

## MARCH 2025

### FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL'S ROAD /ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND ISSUES IN NEED OF ATTENTION

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

Reporting any local issue on road, footpaths etc. can now be done via our updated website  
<https://www.farringdonpc.org/community/farringdon-parish-council-hampshire-20026/report-it/>

Hopefully the more instances of you reporting a problem will raise the priority of the job!

**UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION ROAD WORKS - IN PROGRESS** - We still await the result of HCC's 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.

**LOCAL ROAD/LANE SIGNS** - HCC have now updated all the signage in the village, however, one sign (Farringdon Business Park) needs to be replaced as there is an arrow and legend on the reverse (!), HCC sorting ASAP.

**ESSO SOUTHAMPTON to LONDON new pipeline** - Locally groundwork looks completed but there may be further work in drier weather.

**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.

**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 Chase Field car park near crossroads. The Police, EHDC, HCC and DVLA have been approached, and we await further action. The car park ownership has been established as belonging to the Housing Association, Farringdon Parish Council are acting on their behalf. A sign has now been erected, with other signs stating no car sales allowed. If any resident wishes to park in the car park overnight, they will need a permit (please apply to Farringdon Parish Council if required). All cars in this car park must have a current MOT and be taxed.

**NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT** - The ditches along the A32 are still a problem with litter, rubbish and vegetation in them. Although again reported to HCC, it appears that the onus is still on the land owners to clear! The Parish Council attended a meeting at Chawton House to discuss potential local flooding with parish representatives from Chawton Parish Council and landowners which raised the issue of the side ditches along the A32. Chawton House (the adjacent landowner) indicated that the ditch is not registered as being on their land and therefore HCC were thought responsible. This needs further clarification. A letter is to be sent to HCC. There are still old/broken signs and rubbish near and on the Chawton roundabout. Although reported several times, no action by HCC or contractors.

**BRIGHTSTONE LANE** - HCC state they provide yearly drain and road clearance by pump lorry and road sweeper. 7 out of 22 drains were cleared recently. A sweeper finally has cleared under the old bridge but was only allowed to work locally to the 30mph limit—this job was well done and took several hours work. 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 the last storm, but cables are still hanging down along the edge of the lane in Lords Wood.

A large metal container has now appeared on the edge of Lord's Wood, and we are trying to establish the ownership of the various parcels of land associated with this area.

We can then report litter, signage and hedge cutting problems directly.

**SHIRNALL HILL** - Drains at Chase view dealt with and are being monitored. Following heavy rain, mud over drain grids have been cleared.

**CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE** - Massey's Folly has undergone some ground clearance work and hopefully building work may resume shortly with scaffolding being erected at rear and front of the building to rectify roofing issues identified. Planning is still waiting for a decision.

**THE STREET** - Blocked drain and drainage problems still apparent, may need to be reported again. The ownership of Stank Lane is being investigated.

**CROWS LANE** - The poor condition of the verges adjacent West view Gardens is being monitored. Road surface potholes reported and being monitored. A repair to a drainage near a drain opposite Westview has still not been completed.

**GASTON LANE** - Gaston Lane (Caker stream bridge) is still **CLOSED** (until April Fool's Day) until bridge repaired. The 3 sets of road signs are being gradually damaged and moved. Fly tipping has taking place near to the old bridge.

**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 six paths within the parish and were on the cutting list for last year, 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 1.5m and bridleways to 2.5m 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 or directly to the Rights of Way website.

**LOWER PLAYING FIELD, PLAY GROUND** - Future work (repairs) on timber play structures will take place weather permitting – we are just waiting for a date. The hedge/trees adjoining the A32 are being looked at in terms of height and width reduction. New fitness equipment for teens to 100+ years, 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; rising slowly)** - Local water table level recorded as 113.80m AOD on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and is rising slowly, approximately 0.1 m/day. We expect a Flood Alert to be issued soon. Meetings at Winchester with the Flood Action Group have now stopped.

Compiled by Cllr David Williams

To report footpath problems use the Parish Website <https://www.farringdonpc.org/community/farringdon-parish-council-hampshire-20026/report-it/>

Please report any road/environmental problems directly to me [david.williams@farringdonpc.org](mailto:david.williams@farringdonpc.org)  
Or to any parish councillor, our clerk, or via the parish website.