

# Bourne Parishes – WSCC Councillor report

## Chidham and Hambrook Parish – November 2023

Parish	Issue	Type	Priority	Requested	Actioned
Chidham & Hambrook	Chidham school Community Highways Scheme	Highways	1	Nov-21	In progress
Chidham & Hambrook	Speed reductions and traffic calming - WSCC TFG	Highways	2	Sep-22	In progress
Chidham & Hambrook	ChEmRoute improvements & speed reductions	Highways	2	Nov-21	In progress
Chidham & Hambrook	Introduce Gigabit Broadband	Technology	2	Nov-21	With Parish
Chidham & Hambrook	Year 2 fund for free travel Bourne Community Bus	Transport	3	Nov-21	Launch June 2022
Chidham & Hambrook	Bourne Heritage Trail - 12 web pages and signs	Leisure	3	Jan-23	In progress
Chidham & Hambrook	Broad road traffic calming measures CHS	Transport	2	Feb-23	In progress
Chidham & Hambrook	Cycle path from Cala homes to Chidham school	Transport	3	Feb-21	Cancelled

## Bourne Flood Prevention Group

Climate change is here to stay. In 2022 we experienced 54% of our total rain in the south in 10 weeks mid-October to end December. This trend looks likely to continue.



The BFP group was established to look at repetitive flooding areas in Bourne and to try and find long term solutions. Geoff Dixon is your contact for the Bourne Flood prevention Group to identify and collect flood risks and review mitigation measures. Risks are prioritised for danger to resident housing, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> level for safety risks (road accident risk for example). Transient flooding due to heavy rain incidents is a different matter – see bottom of page.

The BFG nominees from each of five Parishes have already proposed simple remedial action in some cases and much of which has now been done, such as ditch clearing and highways drains being cleared out. The BFP group will also look at other specific risks or secondary risks if Parish councillors or residents believe these exist, and review them in detail, together with proposed mitigations. Geoff and I are happy to collate other sites the Parish wishes to review.

Geoff's view is that no houses are at immediate risk in the Parish, the main priority. There are roads that occasionally flood, but this is not regular or annual occurrence except when drive by exceptional levels of rain. Whilst there are waterlogged roads at times in Priors Leaze Lane and Broad Road north of the post office junction, any further work and funding would be expected to be covered in this area by Cala Homes in the process of building their new homes.

However, there are also much more complex projects to review, like the Ham Brook area from Priors Leaze Lane to the coast, which involve multiple tributaries and natural flooding areas. Current flooding at Priors Leaze Lane down to Farm Lane in Southbourne shows that the whole Ham Brook tributary system is closely linked. This means that any solutions to flooding will have to look at both the current situation and also what may happen in the future, given the many new homes planned for Southbourne in their NP as well as the 230 recently won on appeal in Hambrook.

There is an existing WSP report commissioned by Southbourne Parish but this is now out of date, so considerable more time is required to review and to assess what solutions are available, and any associated costs to resolve.

The 2019 WSP report from Southbourne Parish is enclosed, which details the linked tributaries of the Ham Brook.

**It is suggested that Geoff Dixon and Jonathan Money at Southbourne meet to review this in November.**

## Emergency flood and other incident reporting

With Storm Ciaran here, current flooding on Thorney Island and many other places already in the Bourne area, it is looking increasingly likely that this winter will be similar to last year for rain, so Parishes should prepare for flooding:

- Residents during an emergency are asked to contact their Parish Council to see what actions to take.
- To report an emergency dial 999
- To report flooding from rivers or sea contact the Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60
- To report surface water flooding or flooding of WSCC roads please report online at [https://westsussex-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report\\_a\\_drainage\\_problem](https://westsussex-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report_a_drainage_problem)
- Alternatively call the contact centre of West Sussex County Council on 01243 642105

## Thorney Island causeway flooding

Residents are likely aware the Thorney Island causeway has been increasingly flooded over the last two months. In the last 10 days this has become much more serious, with the whole causeway now flooded consistently 30cm deep and up to 50cm deep on the West side at high tide. The cause is the failure of two flap valves that normally keep the tide out of Great Deep that forms the gap between the mainland and Thorney Island off Thorney Road Southbourne.

on the If you get any further request for information on what is happening there, here is a summary. This is obviously changing steadily as we know more about the causes and solutions to the Thorney Island causeway flooding.

