

EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCIL STATEMENT 2020-21

QUICK SUMMARY OF YEAR - Chairman Councillor Mitchell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all councillors who have worked hard in their spare time for the community. These roles are voluntary and at times the councillors have to engage in tasks that require the full resolve of a volunteer and for that I thank them for their hard work and dedication. Having 10 councillors is a good thing as it means that more hands can ensure that we do more for East Woodhay.

I would also like to thank our clerk Amy White and our litter warden Patricia Barnes who both work extremely hard for the Parish.

It has not been easy conducting Parish Council business by Zoom, but everyone has made a sterling effort. It is disheartening when their hard work does not achieve the result we were hoping for; it is even more disheartening when they face criticism regarding Parish matters which is not based on fact. I hope that in the next year, our community will recognise that we are all doing our best and will always research hard before embarking on any project within the Parish. If you feel we are not quite getting it right or do not understand what we are doing, then please do make contact with us or even better, come along to one of our meetings.

I am also pleased to welcome our new B&D ward councillor for the new region of Evingar, Graham Falconer. We look forward to working with Graham in the same positive fashion that we have done so with Cllr Clive Sanders for the past 10 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Clive Sanders for his excellent work at B&D Ward Councillor for East Woodhay for the past 10 years. Clive has always been extremely approachable and vigilant for the EW Parish and we have had an excellent ward councillor working for us at borough council level. Clive will be a hard act to follow with his open character and ability to eloquently challenge and have great ideas about how to improve our parish. Thank-you Clive and we wish you a long and happy retirement – especially after having to work a bonus year!

Despite 2020/21 being ‘the lost year’ there have been plenty of things going on in your active Parish Council.

Your East Woodhay Parish Council has completed and participating in many projects. Each Council member will now give an update from their area of responsibility.

AMENITIES – Cllr Rand

The Amenities committee has become more organised with monthly meetings and minutes are published on the Parish Council website. Together with the Parish Clerk, Amy White, the committee consists of Susan Cooper, Paul Hurst, Andrew Watson with Mark Rand as Chair.

The Amenities time is split between projects and ongoing maintenance. The major project in the past year was the installation of the all-weather surface to the permissive path across the Parish Field in April. This enables people to go between the entrance opposite the Surgery to the corner by the Church Hall and Infants School (known locally as Brownies Corner) throughout the year, thus avoiding the busy roads of Church Road and Trade Street where there are no footpaths. The team

were delighted that Paul Davies, the newly appointed head teacher at the recently federated schools of Woolton Hill Juniors and St Thomas Infants formally opened the path. A photo and report were featured in Newbury Weekly News. To enable the path to be also used by wheelchair users, a request has been made to Hampshire Council to drop the kerb at the Brownies Corner end.

Whilst the new path was being laid the opportunity was taken to install an overflow pipe between the ditches near Brownies Corner with the aim to reduce the potential for flooding in that corner at times of high rainfall.

Funding for the path was mainly from a grant given by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and the Parish Council funds. A smaller amount came from an S106 allocation. S106 monies are those which have been allocated for specific community areas following housing developments, for example that at Meadowbrook. The use of the permissive path will be monitored, and the Parish Council retains the right to close it. The hay gathered from the field is used for animal feed. Therefore, dogs must be kept on leads and people are only permitted to walk on the path. An update on the future of the Parish Field, which includes increasing biodiversity can be found on the Parish Council Website.

A key project focus now moves to the Recreation Ground where a boules piste, exercise equipment and benches are planned, mainly using money which has been allocated via the S106 process.

Annual maintenance of Parish Council owned land, which is mainly the two recreation grounds in Woolton Hill and Heath End, was put out to tender, with eight companies submitting quotes. Following a two-stage review, Scofell, who are based in Hampstead Norriss, were awarded the annual contract.

In addition, the Parish Lengthsman continues to undertake maintenance work on an as requested basis and also necessary repairs have been made during the year to the playgrounds, the boardwalk, the Woolton Hill tennis court and in the recreation grounds.

