



Chairman's Monthly Newsletter January

January is often thought of as a quiet month but we have been busier than ever.

Operation Watershed is now in full flow and, by the time you read this, the majority of the work will be complete. We are grateful to residents for their understanding during recent weeks, although hopefully the long term benefits for biodiversity and improved highways drainage (at minimal cost to the parish purse), will outweigh the inevitable degree of disruption such projects bring. Some amongst us will remember when the pond was last de-silted in the year 2000, so it doesn't happen that often (thankfully).

Statutory consultation for the proposed A27 Arundel Bypass commenced on Tuesday 11 January 2022 and runs until 8 March 2022. The documentation is available both online and at the Forge during the consultation period.

There will also be various consultation events, with one at Slindon Coronation Hall on Saturday 12 February, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The event, which will be held in accordance with Government COVID-19 guidance, will give visitors the opportunity to learn more about the A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme and meet members of the project team. You can ask questions as well as submit consultation responses and also see exhibition panels containing information about the proposals. A Scheme fly-through video will be on show.

You can also visit the Scheme's virtual consultation event, which is open throughout the consultation period, if you would prefer to take part online. This room replicates an in-person event and includes copies of all the consultation documents, videos and exhibition materials: <https://a27arundelbypass.consultation.ai/>

Details of all of the ways you can take part, documents, videos and further information can also be found on the project website: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/south-east/a27-arundel-bypass/> Information packs are also available from The Forge.

National Highways would like to hear what you think about their proposals and encourage you to take part in the consultation.

The Parish Council continues to be represented on the A27 Elected Representatives' Forum and details of previous meetings are also available on the National Highways' website.

The South Downs National Park Authority has invited 'expressions of interest' for those who may wish to participate in their 'Call for Nature' pilot project. This is to identify possible sites where new wildlife habitats can be created, contributing to nature recovery in the South Downs National Park. Submissions are made on a no obligation basis and the Parish Council is exploring the suitability of an area on Top Field and the Recreation Ground for wildflower meadows as a haven for bees and other pollinators. The Parish Council will also be



participating in the Queen's Green Canopy, a tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee this year.

There is also the opportunity to apply for a share in the South Downs National Park Authority's CIL receipts and we will be making an application to replace some of the equipment in our play park with items that are both accessible and inclusive for a wider range of ages and abilities. We are hoping to meet with local families who have young children to find out what they'd like to see. We are also keen to involve wider participation, be that through fund-raising, donations or feedback.

Allotments also feature this month with a new lease to be negotiated between the National Trust and the Parish Council. The existing one "expired" in March 2020 but, by mutual agreement of both parties, ran on during the pandemic, although as we return to more normal times the arrangement can once again be formalised. Fortunately, there were no restrictions on the use of the allotments and the National Trust also kindly waived their annual charges during this period in recognition of difficult times. The allotments are on Church Hill and if anyone is interested in accessing this service in the future, please contact our Clerk, who will be able to provide an update on availability and cost.

The Parish Council must continue to meet face to face and, whilst our meetings are open to the public, should you be unable to join in person, please let Sarah know in good time if you have a message to share or a view to air.

Jan Rees, Chairman, for Slindon Parish Council

January 2022