- Everyone on the island, Councillors and agencies are fully engaged in finding short and long term solutions
- The EA, SW and MoD are seeking immediate flood mitigation solutions to reduce the causeway flooding
- The EA are coordinating the contractual elements of current and future work on the two broken flap valves
- Southern Water is coordinating dive team investigation of the problem. They were unable to assess this on Mon 30<sup>th</sup> as tides were too dangerous, but they will be back in again after Storm Ciaran when risks are lower
- Some cars have broken down due to salt water issues so the military has put in a one way traffic light system
- I'm working with Tracie Bangert, CDC Communities Cabinet Member, to find solutions to resident issues
- The Bourne Bus is taking teachers and classroom assistants for Thorney school on and off the island daily
- A long term fix for the broken flap valves isn't known until divers go in, but all partners are working on this

## ChEmRoute update

Work is ongoing re a review of A259 speed limits, with the aim to provide a safe end-to-end route from Chichester to Emsworth, that will form part of the overall proposal for the ChEmRoute cycle route. This is in liaison with CDC and being planned by WSCC, route design contractor WSP and National Highways, who are the implementer of this plan and who will fund its likely £7m to £10m cost.

Councillors met this evening to review the latest requirements as outlined to WSCC by National Highways (NH). The following are suggested to ensure that NH commits to a 3<sup>rd</sup> redesign in line with residents and cyclists want:

Parishes are asked to formally confirm they agree with these four statements via email by end November:

1. We regard 20mph limits in our Parish as an integral part of improving future road safety
2. We plan to, or have already submitted proposals for 20mph limits within our Parishes
3. Parish residents have already shown, via research, that they support the principles of 20mph limits
4. Our Parish backs a community led TRO to apply 20mph limits in sections of the A259, to be defined and subject to specific redesign, in order to support the creation of the ChEmRoute pedestrian and cycle scheme

We will then feed these Parish commitments to 20mph limits back to WSCC Highways week 1 December.

If National Highways requests proof of Parish resident support then we can show them the results of multiple Parish research surveys showing the support for 20mph within many Parishes (already collated), plus a list of Bourne Parish TROs and CHS applications for 20mph limits that have already been submitted or that are in process of submission.

National Highways should then have the evidence they need to commit to WSP stage 3 redesign of ChEmRoute.

Chichester City and Emsworth are also committed to doing their bit to ensure ChEmRoute goes ahead, for example by reviewing Chichester roundabouts and crossings to make them more cyclist friendly as well as to introduce 20mph in Emsworth town centre and 30 mph road roundels on the A259 from Warblington roundabout to the Travellers Joy.

## Call for more EV charge points

Connected Kerb manage EV installs across West Sussex and are seeking new EV charge point sites. Options are:

- Normal minimum space for 6 vehicle bays for EV charging
- Option of two EV charge bays and four normal parking bays
- Multiple of the above two options

More information - [Connected Kerb | West Sussex Charegpoint Network Residents](#)

Register your interest for the next phase of planned installs - [Form \(hsforms.com\)](#)

## WSSC Budget consultation

West Sussex County Council is asking residents for their views on its priorities and how it proposes to spend taxpayers' money as it works to close a £44.9m budget gap for the coming year (2024/25).

Paul Marshall, Leader of WSSC said: "Inflationary costs, a growing need for services, and measures to protect the environment, mean councils across the country are having to make tough choices in order to plan for the future.

"We know people in our communities, especially the most vulnerable, rely on our services so it's important we ensure our spending aligns with the priorities in Our Council Plan, focusing on what matters most to communities.

"We are very conscious it is not our money we are spending, but our residents' and businesses' money, and that it is our responsibility to ensure the money is spent well in delivering cost-effective and value for money services."

The county council's budget proposals include reductions of £11.8m alongside a possible increase of council tax of 2.99%, plus an additional adult social care precept of 2%.

The proposals also include an extra £53m in revenue spending on vital services including an additional £31.2m for vulnerable children and young people, £12.3m more for adults' social care, and an extra £5m to maintain the county's 4,000km of roads.

If approved, the current proposals would still leave a budget gap of £4.4m to be bridged, something which has been described as 'challenging but achievable'.