Thanks, should be recorded to Sean Early who leases the Parish Field for all the hard work he has put in with its maintenance, especially in keeping the ditches clear.

UTILITIES- Cllr Jarvis

Despite the very strange nature of the past year we have at least been spared any serious problems with utilities. The electricity and water has generally flowed as required. There have been minor short term electricity supply problems which have been sorted out quickly by SSE. The network upgrading has largely been finished and is already showing itself to be increasingly robust.

Broadband supply is largely adequate in most of the parish but there is currently an initiative to enhance this further with a Hampshire CC/Openreach plan and parishioners who want improvements have been asked to register interest with the Parish Clerk.

Mobile coverage across the parish now seems quite good with 4G widely available.

FOOTPATHS- Cllr Watson

Two changes in personnel over the last year have disrupted continuity but have also provided an opportunity to take stock and plan for the future. Apart from the installation of gates at Rookery Farm, activity may appear to have been rather quiet, but work has been going on behind the scenes to explore in particular how best to continue and develop the initiative to replace stiles with gates. This has involved identifying potential suppliers of gates, improving maps so that access points can be more easily identified, and will obviously also involve close liaison and cooperation with relevant landowners. We shall also be partnering with Hampshire County Council in their Parish Partnership Programme (“PPP”), which is expected to be launched shortly, and which will assist us in funding the replacement programme. Covid-19 means that it is difficult to gauge timing, especially in relation to procurement of supplies, but we would hope to make substantial progress before the end of the year.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) - Cllr Hurst

EWPC remain committed to the Neighbourhood Plan. It is regarded by the PC as key planning document that presents a vision for the use and development of land in the Parish. The primary purpose being to help achieve sustainable development over the coming years and in particular influence where and how future developments are carried out. This is especially true with recent housing development pressure being seen across East Woodhay

Last year a draft NP was completed and as part of the normal process, was reviewed with BDBC planning. BDBC recommended a wide number of changes should be made to the document following their recent experience with the Examiner that had reviewed other NPs. This Examiner will review our NP after consultation. Therefore, the NP team agreed these recommended changes. However, before any editing started the pandemic impacted and also a key member of the team left. This resulted in new team members having to be found. Following the recreation of the team, the editing started. The impact of the pandemic has been to slow down the edit significantly as it has had to be carried out over Zoom. All the members of the team remain volunteers.

The redrafted NP is now complete and will be resubmitted to BDBC imminently for review. In parallel detailed planning for consultation and feedback will commence. Once planning is complete the team will communicate the next steps across all the Parish and stakeholders.

Spend for 2021 : £790 for editing services.

Total project spend from start of NP conception to date £11,709

Made up of grants £9,313 (for planning consultation)

EWPC spend £2396 (£1,606 total to 2020 plus this years spend £790). For consultation, meetings and professional editing of draft).

In comparison with other parish NPs the grant amount is typical of the amount requested to get to consultation. All grant funding has been justified and reported back to the provider.

The EWPC spend is much lower and this reflects the voluntary nature of the teams to date.

EMERGENCY PLAN

The Emergency plan was updated and re-submitted to Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council.

The purpose of the plan is to identify the most likely risks to our communities (e.g. the impact of severe weather). It also identifies the most vulnerable groups within our area and determines how any risk might be managed using our local resources, should it arise.

The plan is owned and maintained by assigned members of the three councils and has been distributed to Hampshire CC, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire Service and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council where it forms part of a larger County wide plan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Cllr Mitchell

Summary:

	Actual		Budget		
Income	£	42,125	£	35,218	120%
Expense	£	28,791	£	36,947	78%
Variance	£	13,334			

General Comment on Finances

INCOME : The PC derived its income from the annual Precept and a small amount of rented income. The higher income than budgeted is associated with VAT reclaim from previous year.

