

Chairman's Report 04 May 21

1. **Broadband funding:** In September PPC received a letter from Andrew Griffith MP offering “Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme to boost local broadband speeds”
 - a. PPC selected Openreach ‘demand led’ proposal (no contractual relationship). This required commitment from individual households and businesses to sign up to fttp (supplier agnostic) at unknown cost. The Openreach offer was later updated to include multiple Clapham addresses. 97 signups were required, but we achieved only 65 + 10 businesses by close date. Unfortunately this was insufficient to allow the scheme to be viable.
 - b. I will take an action to follow up with Andrew Griffiths.
 - c. **Communication:** I was contacted by ‘Sussex Local’ who asked why we hadn’t involved them in getting the message out about broadband. I have to admit it didn’t occur to me (or it seems to anyone else) and the monthly frequency of the magazine probably wouldn’t have met our needs – however worth bearing in mind for the future. It seems they intend publishing an edited version of our meeting minutes in the magazine going forwards.
2. **Planning issues**
 - a. **Patching Pond:** SDNPA advised Tree Preservation Order formalised 14-JAN21. Info shared via website and Along The Furlong.
 - i. There has been ongoing activity on the site since. SDNPA advised that they were aware and action was pending.
 - ii. A parishioner was assaulted near the site on 1st April when taking photographs of activity from the public road. Police report made.
 - iii. SDNPA have indicated their intention to update PPC at this meeting.
 - b. **Yard lights:** Comms with WSCC about lighting at the WSCC Highways yard shining into Patching properties. WSCC will adjust them – awaiting confirmation that the situation is resolved,
 - c. **Angmering Raceway:** Ongoing dialogue with Arun DC Environmental Health regarding noise from the racetrack which has increased noticeably in the last 12 months notwithstanding lockdowns. ADC have recommended completion of a noise diary as required. There is a suspicion that they may be in breach of planning approvals.
3. **Parish and Parish Council matters**
 - a. **Remote meetings:** Gov’t have not extended the legislation for remote meetings beyond 7th May. Therefore this meeting brought forwards to avoid need to meet unnecessarily.
 - b. We now have a RFO email address. Added to website
 - c. **Noticeboard repair / replacement:** Not cost effective to repair.
 - i. Roundstone Joinery quote selected (£475+VAT) (Installation £170+VAT). Asked him to refresh the quote, no response so it appears he may have gone out of business. We may need to get some new quotes. There are many suppliers it seems but prices start at around £1500.
 - ii. Village Society agreed £475 funding. PPC to cover VAT/ installation costs /sign writing.
 - iii. Brian Sayers offered to install it previously. We believe that Anne who lives at the Old Laundry has a friend who was a sign writer who may also be able to assist.
 - iv. NOTE: LH door was in danger of falling out so has been screwed shut pending repair / replacement.
 - d. **Xmas tree lights:** Working party will be required later in the year to carry out some maintenance / rework subject to Rob Hogarth approval

Paul Isaacs
Chairman
Patching Parish Council