

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Penny Plant - David Rodgers - Adrian Moss

ANNUAL REPORT – APRIL 2021

PARISH NEWS

A separate report will be provided for each Parish

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

ROLES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Penny Plant

Cabinet Portfolio holder for the Environment and for Contract Services.

Environment Panel - Chair

Deputy Representative for the Harbour Conservancy.

LGA – Coastal Issues Special Issues Group

David Rodgers

Planning

Grants and Concessions Panel

Adrian Moss

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Chair)

General Licensing Committee (Vice-Chairman)

Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel

Representative - Harbour Conservancy

Representative - Coast West Sussex & Coast to Capital

All ward Councillors sit on the Bournes Forum.

Adrian Moss attends the Manhood Peninsular Partnership.

All ward Councillors sit on other Panels and Forums that impact the ward

THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS

During the initial stages of COVID and “lockdown” the Council was unable to meet. In those circumstance the Leader of the Council and Chair of Overview and Scrutiny are invited by Officers to agree urgent decisions that would normally be made by Cabinet or Council. As soon as it was possible the Council introduced “Zoom” meetings and these will continue until June 2021.

The pandemic has had a substantial impact on the Council’s financial situation, due to increased costs and loss of revenue from its owned assets. Revenue from car parking, leisure services and estates has been specifically impacted. For the first time ever, CDC has used its reserves to maintain the legally required balanced budget. Staff have been flexible in their roles and have adjusted exceedingly quickly to on-line meetings. Many staff members have undertaken duties away from their normal roles.

The last 12 months have been hugely challenging but Council staff have worked tirelessly to support the community and ensured the Council continued to function.

All departments in the Council have been working very hard with a real emphasis on grants (business and Community), communities, planning and waste & recycling.

Your three Councillors thank all officers for the huge effort they have put in during the last year.

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Coronavirus communications

CDC is continuing to email updates on the Government's roadmap, grants and the vaccination programme. CDC is still issuing a weekly email newsletter to subscribers with all of the latest updates. Residents can sign up to this at www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts

Recovery Groups and Recovery Plan

In July 2020, CDC set up Recovery Groups in 4 areas: Community & Housing, Economic Recovery, Planning Health & Environment and Organisational Recovery. These groups have looked at ways to review & improve existing procedures and to plan for post- COVID strategies within the Council.

Penny Plant as a Cabinet member has co-chaired the Planning, Health & Environment Group

These groups meet on a regular basis to review progress and ensure the Council is able to provide the required level of services and support to our residents.

The Recovery Plan will continue to manage the longer term social, logistic and financial implications on the Council. In forthcoming years the Council will consider the implications of COVID on the Council and how services may change.

Update on COVID Grants

CDC set up its own modest Covid Recovery Grants scheme for Communities and Businesses, using a small portion of the New Homes Bonus grant fund. CDC has also been extremely busy administering the many grants offered the government, including the Business Rate Grants and the Restart Grants to non-essential retail premises and to hospitality and personal care businesses. For further information related to Business Rates grants please visit

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/businessratesannouncements2020>

Release from Lockdown

The Recovery Groups report back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and full Council. As the impact of COVID reduces these groups will cease operating. CDC's Covid Ambassadors have been visiting retail premises and the Health Protection Officers have been providing advice to re-opening food premises.

THE ROLE OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

This Committee is an important aspect of the Council providing a scrutiny function to the Council, consider specific policies and the work of our partners during the year. This Council year has seen O&S very active reviewing the work of Hyde Housing, The Festival Theatre, Pallant Galleries and Leisure Services. In addition the Committee invited Cabinet members to come before the committee to review sectors of their work.

In March the Committee also reviewed progress on Southern Gateway which is progressing if slower due to the issues around COVID and ensuring all the sites are available. (Site Assembly)

In April at a special meeting the Committee invited Southern Water, The Environment Agency, Natural England and OFWAT to appear before members to answer a range of question concerning water quality, Waste Water and environmental issues.