EXPENSE : 78% of budget see detail below. Owing to Covid it was difficult to have any major capital expenditure projects in year.

EXPENSE STATEMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (following list not conclusive)

- Normal monthly expenses
- £1,476 Insurance premium (same as last year)
- £1,250 CCTV
- £1,020 Hedge cutting and ditch management
- £1,945 Annual Maintenance
- £1,050 Parish Field tree maintenance
- £927 Kissing Gate & labour
- £607 HALC Affiliation
- £595 Miscellaneous Maintenance (Playground fence repair & tennis court clearance)
- £500 Grant to St Thomas Church
- £465 Neighbourhood Plan
- £440 Audit fees
- £433 Defib batteries and pads
- £380 HALC Training
- £324 Footpaths – materials and labour for 3x Hollington FP gates
- £150 Parish Online subscription
- £150 WH recreation ground bridge removal
- £100 Brownies Corner Maintenance
- £108 Boardwalk repair
- £98 Dropbox subscription

Current Account: The PC current account at the end of the financial year stands at £ £66,392 (LY £53,667) (31st March 2020). £40,000 is held in an interest-bearing account with Redwoods Bank.

S106 Monies

See S106 report section.

PC CHARITY GRANTS IN FY20/21

In the last financial year the PC spent £500 on grants (FY19/20 £1,380) which was 33% of the allocated budget, to the following local organisations:

St Thomas' Church path £500

POLICE UPDATE- Cllr Hurst

Police

A new PCSO joined the Basingstoke Rural West police team this year. He is Andrew Lawes and all East Woodhay Parish is covered within his territory. He replaces Luke Edwards.

At the end of last year a new Assistant Chief Constable, Maggie Blyth, was appointed for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. She is responsible for the rural police team covering our area. She has set out six areas that the rural team will focus on :

- Agriculture and business crime
- Rural isolation
- Game sports and wildlife crime
- Serious and organised crime focusing on farm machinery
- Environmental and heritage crime
- Rural community crime and road safety

One of the areas of main concern this year for the local police has been the increasing number of thefts of high value "out building" equipment, such as quad bikes, power tools, plant and farm machinery.

They have again reminded residents to keep these buildings secure, to install CCTV where possible and use smart water on valuable contents.

During the pandemic the local police has also seen a rise in trespass and fly tipping. In particular they have noted an increase in the amount of significant littering of the rural area during lockdown.

A local issue that has been raised to the police has been their lack of visibility, especially by the PCSO, in the area. They have put this down to the pressures of policing during the pandemic. However, we have received no commitment to increase visibility during the coming year.

S106 FUNDS and LIF (Local Infrastructure Fund) – Cllr Hurst

S106 Funds

The majority of our S106 funds come from the construction of the Meadowbrook Estate (formally Harwood Paddock). Bloor Homes had to pay a specific amount of money towards improving local infrastructure. This is the S106 funding and the specific areas of expenditure were determined by the original 2014 contract. The money is controlled by BDBC and a strict sign off process has had to be followed by the project managers.

Over the last few years our local project managers, all who are volunteers, have spent time defining the activities to utilise the S106 funds, gaining approval for the projects and managing the implementations. It has been a very productive period with the project managers continuing to successfully deliver the projects for the community.

All of the project managers are to be congratulated on the time and effort they have put into these projects for the community. In particular they continue to build great working relationships with the BDBC Spend Managers, as can be seen from the success of recent LIF requests (three in a single year is a real achievement for the Parish).

The following is a summary of the S106 projects implemented and planned using the S106 funds:

S106 funds of £445,714 spent on the following:

Facilities Refurbishment

Total spend requested, £92,828, split into two areas all funds spent.

East Woodhay Village Hall, £65,000

The project manager was Peter Stanley and the refurbishment is now complete. This has included removing the stage, new lighting, upgrading the car park, new kitchen equipment, new CCTV security, new sound equipment etc. The focus now is utilising this investment to increase the usage of this community facility.

