



**JULY 2025**

**PARISH ROAD /ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Again, a very quiet last two months with little/no work from Hampshire County Council on various highlighted/reported problems.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Thurs. 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025 @7.30pm in All Saints Church.

Reporting any local issue on road, footpaths etc. can now be done via our updated website. <https://farringdonpc.org/>. Hopefully the more instances of you reporting a problem will raise the priority of the job!

**UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS** - The HCC planning application for the continuation of the flood alleviation pipe work/ditch through the rear of the gardens east of the A32 following the Lavant stream route was passed in HCC's favour, however they have said: *"...though Hampshire County Council has powers as Lead Local Flood Authority to construct the final section of works as permitted by the planning permission, it is acknowledged this would be against the wishes of some landowners and the parish council. This final section of works will not therefore be constructed and an alternative plan to deploy emergency measures as and when the need arises will be implemented instead."*

**LOCAL ROAD/LANE SIGNS** - A village consultation on changes to the incoming/outgoing signs on the A32 is currently being conducted. The aim is to increase the 'Village' identity.

**LOCAL ISSUES WITH ROADS AND LANES**

**MAIN A32 SOUTH to Farringdon crossroads** - Ditches at side of the A32 still require clearing and it is also evident that drainage pipes under side roads are still partially blocked. Responsibility deemed to be with landowners. The A32 resurfacing south of the village is now complete with two small items still to be addressed. Being an "A" road, diversions were via alternative routes such as the A31 and A272. Locally this caused several problems with wrongly placed signage and very large lorries and speeding vehicles using the side lanes; at least one crash in Brightstone lane with hedge and residents wall demolished (when A31 closed).

**KITCOMBE LANE** - No reports of any problems. Monitoring of off road vehicles continues with no recent reports. The drainage system at the edge of Lords Wood is being investigated as to ownership.

**FARRINGDON CROSSROADS (north to the 30mph limit)** Parking near crossroads now improved with local residents now displaying a parking permit. No reports of second-hand vehicles being sold or parked.

**NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT** - The ditches along the A32 are still a problem with litter, rubbish and vegetation in them (big thank you to the residents who did fish out 6 bags worth of rubbish from ditches). Reported to HCC. It appears that the onus is still on the landowners to clear. There is still some uncertainty on ownership of the RHS side ditches as Chawton estate indicate that their deeds do not show this section of land being owned by them. There are still old/broken signs and rubbish near and on the Chawton roundabout. Although reported several times, no action by HCC or contractors even after the “great A31 rubbish clearance”!

**BRIGHTSTONE LANE** - Lane will be closed on JULY 14<sup>th</sup> for 1 day due to Open Reach work. BT Cables are still hanging down along the edge of the lane in Lords Wood. There will also be traffic lights (exact location not yet known): 4-6 August for HCC Gully clearance. An attempt to cut the verges (assumed by HCC) did not resolve the problem of the hedge growth which is making the lane very narrow--- beware !! The ownership of the various parcels of land associated with Lords Wood is still being investigated. Apparently planning has visited one site and are allowing certain aspects of the site including sighting of caravans and large metal containers etc. Planning are however requesting a formal application for a new site entrance which was been added; no application seen yet.

**SHIRNALL HILL** - Drains at Chase view being monitored.

**CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE** - Little or no work at Massey's Folly.

**THE STREET** - The ownership of Stank Lane was investigated but came to no conclusion at this time. Locally landowners are responsible for side hedges whilst HCC maintains bridleway to 2.5m.

**CROWS LANE** - Drainage problem assumed now resolved (Signs still waiting to be collected)

**GASTON LANE** - Gaston Lane (Caker stream bridge) still **CLOSED** until 1<sup>st</sup> Nov for bridge repair. If the planned solar farm application is passed then during the site construction, they are proposing that this lane will become one way with Hall Lane also one way. Planning meeting for this application is this Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 7pm All Saints. Water leak reported – works scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**HALL LANE** - SE Water are due to repair leak – road will be closed 7-11 July. Hedges are growing so be careful when using this lane; some potholes do exist. Solar farm application for fields adjacent this lane and Gaston Lane now are being discussed. The SDNP sign at the junction of Hall Lane and the B3006 has been reported as a sightline obstruction. The left hand junction sign on the B3006 still not replaced after 2 years but has been highlighted yet again to HCC.

**FOOTPATHS AND HEDGES** - All paths and bridleways are being monitored; most are passable. HCC Rights of Way did list 6 paths within the parish and were on the cutting list for previous years, although not a lot of work was carried out. The Parish Council has heard that HCC are no longer engaging local contractors to cut hedges. Locally there are Ranger volunteers doing this job—we wait for an update.

All hedges and overhanging trees to be cut back from the road, lane edges and those bordering any footpaths and bridleways. Rights of Way may only cut footpaths to 1.50m and bridleways to 2.50m width. We believe that the Byways Open To all Traffic (B.O.A.T)'s are still under HCC control).

Problems can be reported to myself [David.williams@farringdonpc.org](mailto:David.williams@farringdonpc.org) or directly to Rights of Way website.

**LOWER PLAYING FIELD, PLAY GROUND** - The hedge/trees adjoining the A32 are being looked at in terms of height and width reduction.

It is proposed that the zip wire be replaced (due to costs associated with it) with several pieces of new equipment for older children to use and a toddler area installed (in place of the roundabout). We are also awaiting a date for the maintenance of existing equipment.

**COMMUNITY VILLAGE GARDEN** - Garden work by volunteers continues. Adjacent parking, use of passage and access to Right of Way is being monitored. Illegal parking on the Right of Way should be reported to the local authorities directly.

**FLOODING:** Local water table level recorded as 102m AOD (Normal) on July 6th and is falling. Water table level reached a maximum this year of 114.2m AOD on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Meetings at Winchester with the Flood Action Group have now stopped.

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To report footpath problems, use the Parish Website (Report It): <https://farringdonpc.org/>

PLEASE REPORT ANY ROAD/ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO ME [david.williams@farringdonpc.org](mailto:david.williams@farringdonpc.org) or to our Parish Clerk [clerk@farringdonpc.org](mailto:clerk@farringdonpc.org) or via parish website.

Compiled Cllr David Williams