

## Annual Parish Assembly – 12.5.22

### DRAFT

**CHAIRMAN:** Ron Dark

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

### **MINUTES OF THE SHEET ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY THURSDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 AT 7.00 P.M. AT SHEET VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Ron Dark (in the Chair)	Alan Biddlecombe	Brian Bird
Tony Clear	Robin Forrest	Gail Martin
Chris Wilton		

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Terry Norton, DPCC (speaker)  
Habib Rahman, Chief Constable for East Hampshire  
Russell Oppenheimer (County Councillor)  
Nick Drew (District Councillor)  
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

There were approximately 40 members of public present

APA22/01 **MINUTES – ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021** – The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 had been circulated and were approved and signed.

APA22/02 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** – Cllr. Drew was invited to speak first as he was due to attend another meeting. He introduced himself and explained that his role is to assist Sheet Parish Council and residents and ensure good liaison with EHDC. During the year he has been able to:

- Provide grants for community groups within Sheet parish
- Provide funding for tree planting and green projects
- Initiated liaison meetings with Donna Jones to highlight the issue of motorcycle speed and noise on the local area
- Engaged with Council representatives on planning issues within the parish

He thanked Sheet Parish Councillors for their support and praised them for their commitment over the year

APA22/03 **TERRY NORTON – DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT** – Ron Dark introduced Terry Norton to the meeting. Terry explained that Donna Jones was sorry that she had been unable to attend the meeting but that he was happy to represent her and to give residents a greater understanding of the role of the PCC

He explained that there are over 2 million people living in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, an area which includes Portsmouth, Basingstoke, and Southampton, 2 major ports and 2 national parks. He explained that the role of the PCC is to be the voice of the public and to hold the police to account, with responsibility for the public purse and the police estates.

He set out the nine priorities initiated by Donna Jones, which are to:

- Recruit 600 more police officers by 2033
- Improve police visibility
- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Make it easier to report crime through 101
- Prevent young people from committing crime
- Zero tolerance approach to knife crime
- Crack down on unauthorised encampments
- Improve outcomes for victims
- Target rural crime

He explained that immediate savings had been made from a huge staff restructure and by moving office from a listed building in Winchester to a property in Fareham. These savings will help fund the additional police officers on the streets to make them safer. They are looking at new technology e.g. dictation/voice recording software

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and are working with Government Ministers to introduce body worn cameras to make reporting easier/less time consuming – thereby enabling officers to be out on the streets and not behind a desk.

He said he was happy to take questions and the following points were raised:

- Rural communities feel neglected – local police stations are being closed and there is no local contact – Terry confirmed that tackling rural crime is a priority and noted that a majority of voters are from rural areas - new drone technology is being introduced to deter crime in rural areas. Habib Rahman undertook to ask the local CPSO to contact the Parish Council and arrange to meet.
- Speeding and motorbike noise – this is a big issue for Sheet residents, and it appears that nothing is being done. Terry explained that there has been new investment in average speed cameras for the A272 and A32 and an additional 14 cameras and 8 police/camera vehicles – he urged residents to keep reporting speed issues as these feed into local reports to justify use of resources - areas with the highest incident levels is where the cameras will be deployed.
- Active Travel – A resident asked how 20 mph zones could be introduced in the village? Councillor Oppenheimer, County Councillor, confirmed that HCC are reviewing their policy on 20-mph zones but noted that Traffic Regulation Orders are expensive and require the support of the police, and this has not always been the case in the past. Terry confirmed that Donna has said that the police will not oppose speed reduction Habib Rahman suggested that speed calming measures may be a better solution but that in all cases, evidence of speeding is key to ensure appropriate resources are found to manage the problem. Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that the County Council is working closely with the police in this and other matters.
- How many extra police officers will be deployed in East Hampshire? Terry said that there is no definite number - however, they are looking to open police stations instead of closing them.

Terry Norton and Habib Raman were thanked for attending the meeting and invited to join residents for refreshments.