Woolton Hill Church Hall, £27,828

The project manager was John Angle and the refurbishment of the Church Hall is now complete. This has included a complete upgrade of the car park and the entrance area to the Hall. New CCTV security has also been installed and this enabled the Parish Council to upgrade of the Recreation Field CCTV technology.

Sports

Total spend requested £40,895. All funds spent.

Woolton Hill Sports Club (Tennis Club), £18,000.

Project manager was Kendall Gordon. This successfully replaced LED lights for their floodlights in November last year.

Cricket Club requested £10,000.

Project managers were Adrian Batchelor and Dominic Walters. This was used towards a £26,000 project to install new practice nets. The new net area is now being used.

Football Club requested £10,000.

Project manager was Oliver Teece. This was used to purchase an aeration machine for maintenance of the pitch. This is mobile and can be used for other club pitch maintenance.

Please note for the Football and Cricket Clubs, as they have leased land, restrictions applied on the amount of S106 that could be allocated. But they successfully requested the maximum allowed.

Bowls Club requested £2,895.

This was used to fund a new mat and mobile storage and handling trolley, for use in East Woodhay Village Hall. This combined with the upgrade of the Hall will provide a real boost for the club, who are hosted at the facility.

Open Space

Total spend requested £991. Spent.

Project manager was Mark Rand and this was used towards the all weather path across the Parish Field.

Education

The S106 contract generated £311,000 for education. Spent by HCC.

This was for local schools to support any infrastructure required to support the growth in school numbers from the Meadowbrook development.

This funding was received in 2016 by HCC and they have stated it has been spent on capital projects for our local schools.

Planned S106 projects to be completed, with funds of £323,246 not yet spent:

Recreation Areas

Total fund available £28,246. Not spent.

Project manager is Mark Rand. This funding is defined within the S106 contract to be spent on recreational facilities at Woolton Hill Recreation Ground. Projects to use this funding have been defined but were delayed by the pandemic. The outline projects have been approved by the BDBC Spend Manager. The projects are now out for supplier quotations and will need final approval by BDBC. They will go ahead over the summer period.

Local Highways

Total fund available £285,000, allocated to HCC. Not spent.

EWPC took action to ensure these funds will be spent locally. HCC have commenced the technical feasibility work on the proposed projects.

Meadowbrook Housing Development Community Land

Total fund available £10,000. Not spent.

The community land associated with the Meadowbrook Housing development has still not been transferred by Bloor Homes to the PC.

The legal process to handover the community land was originally delayed to the lack of sign off of the development. The development was signed off just at the start of the pandemic. BDBC expected Bloor would then then complete the legal process to handover the community land. However, Bloor Homes furloughed the key people working on the legal handover. This has stalled the legal process and only in the last few weeks has it restarted (unfortunately with a different person being allocated by Bloor to the process, again frustratingly slowing it down). BDBC are hopeful that they can now get Bloor Homes to complete the handover over summer.

S106 funds of £10,000 remains allocated to supporting the planned community orchard once handover is complete.

The overall site remains owned and maintained by Bloor Homes and its contractors. BDBC and the PC are therefore not allowed to make changes to the site.

Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) grants. Total £83,200

Three LIF grants, totalling £83,200 were successfully applied for and awarded by BDBC to the community:

Sports Club awarded £46,000. Not spent

This is towards two projects, the installation of a mini red court to help the introduction of children to tennis and for the connection of the club house to the public sewer network. The mini court will help encourage local children to take up sport and the improvement of drainage will support the continued growth of the club. The projects are out to tender and are planned to progress over summer.

Woolton Hill Church Hall awarded £28,000. Fully spent.

This was towards the improvement of the fabric and facilities of the Hall. The award of grant acknowledged the continued growth in usage of the Hall and its importance to the community.

Parish Council awarded £9,200. Spent.