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PLANNING SERVICES

Planning continues to be a major aspect of Council work. Clearly during the Lockdown Officers have been unable to visit sites in the same way. Currently residents are not receiving letters advising them of planning applications in their neighbourhood; however applications are advertised on line.

As the Council no longer has a current Local Plan or a Five Year Housing Land Supply, planning applications are coming forward in parts of the ward for developments. Your Councillors will continue to work vigorously with Parishes and residents to preserve the communities.

Both Penny Plant and Adrian Moss have met with Representatives of Southern Water and the Environment Agencies to discuss known issues affecting planning applications. Natural England have also accepted that during COVID they had issues in responding to planning applications and are now working to ensure consistent and sensitive responses are provided.

The Local Plan Review

The Local Plan became out of date in July 2020 and the Local Plan Review still has unresolved issues around future road transport mitigation and foul water infrastructure. The timing of the delay will be determined by the speed at which the Third-Party consultants can provide the evidence requested.

Councillors meet monthly to review progress on the Local Plan and provide feedback to Officers, Cabinet and Council.

The Council is continuing to collect the detailed evidence required before the plan can go out to final consultation.

The Council has just issued the second Local Plan email newsletter, which is good way to keep informed. Any resident can sign up to this here: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplannewsletter>

Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP)

This wish-list database of all the projects is listed in priority order for County, for CDC and by all the parishes. The list of projects, not surprisingly, is greater than the funds available. The IBP for 2021-2026 for CIL expenditure was approved for publication by the Council at its meeting on 12 March 2021. The IBP for 2022-2027 will now begin to be prepared according to the usual annual timetable

Transport and Cycling

Chichester To Emsworth Non-motorised User Route ('CHEMROUTE')

This length of the A259 corridor is part of the National Cycle Network (NCN2) and is an important leisure and utility cycling route. This is reflected in the route also being included in WSCC's draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Plans are being drawn up by Highways England and will be consulted on further. The aim of the project is to improve safety and to encourage more walking and cycling on this route. Technical considerations for the design remain the domain of WSCC Highways. Your District Councillors will take an active interest in the route and solutions through the villages.

CDC has also recently adopted a Local Cycling and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Chichester City, to improve and provide more routes for cycling, but for which the funding is yet to be determined.

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THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Water quality: foul water treatment capacity and harbour water quality.

There are long-standing issues of discharges of Combined Sewer Overflows into the harbour and of the future capacity of the Wastewater Treatment Works, which are unresolved concerns for the Local Plan Review. Southern Water, Environment Agency and Natural England all attended a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April, and CDC is working with its partners towards improvement.

Air quality:

The level of nitrogen dioxide pollutant is broadly compliant in Orchard Street and the Stockbridge roundabout, St Pancras is slowly reducing, and Rumbold's Hill in Midhurst has enclosed topography so is more difficult to resolve.

Noise:

A 'Planning Noise Technical Advice Guidance' document is under preparation and will soon be added to the documents for inclusion in the Local Plan Review.

Climate Change Emergency Action Plan

CDC declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and adopted its Climate Emergency Action Plan in January 2021, which sets a target of 10% reduction of carbon emissions every year, for both CDC's own estate and for the wider community. (CDC itself is responsible for <0.5% of the district's total). CDC is currently reviewing its own estate, helping residents in fuel poverty or with poor insulation, planting trees, and promoting cycling.

Impact of COVID on refuse collection services

The collection of refuse has continued throughout the pandemic, even though in any one day, CCS might be 10 -15 members of staff down due to COVID restrictions. This will continue to be the case even as the district starts to open up, with increased demand for our services (commercial waste, litter collection etc). The collection service during the recovery will still a challenge.

A separate business food waste collection service was launched in early 2021. The collection of WEEE (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) and used coffee pods is planned to be added, hopefully in June/July, to the recycling burgundy bin collections.

Foreshores

The Foreshore service from Bracklesham has already commenced operations. The service exists to promote and ensure the safe enjoyment of our coastline through education and enforcement of the council's bylaws. Last year the foreshore was exceptionally busy on the coast and the team expects the situation to be similar this year as we unlock.