APA22/04 **ANNUAL REPORT** – After the refreshment break, Sheet Parish Councillors introduced themselves to residents and explained their role on the Council.

Ron Dark, Chairman of Sheet Parish Council, gave an overview of the year but began by explaining that the end of year had been overshadowed by the death of Will Glancy. Will had been one of the driving forces behind the founding of a separate council in Sheet and served on it from the beginning. He was a fount of ideas and energy and committed to the community – he will be deeply missed. This means that there is a vacancy on Sheet Parish Council, and he urged anyone interested in the role to get in touch with Jenny, the Parish Clerk.

He noted that 2020/21 had been dominated by Coronavirus but happily this has now loosened its grip for 21/22 and the parish looks forward to the street party to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June – this event is being joint funded by Sheet Parish Council, EHDC and HCC.

The Chairman went on to set out activity across all areas of parish council responsibility with input from Councillors responsible.

**Planning** - Sheet Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications within the parish and views have been made known on a steady stream of applications – Chris Wilton explained that he takes the lead on these on behalf of the P.C. and he spoke about the 3 proposed larger developments in Sheet – land at Shear Hill (access via Merryfield), Lords Farm and the land behind Pulens Lane – he continues to keep a close eye on these sites. He urged residents concerned about planning issues to get in touch with him.

**Mill Lane** - The sewage issue affecting a few residents of Mill Lane remains unresolved, although the water company has now carried out an extensive survey of the drains and identified a break in one of the sewers upstream – hopefully this will mean that the problem will be fixed in the coming months (before gardens start to flood again). In addition, several residents have been in touch about ownership of the riverbank in Mill Lane after a small part of the land was enclosed. Ron Dark confirmed that the enclosed part of the riverbank is in private ownership and that Sheet Parish Council only owns a small part of the land, where the seat is, and are looking into providing a new access point to the river from their land.

**Church Field** - After a long pause, discussions have resumed about possible provision of car parking behind the Church for community benefit. These discussions are still at an early stage.

**The Old Billiard Room** – This is currently used as a storage facility for the Lion & Unicorn Players – over the years various ideas have been explored for alternative use and Sheet Parish Council are in the early stages of consulting with EHDC about the possibility of a change to residential use, either for income or community benefit.

**Roads and Traffic** – Gail Martin explained that she takes the lead on behalf of the Council in liaising with Hampshire Highways and updated residents on current projects. This is one of the main issues in the parish and her extensive report is attached to the minutes (Appendix 1).

**Speed and Noise** - In respect of the issue of speed and motorcycle noise, Chris Wilton thanked Pulens Lane residents for their input – he will continue to push for more action in this area from the Police & Crime Commissioner, but the first step will be to get measurements to show the level of offense.

**Sheet Common** – Alan Biddlecombe explained that he has responsibility for the Common which is managed for nature as well as people. He is a regular volunteer with the Hampshire Monday Group who have carried out extensive management work on the Common, clearing brambles, footpaths and fallen trees, etc. He noted that there are now far more wildflowers on the Common including bluebells and foxgloves. He also engages regularly with the BMX user group to ensure the track is kept in good condition and in line with regulations.

**Sheet Allotments** – Robin Forrest explained that he has responsibility for the allotments where there are over 100 plots. The allotments have provided a great source of enjoyment for their owners over the last couple of years - and there has been high demand. This year, Steve Elliott, one of the STAA Committee Members has been a great help at the site – helping with plot inspections and small maintenance jobs. One of the biggest concerns is water consumption as there is greater use of polytunnels and greenhouses. The track is also a constant concern – mainly because of the difficulty with access to the site for repairs to be carried out!

**Village Green** – The condition of the Horse Chestnut tree is constantly monitored via regular surveys and pruning, and the grass is regularly raked of leaves. Tony Clear continues to keep the planting area around the Village sign looking fabulous. The village sign has recently been renovated and is back in situ on the Village Green.

