



Chairman's Monthly Newsletter September 2021

This month we welcomed our West Sussex County Councillor, Trevor Bence, to a Parish Council meeting.... an opportunity to meet face to face for the first time. We are, of course, in regular contact with Trevor on a range of matters and have met virtually at both the A27 Elected Representatives' Forum and the 'Talk with us' sessions that ran earlier this year.

Trevor has worked in the 'Fontwell Division' for most of his life. Firstly, he served as a Sussex Police Officer and then ran his own company, providing security, building management and event security nationally. Almost his entire family lives and works in the area and he is an advocate for the village way of life, with a particular fondness for Slindon! He is an avid supporter of steps to manage and mitigate climate change and is committed to supporting the very complex issue of flooding in villages to ensure local people are protected.

By the time you read this we will undoubtedly have had a decision on our own application under Operation Watershed. Applications were discussed at a meeting of the Steering Committee on Monday September 6th and the Parish Council will be informed once a 'Decision Report' is published on the West Sussex County Council's website. This is an exciting moment with the potential to deliver significant benefits to the parish by improving the health of the pond, alleviating highways flooding and enhancing biodiversity. The potential cost savings to the electorate are significant too.

You will no doubt recall the photos we shared of flooding on Reynolds Lane in June and we have some good news on this. The emptying and cleansing of gullies from part way up School Hill back down to the junction with the A29 has already taken place. Further works are now also planned to increase the capacity of the system to alleviate overloading issues in this location. There will be wider concrete aprons to enable more water to access the gullies, again removing excess water from the road surface. The first stage will be to price up the proposed works and we will continue to support delivery of the project in a timely way.

On the subject of highways matters, there is still time to respond to the draft West Sussex Transport Plan 2022 to 2036, with the public consultation running until 8 October 2021. The consultation can be viewed at www.westsussex.gov.uk/wstpconsultation. Also, the next meeting of the A27 Elected Representatives' Forum takes place on Tuesday 28 September with 'hot off the press' news that the Statutory Consultation has been rescheduled to winter 2021. This is to allow Highways England further time to refine their design following engagements with landowners and other stakeholders. Further updates to follow!

And finally, we have had several people interested in joining the Council so we hope to be able to co-opt some new members in the near future. There are a number of vacancies so, if you'd like to join our happy team, do please contact me or Sarah for more details.

Jan Rees, Chairman, Slindon Parish Council