This was towards the implementation of the all weather path across the Parish Field that has just been completed.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Cllr. Titcomb

It has been another very busy year for the Planning Committee, possibly enhanced by people spending more time at home and thinking about how they might improve or extend their property – perhaps to include a home office or additional accommodation – to accommodate their ‘lock-down induced’ new lifestyle.

Despite the restrictions forced upon us by lock-down, we have continued to hold meetings every two weeks and members of the public have been welcome to join us by Zoom, should they wish to seek guidance or support on any planning matters. The Agenda is published three working days in advance of the meeting and is available on the Parish Council website; for those who do not wish to attend a meeting - whether by Zoom or in person - planning and related matters are readily accessible via the web, with all applications on the BDBC Planning Portal and the EWPC responses to applications available on the Parish website shortly after each meeting.

The Planning Committee now consists of a team of five councillors with the welcome addition of Martin Hainge, joining me (Karen Titcomb) and Andrew Watson, along with longstanding voices of experience from Phil Jarvis and Susan Cooper. Once again special thanks are due to Susan Cooper, whose untiring commitment to the role is appreciated by us all: she continues to complete an excellent job behind the scenes, ensuring that Agendas, Minutes and Responses on planning matters are all accurate and on time.

However, we are conscious that we are volunteers not experts, and will always encourage individuals to make their own submissions to Basingstoke and Deane’s Planning Department, which generally makes final decisions regarding planning matters. We have no power of decision or enforcement and our comments are therefore limited to consideration of the local view on appropriateness of design or impact on the local community or environment. In making decisions relating to this Parish, the input of the Officers at the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is of huge importance.

This year saw the conclusion of the Sungrove Farm application, with the Basingstoke and Deane Development Control Committee voting to support the proposal, despite overwhelming objections from the majority of local parishioners and from the Parish Council. It is both disheartening and disappointing that our collective concerns were ignored. We continue to be concerned about the amount of additional traffic which will inevitably be attracted to the site and the adverse impact the project will have on the AONB and Conservation Area, as well as local residents.

The application to build on land at Hollington Lane, referenced in last year’s report, was again, disappointingly, permitted at Appeal level. This has surprised everyone, as it is for building outside the Settlement Policy Boundary and in the countryside – building for houses which this parish does

not need. Unfortunately, it has opened up the 'flood gates,' with us seeing a number of applications seeking planning to build on an occasional field or plot of land attached to a garden, as well as some applications already declined being taken to Appeal.

As a consequence of all this, we have concluded that we will not be able to support any but the most exceptional applications for the construction of additional, new homes in the Parish, outside the settlement policy boundary. Whilst Basingstoke and Deane have not yet fulfilled their 5 year housing requirement, this Parish has more than fulfilled its quota, as confirmed in last year's Authority Monitoring Report. We have no identified need for additional housing and cannot support the continuing 'urbanisation' of our Parish and the unplanned 'sprawl' into the countryside by which we are presently threatened.

We have also realised we need to work with neighbouring Parishes, who are facing similar threats, to ensure that we protect the green spaces between our hamlets and villages, and that there is no 'joining up' of our hamlets and villages into one mass. This work, and closer liaison with the office of the AONB, will be some of our focus over the forthcoming year. Once the necessary consultations have taken place, we also expect to see the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, which we anticipate will clarify how we as a Parish envisage the planning framework for the foreseeable future.

HIGHWAYS STATEMENT – Cllr Dick

Highways Repair and Maintenance

The various constraints imposed over the past 12 months in response to the Covid 19 pandemic have inevitably resulted in disruption to planned works by Hampshire County Council, which is the responsible authority for the maintenance of our local highways. Nonetheless local issues continue to be reported by EWPC and pursued with appropriate authorities to try to resolve local highways problems where possible.

Of particular note has been the repeated flooding of Woolton Hill Road near the junction with Mount Road at times of moderate to heavy rainfall. Following further communications with HCC Highways a full examination of the possible causes of the problem was undertaken and the principle reason established as being compacted leaf blockage of the kerbside gully drain providing run-off to the ditch adjacent to the BT exchange.