The consultation asks residents:

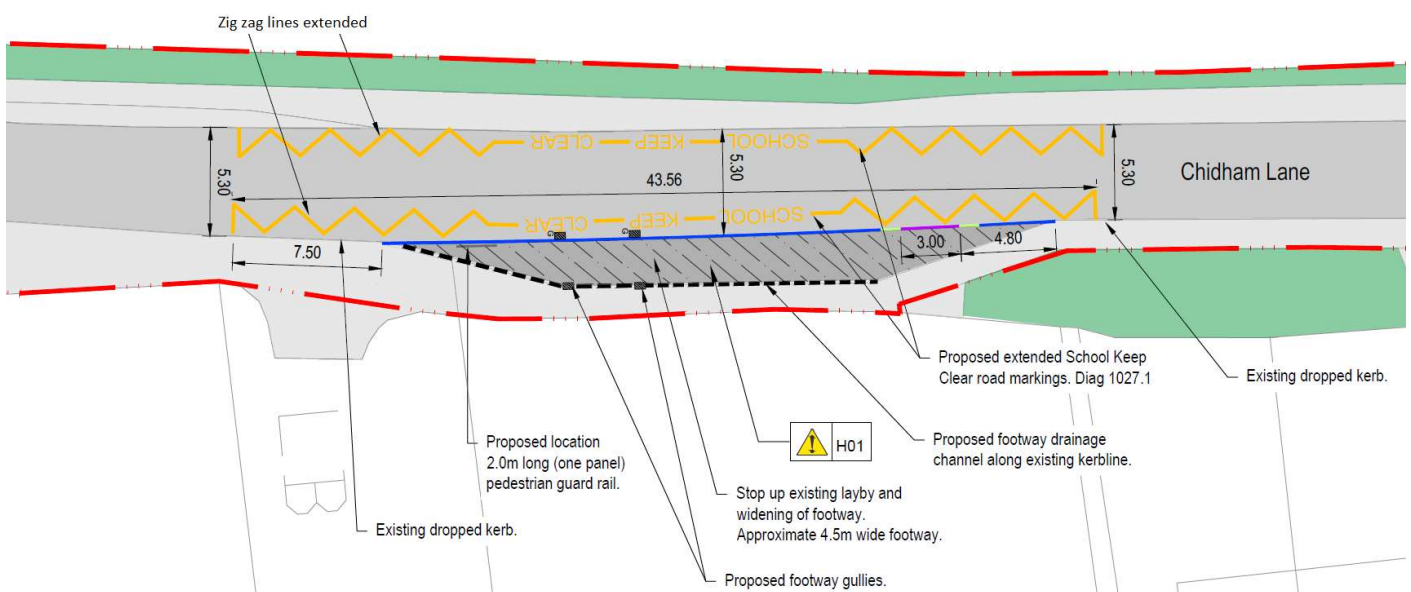
- What they think are the most vital county council services
- Where they would spend or reduce money
- Which options they feel the county council should focus on to achieve a balanced budget

Full details of the consultation, open until 10 December 2023, can be found at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/budget](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/budget).

Anyone without access to the internet can visit Southbourne library or a family hub to complete the consultation.

## Chidham School CHS

'No parking' zig zags were extended on both sides of the road to prevent parking, which appears to be working in the vast majority of cases. However, as Jane and I witnessed on an October visit at school closing time, some parents do park on the double yellow lines on the West side. They also use the skip / bin bays to park in or turn around in, but we have suggested to the school that they use three large cones at the pavement edge to prevent this. The only other solution would be for the Parish to encourage CDC parking enforcement officers to attend more regularly.



## There's still time to have your say on the future of active travel in West Sussex

Public consultation has begun on the future of active travel in West Sussex. The proposals that are being put forward set out how we can deliver improved walking, wheeling and cycling facilities across the county.

WSCC is seeking your feedback on two important documents related to the way that we travel:

- WSCC draft Active Travel Strategy - vision and goals for active travel for the next decade and beyond.
- SSCC draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - identifies key locations to invest in active travel

### How to contribute

You can find out more about the suggested improvements by visiting the Active Travel projects website. On the website you can read the draft Active Travel Strategy and LCWIP in full and have your say by completing a survey.

**The survey closes on Wednesday, 15 November.**

We would like to gain as many responses as possible, so please share details of these proposals through your networks. Your feedback is vital in shaping the final versions of the Active Travel Strategy and LCWIP, which are expected to be published in early 2024.

