

- Roads – Heavy vehicles can't get round the lanes to deliver to the Industrial Units, the lanes are not fit for this purpose.
- Planning/roads - Horses and ponies are taking over and the landscape is starting to change. Cars trailing horseboxes can't reverse back down the lanes – could account of this be taken when considering planning applications.

13/52 REPORT BY IAN JANES, HCC ROADS

Mr. Janes and Richard Peach, HCC Roads Maintenance, have met with Cllr. Openshaw who is leading the Roads and Traffic Working Party, and driven/walked through the lanes of Steep Marsh. There is significant repair needed but until now funding hasn't been available. Restrictions have now been lifted and one of them will be in touch with Cllr. Openshaw regarding timescales for repairs. These would however, be a temporary fix - the roads will still need re-surfacing. All repairs are contracted to Amey who spread the work throughout the year and Ian is responsible for checking them.

With regard to traffic management, HCC has resources to help with traffic surveys. Cllr Openshaw was asked to forward priorities for action as agreed at the recent meeting of the Roads and Traffic Working Party.

Cllr. Openshaw stressed the importance of good solid foundations and kerbing for passing places along with appropriate signage to inform road users that it is a single track lane and requesting them to use passing places. It was confirmed that HCC would work with representatives of the P.C./Roads and Traffic Working Party to improve Steep Marsh lanes and traffic management.

With regard to planning applications for industrial units and the use of the lanes by large, inappropriate vehicles, Mr. Janes explained that applications are passed to either Tim Wall or Gemma McCormick who respond on behalf of Hampshire Highways. The police have an opportunity to comment at consultation level and are responsible for enforcing weight restrictions - however, exceptions have to be made for necessary visits and legitimate access.

13/53 REPORT BY JULIA MANSI, EHDC, PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SDNPA is now the planning authority for the area but EHDC carries out the work on their behalf. South Downs National Park do "call in" larger applications where there are landscape implications. Both SDNPA and EHDC are concerned about the impact of "horsey culture" as change of use of land can have a significant impact – large swathes of land are being used for horses and SDNPA are looking at controlling this through planning policy.

With applications where there are likely to be highway implications, EHDC rely on the expertise of HCC. Local officer, Graham Oakley deals with smaller applications on a day to day basis. Where surveys are provided it is up to the County Council whether it is deemed to be suitable. HCC need to be very sure of their ground to challenge information.

With regard to out of hours working at the Brickyards Industrial Unit – the Compliance Team is looking into this situation. EHDC is aware of the unit which has not been built as per planning permission - a retrospective application is being submitted and EHDC will need to consider whether the changes cause any harm.

EHDC are only obliged to write to immediate neighbours to notify them of a planning application – however, normally they do more than this. SDNPA are now introducing a Public Access scheme via the website. Once this is up and running members of the public will be able to register an on-line profile to ensure they are informed of planning applications in their area. The Clerk will ensure that this information is advertised via the Village Newsletter as soon as the system is introduced.

With regard to current applications, it was confirmed that Planning Officers can only look at the application in front of them but, as much as possible, everything is taken into account.

13/54 REPORT BY TOM BELL, SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY, PLANNING DEPT

SDNPA and EHDC are working together to up-date the Joint Core Strategy which looks at high level policy for the area and this is due to be completed in October.

A key area of work to be carried out is the review of the Community Infrastructure Levy – this is a charge made on all new development and the money can be used to fund community projects which fit the relevant criteria (25% funding for parishes/towns that have a Neighbourhood Plan, 15% for Parish Plans). The Chairman pointed out that the Steep Parish Plan is very detailed and includes a landscape assessment and she has requested consideration of an “up-grade” by SDNPA – Mr. Bell agreed to look into this.

13/55 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT – Vaughan Clarke reported that street lights in Steep will be changed in the autumn – the lights will be downward facing and white and will dim after 11.00 p.m. for environmental reasons and to save money.