Update from the 2019 Annual meeting

Southern Gateway: this project is still progressing, although slowly due to the difficulty of assembling the sites from so many landowners and the effects of COVID.

Support for the Homeless: the building project at 22 Freeland Close is progressing well and will offer 17 flats for temporary accommodation.

Penny Plant and Adrian Moss

County Councillor Update – Bourne Division

Needless to say, the last 12 months have been unlike anything any of us have experienced and have been incredibly tough. One of the biggest positives from the pandemic has been the way communities have come together to support one another and I hope this carries on in the long term. A big thank you to the Parish Council that set up the Community Support Group to have provide support to those most affected during the lockdown.

We continue to see COVID cases fall across the country and this is the same in West Sussex and Chichester. Locally, there are supressed numbers across Chidham & Hambrook and other local parishes Southbourne, Westbourne and Funtington. The close you get to either Havant or Chichester the cases pick up.

My role is to very much represent the needs and wants of the residents and Parish Councils and I have really enjoyed working with everyone over the last 17 months that I have been in role. Although we live in a fantastic part of the world there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to maintain this and look after the most vulnerable by providing whatever support we can.

The biggest issues that we will have moving forward undoubtably come with the large amount of housing that is planned to come to the area. Although I am not involved in the planning aspect, I want to ensure that we have the infrastructure planned and in place before it is required rather than an afterthought. This includes everything from our roads, education, children and adult social care as well as Waste Treatment plants that are causing discharge into our beautiful harbour.

The cycle route that is planned between Chichester and Emsworth along the A259 is a large project that I have been involved in and I am adamant that we need to get the correct and safest scheme in place. Pushing for localised consultations have been at the heart of what I am trying to do as this scheme will benefit

West Sussex have underperformed in a few key areas in recent years, such as Children Services and the Fire and Rescue Team, and needed to be addressed. I am pleased to say that under new leadership we have been able to improve the services which has been recognised by Central Government. This by no means that we are happy to rest on our laurels as there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure we are delivering services to the highest possible standard. There has been a well-documented review of Family Centres and how we offer our services to meet those most in need and I have aired my views on this at a previous Parish Council Meeting. I am adamant that we need local resources and will be working to keep these in place, especially after the number of emails I have had on the subject.

As always I am very happy to take calls or emails on any queries that anyone has as I am here to represent you.

Mike Magill

26 April 2021

Report from the Chair: Cllr Philip MacDougall

Undoubtedly the biggest challenge facing the Parish Council is putting together our 'Revised Neighbourhood Plan'. This could have been completed and in the bag if it hadn't been for the shortcomings of Chichester District Council. Back in 2015 they knew they had but five years to complete a new Local Plan that had previously taken seven years to complete. What should they have done? Started work on it at the very first moment and taken on additional staff to cut down on the time it would take to complete. What did Chichester District Council do? They wasted at least nine months, doing nothing to begin with while also cutting back on those who could have been employed in this work. The result: we have limited or no protection against speculative large scale developers. Instead of residents planning the future of Chidham, Hambrook and Nutbourne East, it is the hands of outside developers who have little interest in our parish - but a great desire to build houses ... and more houses ... and even more houses.

Ok, rant over.

There is good news. Your parish council is now making excellent progress on the Meadows, with a full working plan to turn Hawthorn and Pynham, into open areas of ground that will provide an area for walking, relaxation and open air events. You might also have noticed that the children's' playground has been refurbished with new equipment and more on the way. To help improve the road system, we are working closely with West Sussex County Council to bring about a much improved cycle way through the parish on both Main Road and Broad Road with the additional aim of securing a 30mph speed limit along the length of the A285. These are headline items, but from the reports given by parish councillors, you will see that there is much more going on.

During 'lockdown' our monthly parish meetings (first Thursday of each month at 19.30) have been held on the Zoom platform, but from June onwards these meetings will be back to normal face-to-face, but we haven't finalised the venue as it needs to be Covid-safe.