**Sheet Recreation Ground** – The play equipment is visually checked fortnightly by Robin Forrest, with quarterly checks being carried out by Elite Play Inspections Ltd (who also monitor the BMX Track). More trees have been planted to provide shade for the young children from the nurseries. This year there have been reports of stag beetles – much to the children’s excitement – so the grass in that area has not been cut.

**Millennium Field** – Tony Clear explained that he looks after the Millennium Field. He reported that the whips planted a year or so ago, are now faring better, as is the community orchard. Wildflowers, including daffodils and snowdrops, are doing well and the Hampshire Monday Group have helped to cut down the dead Ash trees. Sheet School held their annual bonfire and firework event in November which had been a great success.

**Sheet Village Hall** - The Village Hall continues to operate smoothly and is run by a Management Committee comprising Gail Martin and Chris Wilton (and previously Will Glancy). It has progressively re-opened since the 20/21 pandemic, but bookings have not yet recovered to pre-lockdown levels. Gail Martin manages to keep the pots at the front flowering and looking lovely through the year, with Tony Clear looking after the bedding plants.

APM22/05 **FINANCE REPORT 2021/22** – The Chairman reported that the precept cost per household was reduced by 1% per household in 20/21 and is being held steady for 22/23. This maintains Sheet Parish Council’s record of holding constant or indeed lowering the cost to residents every year. He explained that a deficit of £24,000 had been budgeted but, in fact, Sheet P.C. had ended the financial year with a surplus of £12,000 on budget with these exceptions.

- Village Hall – The income of £11.5K was £3K higher than budget because of the uncertainties around Covid. The provision for repair and repainting of the exterior woodwork of £10,000 was not used but the works are taking place now.
- Capital Expenditure – This was well below budget. Road improvements to the London Road end of Village Street cost £9K rather than the £12K budgeted. The works at the Church end of the road, budgeted at £7K have not yet been started by Hampshire Highways. A £10k provision for work on the junction of School Lane and the Farnham Road was not needed as developer’s contributions covered the costs of the revised scheme.

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- Reserves – Funds are at a high level because of the shortfalls in expenditure as above and because there are earmarked reserves, as follows:

£6,270	Deposits held (Allotments and Village Hall)
£50,000	Asset refurbishment
£30,000	Church Field (possible community car park)
£20,000	Old Billiard Room
£27,000	Budgeted capital projects
£47,122	General reserve

- Capital Projects include:

London Road crossing	£10,000
Church end of Village Street	£7,000
Outdoor gym equipment	£10,000

The Annual Return will be made available via the Sheet Parish Council website shortly, or details can be sought via Jenny, the Parish Clerk ([clerk.sheet@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.sheet@parish.hants.gov.uk)).

APM22/06 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** – County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, was welcomed to the meeting – Russell has been County Councillor for 5 years now and Sheet P.C. is grateful to him for his support.

Councillor Oppenheimer’s full report covered the following items:

**Ukraine** – HCC is taking a proactive approach in supporting the people of Ukraine – more information on this can be found on the Ukraine pages of the HCC website at [hants.gov.uk/Ukraine](http://hants.gov.uk/Ukraine)

**Broadband** – Most of East Hampshire has been included in the Government’s £5bn Project Gigavit meaning many residents will get subsidised superfast fibre connection in 2023.

**HCC Finance** – Currently very difficult – largely a result of price increases in the care sector and growing demand in adult and children’s services. Without an improved financial settlement HCC faces very difficult choices.

**Highways** – Russell has nearly completed his first year as Executive member for Highways Operations and said that Highways had fixed 49,462 road defects and resurfaced 336,500 square metres of carriageway in 2021. They also cleared 173,562 drainage assets.

**Walking and Cycling Schemes** – HCC are investing in these through their £500m Capital Programme as well as developing innovative Active Travel schemes.

