

UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS - The HCC planning application for the continuation of the 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, *'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.'* (HCC)

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. There are left over damaged road signs on the roadside.

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 residents now displaying a parking permit. No reports of second-hand vehicles being sold or parked recently.

NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT - The ditches along the A32 are still a problem with litter, rubbish and vegetation in them. Reported to HCC. It appears that the onus is still on the landowners 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. The old/broken signs and rubbish near and on the Chawton roundabout have finally been cleared. There will be an extensive tree cutting exercise (221 being felled and 12 tree stumps being removed) later in the year apparently to remove dying ash trees- dates at present are 30 October to 18th November: This will be achieved with 2-way traffic lights.

BRIGHTSTONE LANE - BT Cables are hanging down along the edge of the lane in Lords Wood following a fallen tree. The cables are currently being held back by ropes attached to tree and cut logs – this has been reported as a dangerous occurrence to SSE who have logged it and will send engineers to sort out. The lane has been cleared of branches, but the verges are still covered. 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. The proposed sawmill prior approval planning was refused – full planning permission will be needed if this is to go ahead.

HCC will close lane soon (traffic lights) to do runoff clearance and hopefully clear, verges, and all of the 22 drains (especially under the old bridge), side ditches and the kerb stones along the edges. There have been several instances of small fly tipping dumps including two boxes of gas bottles! All were reported and most removed by EHDC --thanks.

SHIRNALL HILL - Drains at Chase View entrance being monitored.

CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE - Some work is happening at Massey's Folly. Beware scaffolding.

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 system that exits into Gaston Lane require drains and gulleys to be cleared before winter with increased runoff from fields above Hall Lane may cause local flooding. The drain had collapsed (orange barrier) – works will be scheduled but no time scale as yet. (HCC)

GASTON LANE - still **CLOSED** until Caker stream bridge is repaired. Currently closed till 1st November 2025. If the planned solar farm application is passed then during the site construction, this lane will become partial one way with Hall Lane also on partial one way.

HALL LANE - Water leak on first corner is still running with expected repair in November (provided Gaston Lane closure is lifted). 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 but no action so far. 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 William) or directly to the Rights Of Way website.

PLAYING FIELD & PLAYGROUND - The hedge/trees adjoining the A32 will be trimmed in late October. The playground is currently CLOSED / OUT OF BOUNDS until the 26th September due to installation of new equipment and maintenance. New signage will be placed on playground fence explaining parking is for playground only, no overnight parking and no car sales allowed. A new pedestrian gate was added to allow easy access to the gym equipment. Broken wooden bollards adjacent to the road will be discussed at the September Parish Council meeting.

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 normal: Local water table level recorded as 96m AOD on 18th September is fairly normal. High December, January and February month rainfalls can indicate a possible flood situation.

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 OR TO ANY PARISH COUNCILLOR, OUR CLERK, OR VIA THE PARISH WEBSITE.

Compiled Cllr David Williams