26 April 2021

Parish Council Roads & Footways Report

The Parish Council continues to challenge WSCC Highways to carry out maintenance and improvements on our roads and footways, not always successfully. After two years, in February, the wrecked verge in Chidham Lane south of the school was finally replaced with a kerbed footway. It was unfortunate that the footway degraded to such an extent that the verge had to be replaced with concrete, but the cumulative effect of cars being parked on the verge made it impossible for pedestrians to access safely. We are still waiting for safety barriers to be erected outside Chidham School to prevent cars performing U turns and mounting the pavement. The agreement to action this was made 13 months ago.

Elsewhere we have been looking into the possibility of creating parking lay bys outside Broad Meadow by surfacing a small section of the verge. This is not without its difficulties and discussions with Highways are still ongoing. A solution to parking here would certainly help the reduced visibility and congestion that occurs at the southern end of Broad Road.

During the winter months we have seen some of our footways with considerable mud ingress making them difficult to walk along. Do report this to us and we can forward to the relevant body to deal with. Similarly, where vegetation encroaches onto a footway let us know so we can make sure the householder is aware and can cut it back. All these issues can also be reported to Love West Sussex via their website or app.

We have now been told that the proposed new pedestrian/ cycle way from the north of Broad Road down to Main Road does not have sufficient funding to continue it south of the railway line. This was intended as a project to support sustainable travel by making walking and cycling more accessible. It is disappointing as we feel it is essential that the whole scheme comes forward at the same time. As we would have had to commit a considerable amount of those funds for a feasibility study, we have decided to put this on hold until we have more clarity on how we can go forward. We will continue to work with Highways on this.

The Chemroute cycle route planned to run from Emsworth to Chichester has had preliminary feasibility work done by Highways England. Unfortunately, the plans ignore the concerns of the parishes along the route in terms of shared access, number of driveways and numbers of crossing over the road. The Bournes Forum, the group representing the Parish Councils in the Bourne Division are actively seeking improvements to all these safety issues.

The Parish is committed to working with other parishes on having the speed limit reduced to 30mph from the Bosham straight the entire route to Emsworth. This can only be achieved by applying for a Traffic Regulation Order, a laborious process, which requires a great deal of evidence. Very few of these are granted annually by WSCC, but it is worth pursuing, particularly with the amount of new housing that has been built or may be built.

Jane Towers

26/4/2021

DRAINAGE REPORT

Chidham, Hambrook and Nutbourne East have a complicated drainage network in which ditches, streams, drains and ponds each play an important part. All surface water eventually finds its way into Chichester Harbour but the Parish is very flat, especially on the Chidham peninsula, so it is vital that the drainage system is properly maintained to minimise flooding.

Riparian owners – those owning land adjoining a watercourse – are responsible for maintaining their section of the watercourse. However, the Parish Council decided some years ago to try to help where a significant watercourse, usually a ditch, carries water from a large catchment through land where there is relatively little direct runoff from that stretch into the ditch. The Council appointed a Parish Ditch Warden, Robin Yeld, whose role is to keep an eye on the ditch system and report any problem to the Parish Council, through myself acting as Drainage & Sea Defence Councillor. Robin does an extremely good job sorting out small difficulties before they can turn into major problems.

Over the past year, the drainage system has worked quite well. The Catchpond in Chidham Lane is ably maintained by volunteers led by Dave Catterall so that it can serve its vital role of providing temporary storage of surface runoff, releasing it under the tidebank into the Harbour at low tide. In addition, the voluntary work maintains the Catchpond as an aesthetically pleasing haven for wildlife.

On the other side of the peninsula the efforts we have made to automatically divert the ditch flow under high rainfall conditions to the west have clearly paid off. The peak flow to the Catchpond has been reduced, thus avoiding the flooding of Chidham Lane that has happened in the past.

I have spent some time addressing with the County Council (WSCC) an apparently simple query by a Parish resident as to why the significant work undertaken by the Parish Council under the WSCC Operation Watershed (OW) Scheme is not reflected in the risk of flooding as indicated by the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Maps. The key to this question is that the OW Scheme projects have contributed to reducing the **severity** of 'flooding' - residents report that this is clearly the case. However, **severity** is different from **risk**.