**Community Funded Initiatives** – Cllr. Oppenheimer said he was pleased that so many parishes have taken advantage of this scheme - including Sheet. The priority usually traffic-calming and these schemes can make a real difference.

**Environmental Issues** – Cllr. Oppenheimer spoke about the impact of climate change and urged anyone interested in doing their bit to help the planet by retrofitting their homes, to get in touch with PeCAN – an organisation that can help and offer advice.

**Grants** – Sheet parish has received HCC funding towards printing costs of the parish newsletter and the Jubilee lunch. Sheet Primary School has also received funding towards an interactive screen for the new library.

Cllr. Oppenheimer was asked about the speeding issue in the parish and said that he was pleased that Pulens Lane has been identified as a problem, and initial plans for speed restriction measures are in the process of being drawn up. The current priorities are the London Road junction/crossing and the Durford crossing – plans for a mini roundabout at the Durford Road crossing had been considered but were not universally supported and concerns had been raised about losing a small part of Petersfield Heath. A consultation process will take place before plans are implemented, so residents will have a chance to have their say. In the meantime, a speed limit reminder sign is to be installed on Pulens Lane which will help slow and monitor traffic. Concerns about speed on the London Road was also raised – Cllr. Oppenheimer said the thought the Council were doing the right thing by considering installation of a pedestrian crossing and better signage, as this would all help to slow traffic as it entered the parish.

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Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Sheet Parish Council website.

### APM22/07 **OPEN FORUM**

- A resident noted that there had been a lot of discussion about the speed of traffic on Pulens Lane and suggested that Farnham Road should also be included in the Parish Council's concern – she said that cars speed up just past the Church going towards Steep Marsh where there are less parked cars. She also reported that cars and vans come down School Lane and, because they can't turn left, are doing a 3-point turn at the Church end of Village Street. Gail Martin said she was unaware of this problem and would liaise with Hampshire Highways about it.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

# **COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHES 2021-22**

As I write this, and as you commence preparations for your Annual Parish Meetings, Hampshire County Council has pivoted amazingly swiftly from pandemic mitigation to refugee preparations. We are working closely with local authority partners, businesses and residents to identify suitable homes for Ukrainians over the coming weeks and months. Hampshire will play a proactive part in supporting the people of Ukraine, as we did for Afghan refugees last year. More information is available on the Ukraine pages of our website at [hants.gov.uk/Ukraine](https://hants.gov.uk/Ukraine)

Over the last two years I was very conscious that working from home was difficult for those still struggling with slow broadband. The good news is that most of East Hampshire has been included in the government's £5bn Project Gigabit. This means that many of us will get a subsidised superfast fibre connection in the second half of 2023. The contracts will be tendered this year and a contractor appointed early next year. I will keep Parish Councils updated on progress with this procurement process in my newsletters.

The Levelling Up White Paper was published on 2 February 2022 and has presented an opportunity for Hampshire. We now have clarity on the models of devolution which will be acceptable to the Government. And it is clear that all areas in England will have a devolution deal by 2030. As we move towards a County Deal, it should mean more powers and more resources for Hampshire's elected politicians, which should translate into better placemaking initiatives and better services for residents.

The financial position at Hampshire County Council is not easy at this time. We have been cutting costs for 12 years now, but we still have an annual budget gap (from 2023) of £92m. This is largely a result of price increases in the care sector and growing demand in adult and children's services. The Government is currently reviewing Local Government Finance and we are lobbying to make sure that Ministers and Civil Servants fully understand the pressures on services. Without an improved financial settlement we will face very difficult choices next year. Hampshire is in a better position than many counties: we still have considerable reserves which enable us to invest in building new schools, expanding existing schools and creating new places for children with special needs.

I have nearly completed my first year as Executive Member for Highways Operations. The pandemic was challenging for the Highways teams and for our contractor Milestone but I am proud that we kept people moving and maintained the roads in good condition. In 2021 Hampshire Highways fixed 49,462 road defects and resurfaced 336,500 square metres of carriageway. We also cleared 173,562 drainage assets. The South saw unprecedented rainfall and flash flooding in 2021 and I am keeping my fingers crossed that 2022 will be more of a normal year for precipitation!