Jetting of the drain culvert was carried out and the system cleaned. Further heavy rainfall in autumn led to the weir kerbs blocking again with leaves which was communicated to Basingstoke and Deane as the agency responsible for sweeping this road. They have advised that it is currently on their programme to be cleaned 4 times a year. Plans were also put in place by HCC to install a new gully in the carriageway alongside one of the weir kerbs uphill from the school to try to stop some of the water running down the hill and to repair the sunken weir kerb opposite Mount Road. HCC Flood and Water Management team were additionally tasked to take on the issue of the private ditch which runs along the Eastern side of Woolton Hill Road and then diverts behind the BT exchange building. Despite some significant rainfall in January/February there has been no appreciable recurrence of the problem.

HCC were also made aware by EWPC of similarly recurring carriageway flooding in Broadlayings and undertook to address this as part of its "Operation Resilience" resurfacing activities.

Potholes, road shoulder degradation, tree overhang, roadside ditch drainage and damages to roadside "signage and furniture" continue to be reported through the HCC Highways reporting systems. This has been followed up with direct contact to Highways Operations Management staff where appropriate, who have proved cooperative and generally willing to assist within the constraints and means available to them.

Traffic Flows

A variety of expressions of concern were received during the year regarding speed, volume and size of traffic along various roads in the Parish.

The specific issue of speed management is reported by a separate EWPC Committee; however parishioner comments relating to the use of the local roads by larger HGV's were brought to the attention both of the HCC Highways department and to the County Councillor for our ward. The year has seen a strange variation of traffic activities as phases of lockdown led to consequent dramatic reductions in passenger car traffic. Conversely passage of larger vehicles along narrow country lanes has been exacerbated by non-local drivers reliant on GPS navigation, a substantial uplift in demand for parcel deliveries and by some local business and construction activities.

Understandable concerns have been raised regarding safety, particularly of pedestrians on roads with minimal verge width; however there is little that can be done to prevent the drivers of duly licensed vehicles from using public highways by whatever route they may feel appropriate, provided they abide by any restrictions displayed. Despite our representations, a presumption of theoretical danger by their so doing is not deemed adequate grounds by the responsible authorities to impose additional legal restrictions on rights of way.

Nonetheless EWPC will continue to raise such highway issues with the responsible authority, either Hampshire County Council or Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council, and we welcome parishioners bringing matters of concern to our attention.

Harwood Paddock S106 Transport Contribution

The EWPC determined in 2019 that part of allocation of the Harwood Paddock S106 Transport Contribution be potentially used to improved vehicle parking in Trade Street to accommodate the conflict of Doctors' Surgery users' vehicles parked on the road leaving insufficient width of carriageway for vehicles to pass through without continued damage to the road edge opposite. This is of particular concern not only as the road is frequently used as a return circuit route by many of those who have delivered their children to the (pre-) schools and thus come into traffic conflict with first appointments at the clinic, but also because it is a designated route for buses which must unavoidably exceed the remaining road width available to them.

The situation has been improved slightly by the reduced footfall at the surgery during the pandemic restrictions, but this is only temporary until such time as normal clinic visit and prescription collections recommence. Provision of plans by HCC has also been delayed not only by the Covid situation, but also by necessary eco-environmental studies with regard to possible alterations to the roadside ditch course. The results of a design feasibility study are yet to be provided to the EWPC for comment as to acceptability for expenditure despite frequent enquiries.

Highways Issues Log

A log of all issues reported to HCC through the EWPC is regularly updated and may be found on the [EWPC website](#).

PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH ON PARISH FIELD - Cllr Rand

The Permissive Footpath across the Parish Field is now in constant use and has been converted into a semi permanent path to the National Trust specification.

The Parish Council reminds users that the use of the path is subject to restrictions and these are posted at each entrance.

