit is to fight unacceptable development proposals, which pose a significant threat to the health of the river and the landscape of its valley. The river is generally in good health, though phosphates are high, indicated in river vegetation.
- iv **Riverfly Census Report** “The Riverfly Census Report is the culmination of three years’ data collection by the Salmon & Trout Conservation (S&TC) on the state of our rivers and the pressures facing them. The Report finds worrying declines of aquatic insects in English rivers as a direct consequence of industrial, agricultural and domestic pollution. Aquatic insects are the equivalent of ‘the canary in the coal mine’ when ascertaining the health of individual rivers. Declines of up to 58% in some species have been observed in the last thirty years, with no sign of the trend reversing. The S&TC report has many Policy recommendations including:
 - Further investigations into the biological impact of phosphorus spikes. - That chalkstreams should have their own classification targets within the Water Framework Directive (WFD).
- v **Potential development** WVPS viewed the proposal for Murrell Green with great concern regarding impact of the development and SANG. Equally Lodge Farm is on a significant flood plain, also noted the Roman Villa (scheduled ancient monument) North of Lodge Farm.
- vi **Membership** Application forms distributed. WVPS encourages everyone, land owners and public to join. Needs younger membership. Don’t at moment have facility for ‘Parish Council membership but very pleased for Councillors to join as individuals to **represent the Parish Council.** – Heckfield Parish Councillors also recently joined.

2.3 Report from County Cllr David Simpson – see **APPENDIX III.**

For signature

3. UPDATE ON TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAY

- 3.1** Frazer Hamilton reported on the installation of the Speed Indicator Device and Speed Limit Reminder sign and the initial data. See *Gazette* article at **APPENDIX IV**.
<https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/17686810.campaign-to-introduce-speed-indicators-following-accident-a-success/>
- 3.2** Suggestions for Village Gateways and chicanes to contain village areas.
- 3.3** Re Highways repairs to the verges in Vicarage and Bottle Lanes, David Simpson advised keeping a photo-log of damage.
- 3.4** Footpath map. Definitive maps to be printed and foldout leaflet, distributed via the pubs, Hortus Loci etc. Seeking sponsorship for the printing.

The Chairman closed the Assembly at 9pm with thanks to all present.

For signature Date

APPENDIX I REPORT TO PARISH ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANNE CRAMPTON

After the elections on May 2nd 2019 we have seen quite a change in the make up of the council. The Conservatives lost three seats, so now have 11, the Liberal Democrat's have 10 seats and Community Campaign Hart have 11 seats. We also have a new independent member in Hook. The indications are that another year of a Lib Dem / CCH coalition will be forming the administration at Hart. The Conservative group leader unfortunately lost his seat in Fleet East and I am now the new group leader.

Tim and I are still representing your interests in Heckfield and we have a new Councillor joining the team representing the Hartley Wintney Ward, Spencer Farmer, who I will introduce to you to later this year.

FINANCES

Every year we have to plan for worst case scenarios. We never know exactly how much money we will get from the Government until December of each year. This year we have welcomed the government's decision not to decrease the new homes bonus which will give us £2.28m in 2019/20 and have had revenue from the Leisure centres of about £1m. However we never know what is around the corner and though the reserves look healthy, we have voted to raise council tax by 3%. Even so this will only bring in an extra £121,000 to cushion us against what ever may happen next year.

THE LOCAL PLAN

The Inspectors report arrived in February and the conclusion was that largely the Plan is sound except for the Winchfield / Murrell green new town proposal. I attended as an interested councillor, a special cabinet meeting on 14th March.

The Inspector's recommendation to remove the Winchfield/ Murrell green development proposal was accepted and we now expect the Local Plan to be approved and allowed to go for a final consultation and be adopted early in the autumn. A Review will have to be considered in up to five years' time.

BRAMSHILL

The Appeal report was summarised by Daryl Phillips. The Inspector allowed two Appeals for conversion of the main house into either a single dwelling or offices but refused permission for all other residential elements.