This year Hampshire Highways has brought new innovation to the service; battery-powered vehicles such as an electric excavator, an electric telehandler, a battery-powered plate compactor, as well as new materials such “non-crete” sugar-cane bollards have all contributed to the reduction in our carbon emissions. Significantly, the Highways service opened a new materials recycling facility, based at Micheldever. We won a prestigious Green Apple award for this facility in November. Within 12 months, the Micheldever facility aims to deliver a net reduction in CO2 of around 67,500kg by reducing the use of scarce aggregates, replacing some traditional hot mix asphalts with cold lay materials and reducing the total miles travelled for material supply. The cold recycled road surface uses a fifth of the energy of traditional materials and saves 40 per cent of CO2 emissions.

At Hampshire County Council we are investing in walking and cycling schemes through our £500m Capital Programme, as well as developing innovative Active Travel schemes. “Modal shift” away from private cars has been a priority for us since our climate emergency declaration. Modal shift is also good for air quality and the health and wellbeing of communities. We will shortly be consulting on our new draft Local Transport Plan which puts walking and cycling at the top of the hierarchy – a substantial shift in priorities. I hope communities will support this plan in their responses to the consultation.

On decarbonisation, Hampshire County Council has made substantial progress. We are installing solar panels on 300 schools in a £80m scheme following a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. We have also launched the first Solar Together Campaign in Hampshire – a scheme that offers high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage to help residents generate their own green energy - maximising on bulk buying power to offer competitive prices for the purchase of panels. The County Council is also working with Community Energy South to build a network of community energy projects around the county and has invested in the first Community Energy scheme in Overton.

Additionally, in supporting households to reduce transport emissions, the County Council secured Government funding for the installation of 50 on-street residential electric vehicle charge points (in Winchester and Eastleigh) and, there are plans to extend this. We are also investing in tree-planting with our mission to plant one million trees by 2050. This year we are planting a new woodland to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee as well as thousands of new Highway Trees and School Trees.

With all this activity there is a chance for Hampshire to gain a reputation for being the greenest County in the UK. Parishes can play their part by stimulating local retrofit of homes and I am delighted that some Parish Councillors are engaging with PeCAN on this. If anyone else would like to learn more about retrofit, please do not hesitate to contact me or visit [petersfieldcan.org](http://petersfieldcan.org) . The spike in energy prices makes this the perfect time to reduce those energy bills!

I am really pleased that so many Parishes in Petersfield Hangers have taken advantage of the Community Funded Highways Infrastructure Scheme. I am aware of work completed or underway in Ropley, Sheet, Steep, Froxfield, Liss, Greatham and Hawkley. The priority is usually traffic-calming and these schemes can make a real difference. If anyone would like to learn more about the scheme please visit the website at [www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/sharedexpertise/cfhi-scheme](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/sharedexpertise/cfhi-scheme)

For transparency I always like to use my annual report to share a table of all my County Councillor grants made during the financial year – see below.