Pynham Meadow is the northernmost open space in Broad Road, Hambrook. The Parish Council already owns Hawthorne Meadow to the south and will soon also own Pynham Meadow, itself. The District Council has specified that the Parish Council construct a new ditch across Pynham Meadow, connecting the roadside ditch in Broad Road with the shallow ditch next to Public Footpath 258 on the far side of the Meadow. In addition, an existing pipe under the Meadow between the same two ditches must be removed. As soon as the Parish Council owns Pynham Meadow, I shall oversee this work that will be done by a contractor. The Council can then undertake all the other work that must be done to put the Meadow in a fit state to be used as a Public Open Space.

Please contact Robin Yeld on 07966 513 522 or me (contact details below) if you see any problem with the Parish drainage system. In this way we can often nip problems in the bud.

Cliff Archer
Parish Drainage & Sea Defence Councillor
01243 572839 carcher.chpc@gmail.com

TREES IN THE PARISH – TREE COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

We should plant more trees, hedges and woodland and protect those we have already. Trees improve air quality, mitigate climate change, reduce flooding and erosion, support wildlife – and visually enhance the environment.

In 2019, I was appointed Lead Councillor for Trees by the Parish Council and proposed that the Council appoint volunteer Parish Tree Wardens. Three residents came forward and were duly appointed as Tree Wardens: Mike Bulpett, Roger Hayles and Clive Timlin.

The role of the Tree Wardens is to help the Council increase and/or improve the provision of trees and hedges in Parish. They work in conjunction with me as Tree Councillor to achieve this goal.

At present, the Parish Council owns only one piece of land with significant scope for tree planting – Hawthorne Meadow – so we must rely on landowners willing for trees to be planted on their land to come forward. Ordinarily, the Tree Wardens and I would be able to visit possible sites and advise on their suitability, but the pandemic has been a real handicap.

The Parish Council has signed up to the ‘Trees on Highway Verges Scheme’ run by the County Council (WSCC). The Parish Council will meet half the cost of providing 10 trees in verges on the public highway around the Parish and WSCC will meet the other half. Please contact me if you would be interested in having a tree planted on the verge outside your home. Again, the pandemic has temporarily brought progress to a halt because I must visit each possible location, but work will restart in earnest once the situation permits.

Residents often ask me about Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). There are about 25 sites with TPOs in the Parish, with about 80 trees being protected. A TPO on private land can generate hostility because it may be regarded as an infringement of the right of an individual to look after their garden/land in the way they wish. An application for a TPO on a tree must therefore satisfy strict criteria to be successful. Chichester District Council (CDC) decides on whether a particular tree should receive a TPO, or not. CDC consults the Parish Council on applications for trees in our Parish. Most applications are made by the Parish Council.

Tree Preservation Orders have been confirmed on trees at four locations in the Parish since January 2020: Land Opposite Ivydene Crescent, Main Road; Land Southeast of Trout Brook Farm, Priors Leaze Lane; Land at Maybush, East Side of Cot Lane; Land North of Aviary Close, off Hambrook Hill South.

An Arboricultural Report is required by the CDC on any planning application where trees are involved. The Conditions imposed on any planning permission will specify restrictions, if any, on what can be done, or not done, with trees on the site.

The Parish Council Planning Committee forms its own view, consulting me where necessary, on Applications involving sites with trees and includes it in its response to the District Council.

Please contact me if you have any queries on trees in our Parish.

Cliff Archer

Parish Tree Councillor

01243 572839 carcher.chpc@gmail.com

Children's Play Area, Broad Road - Chidham and Hambrook Parish

The Children's Play Area on Broad Road remains a key resource in the village. It is available to all adults accompanying children up to the age of 12 years old. An Annual Inspection of the Play Area is completed each June by an independent vendor - RoSPA Play Safety. In addition, regular inspections are carried out by our parish groundsman.