## Bourne Community Bus

The Bourne Bus changes ownership in January 2024 from the Southbourne Community Land Trust to Community Transport Sussex. The service will remain free, stops will be the same and there will be no change to any of the operational aspects of the service to Parish residents or its current management or volunteer driver team.

The Bourne Bus has been running a Thorney school shuttle since Monday with our drivers helping out Tue, Thur and Fri and Dean the Head at the school ferrying the teachers and classroom assistants on Mondays and Wednesdays.



We've also got agreement for the bus to stay at One Church too for the foreseeable future to aid teacher transfer.

However, this means that the pickups from the island at Church Road and Canberra Road aren't happening currently.

We have applied for five year funding of £75,000 from the National Lottery Communities Fund to maintain bus operation and also applied for a £4,500 CDC UKSPF grant which we are awaiting a decision on. We have also entered into a partnership with Funding People, which Community Transport Sussex uses, in order to accelerate grant and funding applications and improve the application success rate. Our initial focus is two grant applications of £10,000 each during September using Funding People's expertise and grant source knowledge.

## Bourne Heritage Trail project

The Stage 1 website with 52 pages and 12 pages for the Parish are now complete and signs delivered for all sites.

In October we started siting some of the Bourne Trail signs near the sites they feature on the web pages, designed to help people find out more about the area with their mobile, and encourage exercise by following sites along the trail.

The Parish needs to decide on the remaining sites for the signs and also if 5 foot oak posts are required (1 foot sunk into the ground using a post hole tool). These posts can be purchased directly at £46 each with chamfer and reflective bands, £36 with chamfered tops from [www.storefittingsdirect.co.uk](http://www.storefittingsdirect.co.uk).

If Parishes club together we could purchase some of the latter posts in bulk (40 posts) which reduces the price to £16, but we have nowhere to store this volume of posts or currently to fund the total £648 purchase price.

Chidham & Hambrook Trail	Chidham-Hambrook trail	Sign location (green in place, yellow TBC)
Nutbourne Watercress	<a href="#">Nutbourne Watercress</a>	Jane – Hambrook post office?
Christmas Cottage	<a href="#">Christmas Cottage</a>	Fence
Drift Lane + Bosham Inn	<a href="#">Drift Lane</a>	Bus stop
Chidham Village Hall	<a href="#">Chidham Village Hall</a>	Wall and oak backing
The Catchpond	<a href="#">The Catchpond</a>	Oak post - Jane / Steve
Wade Way Cottage	<a href="#">Wade Way Cottage</a>	Bruce
Poor Cottage	<a href="#">Poor Cottage</a>	Bruce
Chidmere House	<a href="#">Chidmere House</a>	Bruce
Middleton House	<a href="#">Middleton House</a>	Bruce
St Marys Chidham	<a href="#">St Marys Chidham</a>	Main gate
Honor Wayte	<a href="#">Honor Wayte</a>	Oak post Wayte cottages - Jane

For the Stage 1 complete website visit [www.bournetrail.co.uk](http://www.bournetrail.co.uk)

Each site features a QR code on a 28 x 8cm UPVC sign with UV proof inks that these link to individual website pages. These small weatherproof signs highlight the history and heritage all around Bourne villages, with links to local buildings, tourist sites, local people, museums, industrial heritage, history, events and wildlife sites etc.

As part of Stage 2 of this project from September 2023 to August 2024 we will be producing larger interpretation boards for each Parish with a trail map and details of each heritage trail, plus posters with multiple QR codes.

External funding will be sought for Stage 2 so that no extra funds are required from current Parishes, who will be able to increase their number of signs and web pages, as well as take advantage of larger interpretation boards.

## Launch of In Our Area

The new Community Interest Company (In Our Area) is being launched at **The Crown Inn Emsworth at 16:00 on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November**. Parishes are invited to see more about a wide range of digital, community interest, tourism and business projects, plus the Bourne Trail, that the new CIC will focus on over the coming years.

## Note for Bambi

I'd like to thank you personally for all of the service and dedication you've given to Chidham and Hambrook Parish over the years and through some tough times in compiling its Neighbourhood Plan and dealing with the many meetings around housing developers and appeals.

There's also the good times too in helping coordinate the creation of the Community area and allotments in Hambrook. Many thanks. You will be sadly missed, and I wish you all the best in your retirement.