DITCHES

The winter of 2020/21 was not a particularly harsh one or wet. However, with the Parish Council's persistence and focus on the problem of ditches and the land owners' and home owners' continued support, the parish ditches are getting more and more functional. New flooding issues around Brownies corner and the BT exchange on Woolton Hill have both been treated and are no longer long-term problems.

The general maintenance work that we have encouraged to happen across Parish certainly is paying off. There are several land owners / householders who have worked hard to ensure their ditches are in good working order and the Parish Council, on behalf of the residents of East Woodhay thank them for this diligence. As always there are some landowners who do nothing.

The PC remind the community of the following rules around ditches and water flow:

1. Every land owner has to accept water from higher land
2. Every land owner is responsible for the passing of water across their property
3. Every land owner is responsible for the ditches and culverts that are on or adjoin their property

Land owners and householders who have not maintained their ditches despite PC requests continue to be socially irresponsible. The PC's view on poor ditch management in a community is the perpetrators are extremely anti-social and their lack of action causes unnecessary harm and is potentially dangerous to their fellow parishioners. The PC we will continue to work on this topic.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures will now, thankfully, revert to normal working practice from the start of May 2021.

EWPC has passed internal audit for 20-21 with minor procedural suggestions for improvement and will be sending paperwork to the external auditors for publication on the website in July. We have just agreed a new policy on unacceptable behaviour to add to our list of policies displayed on our website.

On the website we have a new community engagement page which will be regularly updated with specific projects. Currently you can find out where we are on our Fibre to Premises application and our speeding awareness project.

Highways Speed Report – Cllr Hainge

One of the positive aspects of the last year has been the increase in the number of families and individuals who have taken to walking and riding their bicycles around the Parish and enjoying our beautiful location. With the ongoing improvement in the access of the footpaths around the Parish and the completion of the footpath across the Parish field in Woolton Hill, there has never been a better opportunity to exercise outdoors.

However, in most instances there is a need to access these by walking along the roads for part of the way and given the absence of pavements in many parts of the villages this can be hazardous. Despite the clear 30 mph speed limit signs, there are a small minority of drivers who are ignoring the potential dangers of exceeding the speed limit in these areas. Unfortunately, many are residents who should be fully aware of the need to exercise care with the number of pedestrians (many of whom are children), horse riders and cyclists who are sharing the road with them.

The Parish Council therefore took the decision at the beginning of this year to work with Hampshire County Council and the Safer Roads team to implement “speed calming” measures in the Parish to re-enforce the speed limits which exist and to remind motorists that they should be adhered to.

The plan is to commence with six locations as of July 2021, where excessive speed by motorists has been identified in the Parish. These locations will be monitored to build a picture of the problem. Further sites will be identified to create an annual programme for implementation during the remainder of this year and 2022.

OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR ARE 2021/22 – Chairman : Councillor Mitchell

- Maintain the level of Councillors at 10
- Start a working relationship with new B&D Councillor for Evingar Graham Falconer
- Continue to work with the community and BDBC, ensuring official S106 approval procedures are followed, to deliver the desired spending, by the community, of S106 monies.
- Continue to work with BDBC to gain final sign off of the Meadowbrook development and in holding Bloor Homes accountable for the delivery of the required remedial changes, ensuring residents are informed of progress. (5th year in a row for this goal!) *Remove, signed off in April 2020.*
- Work with BDBC, to help define and follow a legal process to deliver the community land at Meadowbrook, to Parish ownership and then kick off the community orchard project.
- Continue to work with land owners and house owners to ensure there is awareness on ditch maintenance
- Continue to work with landowners to make countryside more accessible to all by removing stiles and replacing (at the PC's cost) the stiles with gates
- Complete the Neighbourhood Plan project through delivery to referendum by the community (5th year in a row for this goal!)
- Work with the community traffic safety team, to bring forward recommended projects to improve road safety in the Parish.
- Commence the improvement of the biodiversity of the Parish Field, working in partnership with the local schools
- Get visibility of the PCSO within the Parish

***** END *****