

## **East Challow Parish Council**

### **District Councillor Report**

I apologise for any glitches in this report. I have been unable to consult my previous report. We were required to transfer our laptops to a new system last week and a number of documents disappeared into the ether. Connecting up to their system backs up documents automatically but despite requests for access I have had no response – I suspect that they are still busy with councillors' laptops!

### **Flooding and Highways**

Flooding remains a major problem. Water levels have not yet gone down far enough for the culvert under the A417 to be inspected. I and our parish councils have contacted Leigh Travers for a meeting but as far as I know we have had no response.

Apart from the A417 at Mellor's and Haynes's in our parish and the back road (Bablake's Farm) in Letcombe Regis the two most difficult stretches of Highways in terms of localised flooding are Court Hill leading down to The Mill in Letcombe Regis and Gramp's Hill and the road down to the cress beds in Letcombe Bassett. I am trying to start a conversation with Highways to ensure that drainage is improved at those sites.

I will be asking a question and supplementary question at the April County Council meeting to try and clarify Highways Strategy. Maintenance of Highways infrastructure is woefully underfunded.

### **SIDs**

Our two SIDs are now in place, although one of the posts is in the incorrect position. I'd like the parish council view on this. Personally, I am happy to leave it where it is, as it seems to be having a positive effect on traffic speed already. I will contact Elan Cité for instructions, downloading data, moving the devices etc.

### **Crest Nicholson**

The Crest officer, Amber Childs, contacted me about the SIDs. She also said that she was in contact with the contractor about covering the "bear trap" drain sump along Main St. I will follow this up again in 2 weeks if nothing has happened.

### **Recycling Talk**

On Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> we had an interesting and useful talk on recycling from the Vale recycling officer. It was a shame that so few residents were there. I will ask for the Powerpoint presentation and will ensure that it is poster on the websites of Challow and the other villages.

### **Sustainable farming in the Vale**

I met Neil Rowe, a retired dairy farmer, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at a Men's Breakfast in Marcham to explore whether farmer clusters could be set up in the Vale in the same way that they are set up in the North Wessex Downs AONB (now called National Landscape) to support sustainable farming in a mutually supportive group. I will be discussing this further with the NFU.

### **20 mph speed limit**

Andy and I met Dickon Green from East Hanney online about how they took forward their application for a 20 mph speed limit through the village and especially on the A338. It was very useful and Andy is going to take this forward.

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