Roughly half the occupants currently living on the site allow occupation and the advice I have been given is that they should contact their landlord for further information. The planning applications relating to potential development on the site will be assessed on their own merits taking into account the inspectors' decision.

LEISURE CENTRE

The Hart Leisure Centre is proving to be quite an investment and is bringing in revenue for the council. It's membership is increasing and attendances are up month on month.

I am on the Hampshire Health & Wellbeing board and chair the District's forum. We are going to focus on the wider determinants of Health such as housing, employment and education across the 11 districts. Our air quality measures were praised by Professor Knight an expert in climate change but he felt we should be doing more on the environment. He told us that sea levels are set to rise so that by 2050 Portsmouth and Southampton could be under water.

We are therefore looking at what we can do locally such as encouraging electric cars and buses by putting in more charging points.

I have also started a gym class for people with dementia and their carers. Everyone Active only charge us £1 each per session and these are held 1 to 2.30 pm on Fridays.

WASTE COLLECTION

Since we changed waste collection from Veolia to Serco, from Hart's point of view, things are going well. Basingstoke, with whom we have a shared services contract, are not so happy but we will have to see if they can resolve the issues they have.

Best wishes Anne

**APPENDIX I REF REPORT TO PARISH ASSEMBLY
WHITEWATER VALLEY PRESEVATION SOCIETY**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-48117678>

Scientists found cocaine in freshwater shrimps when testing rivers for chemicals, a study said.

Researchers at King's College London, in collaboration with the University of Suffolk, tested 15 different locations across Suffolk.

Their report said cocaine was found in all samples tested. Other illicit drugs, such as ketamine, were also widespread in the shrimp.

The researchers said it was a "surprising" finding.

Professor Nic Bury, from the University of Suffolk, said: "Whether the presence of cocaine in aquatic animals is an issue for Suffolk, or more widespread an occurrence in the UK and abroad, awaits further research.

"Environmental health has attracted much attention from the public due to challenges associated with climate change and microplastic pollution.

"However, the impact of 'invisible' chemical pollution (such as drugs) on wildlife health needs more focus in the UK."

The study, published in Environment International, looked at the exposure of wildlife, such as the freshwater shrimp *Gammarus pulex*, to different micropollutants.

Researchers collected the samples from the rivers Alde, Box, Deben, Gipping and Waveney.

They said in addition to the drugs, banned pesticides and pharmaceuticals were also widespread in the shrimp that were collected.

The potential for any effect on the creatures was "likely to be low", they said.

Image copyright Geograph/Roger Jones

Image caption Scientists collected samples from 15 sites in Suffolk, including River Alde

Dr Leon Barron, from King's College London, said: "Such regular occurrence of illicit drugs in wildlife was surprising.

"We might expect to see these in urban areas such as London, but not in smaller and more rural catchments.

"The presence of pesticides which have long been banned in the UK also poses a particular challenge as the sources of these remain unclear."

APPENDIX III REPORT TO PARISH ASSEMBLY
COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID SIMPSON

'An interesting year...

Locally we have the experimental no right turn from the Causeway onto the A33 that has caused many problems. This came in as a result of Highways safety being asked to look at the accidents that occur.

Elsewhere more has happened.

Last summer I helped in a minor way to get a Grant for the 200th centenary of Charles Kingsley. Attending a meeting with the organisers in Winchester and reversing a decision to give zero to over £3,000.

There was a long running saga on flooding, Webbs Corner for those that know it, in Eversley but with the £100,000 I managed to secure for works it should be sorted this year.

Bramshill House Appeal Decision was finally released and everything was turned down. We now wait to see what the developers will put forward.

In Totters lane Winchfield you may have been aware of the horrendous problems with a scrap yard leaving HGVs in various states of disassembly around the area. The Chairman of Winchfield contacted me the day after the election to tell me all about it. I started kicking and now two years later the court has closed it down.

I have to emphasise here that apart from blowing up any blockages I did not get that involved. As with so many things my involvement was to facilitate and help cut red tape.

