



Chairman's Monthly Newsletter February

It's been a busy time at the Council again this month.

By the time you read this, the pond project will be almost complete, including both the long overdue removal of the silt accumulation and improvements to the highway's drainage. The pond was last dredged in the year 2000 and the amount of silt removed this time is a fair bit more than anticipated. It is currently drying out before it can be removed. We have certainly been very lucky with the weather so far and it's fingers crossed for a dry, warm spell this spring.

As regards replanting, we have sought advice from various people, including Simon from the South Downs National Park Authority, and we have been advised to wait until the vegetation has recovered. In the meantime, Simon has kindly offered to pay for some chestnut paling on the corner of the pond by the footpath as a temporary safety barrier. The contractor will re-seed some grass areas and there will be woodchip for the footpath. Post and rail fencing, or even just some temporary chestnut paling along the roadside, is under review, although it is worth remembering that there was no fence before. The barrier vegetation will quickly recover and of course there is a limited budget. However, all options will be considered as part of the Council's ongoing risk assessment.

The fish which have been rehomed are almost entirely non-native carp and in due course there will be the opportunity to restock the pond with native species. We will take advice on that. It is a relief to see the health of the pond restored, which will refill naturally through rainfall.

The pond project has created so much interest and we are always keen to hear from those who might like to be involved in its future upkeep. Please E-mail Sarah if you have any thoughts on further developments for the enhancement of the pond or indeed any interest in creating a Pond Society. This really has been a special opportunity to secure such a large sum of money and, with no guarantee that it will ever be possible again, ongoing maintenance will be so important.

The Council attended a Zoom regarding West Sussex's Electric Vehicle Strategy. Connected Kerb has won a contract to set up a charge point network throughout the County. Plans are at a very early stage at present, but we were given some details.

- Contracts with landowners would be for 15 years.
- The company would be responsible for the installation and there would be no membership or connection fees.
- Electricity would be from the National Grid and would be charged at 30p per kilowatt hour.
- An average sized car would take charge from 0 to 80% in 3 to 7 hours.
- Some remuneration for landowners would come from the network profit.



In the Q and A session that followed, local representatives highlighted the very many problems that they would face trying to set this up. Parking availability is very limited in most villages and it would be hard to stop cars using the charging points for rather extended periods. There would also be a need to illuminate the chargers to make them safe at night. It was felt that this electricity supply was not cheap, compared to charging at home, and, despite an initial fix on price, would end up reflecting changes in the cost of gas....rather relevant at the moment!

As so many Slindon residents have driveways and the capability to charge their own cars, this may not be for us but it's worth knowing that the opportunity is out there.

The A27 Consultation process ends on March 8th and the Council has sought to provide balanced responses representative of the views of Slindon residents as shared with us.

This month will also give residents the opportunity to meet with County Councillors at Littlehampton Library on the evening of March 8th. Full details are on the Parish Council website and there are posters in the village. Details of how to contact Trevor Bence are on both the West Sussex County Council website and our own.

And finally, we are very hopeful that this year will be an opportunity for the community and its many clubs, societies and groups to come together at the Annual Meeting of the Parish. So please make the evening of Monday 23rd May, a date for your diary - more details to follow!

Jan Rees, Chairman, for Slindon Parish Council

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