

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Winchelsea Beach

Drainage Issues - The public meeting took place on 4th November, Chaired, by our Member of Parliament Amber Rudd, whose office had arranged the meeting. The first time I can remember Special Branch attending a public meeting in the Parish. BBC South East TV sent a camera, but they were asked not to film. This was understandable given the issues that were emerging from Westminster that weekend.

There were considerably fewer people in attendance, than there were for the previous public meeting. Southern Water produced an array of maps and statistics aimed at showing where they have been working on the sewer network, how much they have spent and how they think things have improved.

Southern Water have been trialling a German made system for surveying sewers. This system can identify sources of leaks even if the sewer is fully charged with water. The more usual camera survey system cannot identify leaks in a fully charged sewer pipe.

The weather this Autumn has been unusually dry, and the view was that we will have to wait until the system is tested by a period of more prolonged rainfall. Southern Water are convinced that fewer problems will be experienced in future.

Amber left the meeting with no doubt that a further meeting would be necessary next year to review progress in the light of experience.

If we have learnt anything from this exercise it is that you cannot beat having an M.P. holding High Office. Progress on this issue has been much greater since Amber Rudd became a Cabinet Minister. Suddenly Winchelsea Beach drainage issues became a top priority.

On a related issue the Southern Water representative promised us an answer to the question, if no water from the highway goes into the sewer, why is there a charge for highway drainage on our water bills?

Bus Passenger Shelter

At last, after 13 weeks I have received a response from ESCC about locating the Bus Passenger Shelter at Sea Road. They avoided answering my question, but hopefully the Manufacturers of the shelter have given me the right answer. I hope the Council will now be able to pursue the Snowdon design, with glazing all round. I regret that it will be some time before we receive a licence to erect the shelter. Apparently, the bus company as well as the Highway Authority must agree to the proposal.

Smeaton's Lane

The Small Works Contractor has carried further maintenance work on a section of the Lane. Further works will be required if it is not to revert to a poor state.

Winchelsea.

Traffic Calming – The speed survey has taken place. The Clerk was hoping the results would be received in time for Council to debate it on 13th November. (after my submission deadline) If all goes well the next step is the feasibility study.

Information Boards – The information boards at various locations around the Town have recently been refurbished so hopefully they will be providing information on points of interests for residents and visitors for the next few years.

November Council Meeting

Recommendations from Committees and Working Groups

Council will consider a number of recommendations from the Open Spaces Working Group and the Allotments Committee aimed at improving the condition of the Council's estate. One proposal for Peartree Marsh Allotments is that we should investigate sinking a well like those at Rye Harbour Site, to provide water for the allotments. There used to be a pond when the allotment site was much larger. The cost of providing mains water is prohibitive.

Consultations from Rother District Council.

Decriminalisation of Parking

Rother have asked for views on this issue. They have asked for comments on three issues:-

Do we want them to ask ESCC to introduce decriminalisation of parking across Rother District?

Do we want to enforce just the existing parking restrictions or make changes (which will delay the implementation of the scheme)?

Do we support paying the cost through local taxation or introduce parking charges?

It will be interesting to see what the Council's response is. My initial reaction to the questions was that parking in the area is such a mess that we want it sorted as soon as possible. The issues of making changes or introducing charges are best left for later when we have some experience of operating the system and will have a better idea of what will and what won't work for us. I shall be interested to hear my colleagues' views before deciding how to vote on this.

Public Space Protection Orders

Rother have asked our views on what we would like to see covered in the Parish. The problem with introducing this sort of legislation is that it can be meaningless without proper enforcement, as we know from the parking situation.

Peter Turner

