

## **FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL – PARISH REPORT**

### **MAY 2025**

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

**UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS - IN PROGRESS:** 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 and the task must be completed within 3 years. No timescales or clarification of project yet – but PC are awaiting a response from HCC.

**LOCAL ROAD/LANE SIGNS:** HCC have completed the update of road/lane signs in the village.

**ESSO SOUTHAMPTON to LONDON new pipeline:** Locally groundworks look completed with new hedges and fencing added.

**LOCAL ISSUES WITH ROADS AND LANES:** Majority of problems seen within or near the Farringdon Parish are listed in relation to their Road/Lane location and have been reported to HCC/EHDC via their websites.

**MAIN A32 SOUTH to Farringdon crossroads:** Ditches at side of the A32 require clearing and it is also evident that drainage pipes under side roads are still partially blocked. Responsibility deemed to be with landowners.

Future road closure dates: 8 June to 4 July for road resurfacing have been publicised. The proposed closure of the A32 Gosport Road is for carriageway resurfacing, which will include structural repairs along its entire length between the Telephone Exchange buildings just to the north of Kitcombe Lane, south to the village of East Tisted. The dates shown on the map are provisional, and approximately two weeks prior to the start of the works, a further email and letter drop will take place confirming the exact dates. During the works, the road will remain closed 24/7, with access only for residents who live within the limits of the closure. A signed diversion will be in place for all other traffic.

**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):** Various reports of untaxed vehicles being left, sold at the crossroads and in the parking area near crossroads. The Police, EHDC, HCC and DVLA have been approached and we will continue to monitor. The parking area ownership has been established as belonging to the Chase View Housing Association and anyone wishing to park on the site will require a written displayable permit. (please apply to Parish Council if required).

**NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT:** The ditches along the A32 are still a problem with litter, rubbish and vegetation in them (although the Litter Pick managed to collect 7 bags of rubbish from the ditches with a net). Reported to HCC. It appears that the onus is still on the land

owners to clear. There is 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:** Recently the lane was closed for 2 days with a drainage pipe CCTV survey being carried out. According to the operatives, the pipe work is reasonably clear, and the problem solely exists in the lie of the land with the upper side ditches not being cleared. Open Reach partially repaired overhead telephone cables following the fallen trees after last storm but cables are still hanging down along the edge of the lane in Lords Wood.

The ownership of the various parcels of land associated with Lords Wood is 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. (but they will monitor this). Planning are however requesting a formal application for a new site entrance which has been added.

**SHIRNALL HILL:** Drains at Chase View dealt with and are being monitored.

**CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE:** Massey’s Folly work seems very slow with scaffolding still erected at rear and front of the building.

**THE STREET:** Blocked drain and drainage problems still apparent, may need to be reported again. 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:** Road surface and potholes reported and being monitored.

**GASTON LANE:** Gaston Lane (Caker stream bridge) is still **CLOSED** until bridge repaired (by July 2025 apparently). The 3 sets of road signs are being gradually damaged and moved. Fly tipping has taken place near to the old bridge. If the planned solar farm application is passed then during the site construction, this lane will become one way with Hall Lane also one way, with Hall Lane being also one way!

**HALL LANE:** Hedges have been cut improving visibility along lane, some potholes do exist. 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 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 (Cllr. David Williams) or directly to the Rights Of Way website.

**LOWER PLAYING FIELD, PLAY GROUND:** Future work on timber play structures will take place weather permitting. The hedge/trees adjoining the A32 are being looked at in terms of height and width reduction. New “gym” equipment has been added in lower playing field paid for by the Parish council.

**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 - Water table now to normal:** Local water table level recorded as 110.28m AOD on May 1<sup>st</sup> and is falling. Water table level reached a maximum this year of 114.2m AOD on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Flood alleviation plan by HCC for further work along Lavant stream has been passed by planning. Meetings at Winchester with the Flood Action Group have now stopped.

To report footpath problems use the Parish Website <https://farringdonpc.org/>

PLEASE REPORT ANY ROAD/ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO ME  
OR TO ANY PARISH COUNCILLOR, OUR CLERK, OR VIA THE PARISH WEBSITE.

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