### SUMMARY OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANTS AWARDED IN 2021-22

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Amount
Liss Athletic FC	Replacement Floodlights	The floodlights at the clubs were deemed unsafe. The club need to replace them in order to continue training	£500
Sheet Village Community Trust	Printing and distribution of Sheet News	Sheet News is a local six monthly newspaper produced entirely by volunteers and distributed to the 2000+ residents .	£500
Sheet Primary School	Interactive Screen	The funding will be put towards buying an interactive screen for children in our new library.	£1,000
Flat Spaces Foundation	Mobile Hoist	Replace a 24 year old mobile hoist, which is on loan	£375
Liss Parish Council	Traffic Calming	Interactive Speed Indicator Device that will be hung in various locations for traffic calming purposes.	£385
Home-Start Butser	Home-Start Butser	To be able to continue our vital work with local families who are facing unprecedented challenges	£750
Petersfield Musical Festival	Petersfield Musical Festival 2022	Ten concerts in March, involving local choirs, orchestras, bands and schools,	£500
S.O.S from the Kids	S.O.S from the Kids	S.O.S from the Kids write and perform songs as a wake-up call for climate action.	£1,000
Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool	To provide a bin store for the Pool	To provide a bin store outside the swimming pool area	£600
Petersfield Walking Festival	Petersfield Walking Festival	The festival will be a week-long event offering a wide variety of free walks in the local area	£750
Sheet Association	Sheet Village Jubilee Big Lunch	A Jubilee Big Lunch to be held in Village Street, Sheet, followed by games, charity stalls etc.	£450
Hawkley/Priors Dean PCC	Restoration of church bells	Hawkley's church bells are in urgent need of repair & restoration.	£390
Hawkley Parish Hall	Hawkley Playground Renovation	The Village Hall needs to replace the swings and play structures otherwise the playground will be condemned	£800

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year as we continue to build our community infrastructure.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers



## Sheet Parish Annual Parish Assembly May 12 2022

### Roads Report 2021-2022

The Council's main concerns remain safety, traffic speeds, congestion, and parking throughout the Parish: pedestrian crossings, speed on London Rd and Pulens Lane and the Junction where London Rd, Pulens Lane and Inmans Lane meet. Parking in the centre of the village.

This time last year we were in the final stages of our first CFI project (Community Funded Initiative) in which the Council pays for Hampshire Highways to draw up plans for road improvements, and to carry out the works: this time it was the re-design of the School Lane and Farnham Rd junction and the steps. It was our top priority, and proved to be expensive, complicated and protracted partly due to Covid. In the summer it all fell into place. The building work was completed, a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) was carried out to change the traffic flow. In August, the required Audit of the impact of those changes came back positive and this completed the project. I think it is fair to say that the changes have greatly benefited the village community. There has been some follow up work on the blocked drain close to the junction which HH is currently investigating, and the Council had added in grass and hedges to tidy up area.

The other project we were working on at that time also came to a conclusion last summer. This was our effort, again by means of a CFI agreement, to stop large vehicles coming into Village St from top or bottom and getting stuck there. The first plan was rejected after a public consultation as too disfiguring to the village centre, and instead we opted to narrow the London Rd –Village St junction, and add Village Gates and new signing there. We were able to coordinate this with HH's plan to resurface London Rd from the roundabout access to the A3 and the junction with A272 (and which we were not paying for!). This too was completed in August. The impact has been dramatic with a significant drop in the numbers of anguished residents of Village St with damaged cars or houses and equally anguished lorry drivers who can't move up or down.

These two projects come together in the third CFI plan for refashioning the junction of Village St and Farnham Rd near the church. We actually received the plan drawings for this on Friday afternoon. They involve a narrowing of that junction by a small extension of tactile pavements on both sides, which will make it much safer for children to cross, and will deter drivers on the Farnham Rd from entering Village St there. A small Village Gate will warn that the road narrows. It will mean the loss of 2 parking places and local residents most affected will be consulted. Funds for this work have long been allocated as part of the Council's budget, and the arrival of the plans now hopefully means we can finalise this project soon. Details will be posted.

We have 2 new CFI projects in the pipeline to report on. Plans arrived for these on Friday too

Firstly, to build a new Crossing Point; a signaled dropped-pavement pedestrian crossing over the London Rd near the bottom of Village St to give safer access to Sheet Common. During the Covid emergency many more people started to use the Common and it became clear how hazardous crossing that road can be, especially with dogs and children. We are making a great effort to look after the Common and enhance it as a recreational space and we want to reduce the dangers of getting there. We are under no illusions that all danger can be removed: the 50mph is just too fast, even 40mph is too fast and our aim is to see 30mph introduced. That will not be easy, and is not on the immediate horizon, but we believe there are some in HH who are sympathetic to a change. It is possible that with this Sheet initiative to build a signaled crossing we will strengthen our argument to reduce the speed limit. The plan involves a 1.8 metre footpath with tactile paving, and new reflective sleeved amber bollards on both sides. We have a couple of design points to raise with HH before the plan is accepted, and the plans will be posted for public comment in due course.