Wider afield Hampshire Fire and Rescue, I am a member of the 10-member Authority that runs it, is to merge with the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue once Home Office Approval is given.

We now have a shadow board to look at how they will both be run as one from April 2020.

In the Ocado fire at Andover, four ladders melted. Evacuation ordered because ammonia for refrigeration was in canisters on the roof. If they had exploded a half-mile-to-mile radius would have had shrapnel, if the gas escaped firefighters were at risk of burning.

Those of you who have street lights may have noticed they have been getting dimmer and thus saving hundreds of thousands of pounds across the county. Most people appear not to have noticed though.

Ever since the A30/A327 roundabout was designed I have agitated for a 4th arm. Money is now available and I expect it to be completed early next year – providing CEMEX play ball as they have the right to the gravel where the road is due to go and have not extracted it yet!

Hampshire will take over road parking charges next April 2020 and will be going out to tender for a private contractor to enforce. Potentially this could mean parking meters appearing wherever double yellow lines exist. In reality this is not expected in the majority of places.

An interesting statistic in the Budget.

County now has some £648 million in reserves. Whenever challenged on such a large amount the answer is it is all earmarked. But in 2010 it was only just over £200m now it is three times as much so one has to ask when will the projects earmarked actually happen?

Blackbushe deregistration of Common Land. This affects every Common in the country. They are arguing that the airport terminal has within its curtilage the whole of the airport. If so it becomes a brownfield site and clearly the uplift in valuation is such that it will cease as an airport and become an industrial area.

As an aside Hampshire is the most export intensive county in England.

The LRF – Local Resilience Forum – has been looking at the impact of Brexit and amongst many other things have identified a 5km stretch of the A31, between Winchester and Alresford, to hold 2-300 HGVs on either side

There will be a new Leader of HCC in May as the current Leader, Cllr Roy Perry, is stepping down. Cllr Keith Manns has been selected as Leader of the Conservative Group so will become HCC Leader at the Council meeting on Friday 17th May.

Regards

David Simpson, Hampshire County Councillor for Bramshill, Dogmersfield, Eversley, Hartley Wintney, Heckfield, Mattingley, Winchfield, Yateley West

APPENDIX IV REPORT TO PARISH ASSEMBLY
GAZETTE ARTICLE SIDS

AFTER an accident which took place almost two years ago, new roadworks and speed devices have been installed in a road near Mattingley.

Following an accident on the B3349 Reading Road on June 20, 2017, in which a woman was airlifted to hospital after a Mini Cooper and a transit van were involved in a crash, traffic measures have now been put in place.

The road, which has a 40mph speed limit, would frequently see drivers exceeding 45mph, according to statistics gathered by Mattingley Parish Council.

After numerous requests for help to Hampshire County Council, roadworks to improve the road were completed on March 19, and the parish council was allowed to mount Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) around the area.

The matrix signs indicate to drivers the speed at which they are currently travelling, and displays a message to slow down if necessary.

The signs were first deployed in April this year, and so far seem to be having a small effect on the speed of drivers.

Member of Mattingley Parish Council Frazer Hamilton said: "The signs took quite a while to get sorted, and now that they are here we will be a little better off.

"It has had some impact on the level and speed of traffic, and we have had some comments relayed back to us about them.

"Over a three-week period in April 2019 when the SIDs were first deployed, we are seeing a similar level of traffic and speed, but the change is not something easily observable.

"However, it is interesting to see the number of drivers who brake immediately after seeing the signs.

"With the information we are gathering for Hampshire County Council, we are aiming to improve the safety for users and residents."

Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Member for Environment and Transport at Hampshire County Council said: "Following the accident in June 2017, this stretch of road, particularly the bend where the accident occurred, was looked at by the Casualty Reduction Partnership – this includes the County Council, the Police and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

"Following discussions with the Parish Council, the County Council made improvements to the 40mph repeater signs, as well as improvements to the signing and lining on the north-bound approach to the bend."