The Play Area has received some key upgrades. In late 2019 we replaced the picnic tables and we included two additional benches. In early 2020 we replaced both swing sets (Infant and Junior), including new bonded rubber mulch under each. We had to repair the Spring Elephant plus we upgraded all the signage. The Play Area was closed from March-July 2020 due to this work and then due to Government Covid restrictions but has remained open since. The Parish Council provided guidance for use and conducted required Risk Assessment (managed by Clerk) before re-opening in July. The Parish Council have monitored Government directions through proceeding lockdowns.

We have kept the Play Area unlocked. However, unfortunately over the Easter holidays we had some older children in there after dark. They left when asked but we then locked the Play Area throughout the rest of the holidays. Locking and unlocking relies on the efforts of volunteers and we hope that we can continue to operate without having to lock the gate overnight.

We have had a couple of instances of dogs being in the play area on and off leads. Dogs are not allowed in the Play Area and there are multiple signs that state this.

Otherwise the Play Area remains well-used by families. It provides a good variety of play equipment for children at different ages of development.

R Perri

26 April 2021

The Meadows Public Open Spaces - Chidham and Hambrook Parish

The Meadows are located on the west side of Broad Road in Hambrook. It is two meadows, Hawthorne Meadow to the south and Pynham Meadow to the north.

The intention is to develop these as complimentary public open spaces. This is a Parish Council project that has been in conception and planning for some time and is now coming close to realisation. The Parish has been the owner of Hawthorne Meadow for some time but the transfer of Pynham Meadow to the Parish Council has been complicated by the fact the Pynham Estate development ended up in the hands of an official administrator. All aspects of the administration are now in the final stages of sign off and the transfer of the Pynham Meadow to the Parish Council will be part of that.

In July 2020 the Parish Council undertook a very successful public consultation regarding the facilities to be provided in the Meadows. After a detailed review the Parish Council is proceeding with the plan as detailed below. Note that further facilities may be added later dependant upon public feedback and budget availability. A schematic of the meadows showing the features and facilities is shown below.

Hawthorne Meadow.

This will be left essentially as it is now as a wild flower meadow with mown grass walkways. Additions are a pedestrian access bridge from Broad Road, installation of seating benches and a picnic table in the central area by the existing hawthorne bushes. A hard pathway surface will be added running from the pedestrian bridge to the picnic/seating area. A waste bin will be provided by the pedestrian bridge and an information board will be installed providing details of the complete Meadows development.

Pynham Meadow

For the Pynham Meadow area there are a number of features that are required as part of the original planning approvals for the Pynham Estate. These include allotments and an orchard. In addition a new drainage ditch must be provided running east to west across the meadow to ensure water flows and management are maintained. This will also therefore require the installation of a pedestrian bridge for access to the main area. Access will either be via the Pynham Estate or there is an access bridge in place at the southern end of Pynham Meadow adjoining Broad Road which will be secured for pedestrian use only but with provision for vehicle access if required (eg maintenance contractors).

A key feature of this area is the open grass play area for community use. Beacuse of this Pynham Meadow will be defined as a dog free area. Dogs will be permitted on the Hawthorne Meadow as currently. The allotments will be fenced off, the community orchard will be located on the western side and the area around left as a wild flower meadow. A decision as to whether pathways are hard surfaced or mown grass pathways is still open and to some

degree budget dependant. At the south side there is a plan to create a mini woodland area to encourage wildlife. Seating benches, waste bins and information boards are also planned. Finally the Parish Council is investigating with the district council how the two meadows can be linked at together as the hedgerow is protected.

Timetables

The initial focus is on Hawthorne Meadow due the the delay in taking ownership of Pynham Meadow. The planning process for the pedestrian access bridge is underway and it is hoped that these works will be started in the June/July 2021 timeframe.

Full plans and costings for the Pynham Meadow development are being worked up now with work targeted for this Autumn.

Comments and Feedback

In the first instance please contact either

Peter Bolton - Chairman of the Public Open Spaces Committee

PBolton.chpc@gmail.com

Bambi Jones - Clerk and RFO Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council

chidhamandhambrookpc@gmail.com

P Bolton

26 April 2021