Secondly, following our discussions around speed on London Rd in recent years, HH have just sent us plans for redrawing road signage along the stretch from Village St up to the roundabout with the A3 access road. This involves some new roadside signs, and the removal or re-location of others, and new markings on the road surface itself. At the Parish Council meeting this week we agreed that we should look closely at the proposals in terms of their immediate impact, and in terms of whether these changes would be redundant when the whole Pulens Rd- Inmans Lane crossing is refashioned following the new funds to become available with the new-build- housing coming soon in the area. Should we wait for that? All these things take a lot of time due to lack of cash at County level, a constant preoccupation of those in HH charged with safety on the roads, and the delays not due to a lack of sympathy or a refusal to agree work needs to be done. There just hasn't been enough money for more than 10 years now. This is why Sheet Council locally has taken advantage of the CFI scheme and got the work done using HH expertise. However, we want to take another look at what is on offer here, to check if the benefits are so immediately overwhelming that we should go ahead, or whether we wait a little longer. We will be posting plans at some point. Watch this space.

In the meantime:

HH Safety Unit has painted new boxes in the Pulens Lane-Inmans Lane crossing space making a very hazardous junction less intimidating. The accident rate has dropped, although they do occur still.

Residents in Pulens Lane have been very active in monitoring speeds and are actively campaigning on social media to reduce speed. Councillor Biddlecombe has been very involved in this. New SID Speed Indicator Devices will be set up soon we hope. As Pulens Lane contains residents in both Sheet and Petersfield, it is nice to see collaboration across boundaries

And Finally...

Issues crop up frequently, and let me just list a few examples to give you an idea of what we are doing.

Mill Lane-the erosion of the bank alongside the allotments and the need to clear the impacted mud and examine the state of the road underneath. We recently held an onsite meeting with a Hampshire official who committed to put these jobs back on their schedule of works. The wholesale resurfacing of the entire lane is still on the books for a later time.

Old Victorian drains along Mill Lane have been cleared several times, and work has been carried out on to clarify who has the responsibility for clearing the drain at the bottom of Village St which floods badly after heavy rain.

Following concerns raised by residents over cracks in Sheet Bridge, HH engineers came out very quickly and were able to testify that these were only surface cracks and not dangerous.

In the summer 3 Councillors walked all the roads in the Parish to identify broken, redundant, or simply dirty road signs, and HH dealt with most of the complaints we raised.

Sheet councilors have played a prominent part in the Hampshire Traffic Noise Pollution Group –more of this anon.

In September Sheet Council expressed support for those Hampshire villages trying to achieve for a 20mph speed limit through out Hampshire at local village level.

## A LAST WORD ABOUT PARKING

This is a perennial issue, which figures in much of what we do. It is not unique to us, as we share the problems with many of the small villages across the country. Inevitably the problem is acute around our Village Green- we have a very popular pub, a nursery school, a Village Hall, residential houses, a Church, passage to Sheet Primary School, and a route up to Steep, or off to Petersfield etc. all crossing the village centre! One has to balance the need for traffic flow, for ease of visiting the centre of the village, of sight-safety for drivers and pedestrians alike. Do residents want no parking allowed at all, with red lines or double lines right around the Green? Do they want a one-way system etc etc. There have been innovative suggestions from residents such as the alternative chicane parking in School Lane, pioneered by the residents and given formal status by HH. The problem is too much traffic, narrow roads and very little space.

Recently a possibility has arisen that a piece of land near to the centre of the Village might be available for use as a rural-type car park. The Council is actively looking into this, and as soon as there is news residents will be consulted.