Hampshire County Council has issued information on claims received due to the impact of recent extreme weather on the highways. From April to September the total number of highway claims received was 507 and of these 241 were for damage to vehicles caused by potholes. It was pointed out that you are not able to claim unless the pothole has been reported to HCC and that HCC will not fill the hole unless it is a certain depth.

13/56 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENT –

Nick Drew introduced himself to members of the public. He noted that many of the comments during the evening had been related to planning and stressed the importance of raising issues early (either with the Parish Council or himself). He said that, as a Parish, it is important to be pro-active rather than re-active and he would fully support a Village traffic survey to provide a useful benchmark against which decisions could be made - methodology would need to be agreed with HCC. It was agreed that the Traffic Management Group will take this project forward on behalf of the Parish Council.

Nick sits on the Communities Panel – currently there is money available to invest in community projects and if there is a specific project in mind for Steep Marsh, members of the public are welcome to liaise with Lucy Soale at EHDC to see if it would be eligible for funding.

Compliance – there are only 5 people on the Compliance Team – therefore members of the public are the eyes on the ground and it is important to report any issues to EHDC as soon as possible - likewise with instances of Flytipping.

13/57 REPORT FROM THE ROADS AND TRAFFIC WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Openshaw explained that because of the large number of actions arising from the Parish Plan, several working parties have been formed. A number of people came forward to offer help with the Roads and Traffic Working Party and the group met on 26th March to discuss aims and objectives and identify major problems and discuss feasible solutions.

From this it has been agreed to prioritise issues in Steep Marsh and to concentrate on addressing the poor maintenance of roads and verges, potholes, and also to replace broken bollards with more attractive oak posts. The Group will also focus on traffic management – to include the size and number of vehicles, school traffic, the speed of traffic, and look into rural traffic calming measures such as pinch points, and signage.

Cllr. Openshaw will organise a meeting between Working Party representatives and HCC to discuss options and a way forward and will feed back outcomes of this as soon as possible.

13/58 TO APPROVE PARISH PLAN WORKING GROUP STRUCTURE

Cllr Martin explained that it is intended to structure the Parish Council slightly differently with Working Parties moving forward to improve things in the parish. A paper setting out a suggested structure of Parish Council Working Parties had been circulated to Councillors prior to the Meeting for approval. The paper proposes that the working parties are split into five with the headings of recreation, communication, planning and development, traffic management and community – each one to be led by a different Parish Councillor and to develop within various time-scales (as shown attached).

It is proposed that the next Group to be formed will be the Recreation Working Party which will be led by Cllr. Jenny Martin. This group will look at Rights of Way, visitor management and will also include the Hangers and Steep Common. Cllr. Martin will advertise for volunteers in the Village Newsletter.

It was AGREED that the proposed structure of Parish Council Working Parties be adopted.

13/59 TO DISCUSS STEEP SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

The catchment area of Steep Primary School does not include Steep Marsh which currently falls into the Sheet catchment. The Chairman queried whether this would be something residents of Steep Marsh wanted the Parish Council to look into - potentially it could be detrimental to those who wished their child to attend Sheet School.

A show of hands indicated that 75% of those members of the public present would support this change which it was felt would enhance community links. It was pointed out that although slightly longer by road, it was shorter and quicker to walk to Steep School by footpath than Sheet.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council would liaise further with the Governors and Head Teachers of both Schools and the Education Authority.

13/60 FINANCE

The following cheques were approved:

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| 100200 | £ 285.00 | HALC | Affiliation Fee |
| 100251 | £ 708.50 | Stephen Lamont Furniture | Noticeboards |
| 100199 | £3,930.63 | Bedales | Footpath 15 |

13/61 CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation to Infrastructure Planning Workshop – the Chairman will attend
- Letter from EHDC regarding change of name for Froxfield Parish Council – no objection.

13/62 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS –

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7th May at 7.00 p.m. at Steep Village Hall. This will be followed by the Parish Council Annual Meeting. The Chairman encouraged members of the public to attend.

The next Planning Committee will take place on Monday, 22nd April at 7.30 p.m. in Steep Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.