

St Martha Parish Council

Chairman's Report: PC Meeting Thursday 24 July 2025

Bus services

Can something be done to introduce a direct bus service to and from Cranleigh from Chilworth? *Is there anything the Parish Council can do to try and help bring this about?*

I understand the 32 bus service will be diverted through Bramley next week and in August due to roadworks and will follow the Bramley diversion (as in March) while SGN dig up the Shalford road. A resident said they currently hadn't seen any meaningful publicity about this.

Bridleway 258

I will be checking whether the requested SCC signage has been put in place on this Bridleway, warning cyclists of the dangers of inconsiderate and inappropriate cycling.

Footpath 469

Footpath 469, by the corner of Blacksmith Lane and Halfpenny Lane, has had major maintenance work undertaken and is now much safer for pedestrian. Thanks go to SCC and Councillor Bob Hughes for at last getting this much needed request from the PC achieved.

North Downs Line Steering Group

There is a meeting on the afternoon of 24 July. I will give a quick oral report on anything relevant to this PC which comes up at the meeting and the Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting will be circulated to the Clerk and Parish Councillors.

Telephone Box at Chilworth Station

After considerable work by the PC, I am delighted to say that the public phone box at Chilworth Station is not being removed as it is the last on site and there isn't adequate mobile network coverage to allow for the telephone mechanism to be taken away. BT Network Payphones say, that if the kiosk is ever to be considered for removal again the local authority would be notified and there would be notification in the kiosk. There would be an opportunity then for the PC to apply for adoption.

Dormice at the Gunpowder Mills Site

So far, since putting in boxes to check whether hazel dormice are still at the site, no evidence has been found that they are but there has been evidence of wood mice and a polecat has been spotted.

Consultation on Rural Speed Limits Area 3

A Chilworth resident, emailed Councillor Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, and copied in Sir Jeremy Hunt MP, Councillor Bob Hughes, the SCC Monitoring Officer and myself concerning the recent Consultation on Rural Speed Limits for our area. He wished to express concerns at the legality of the consultation and felt it wasn't in line with the Gunning Principles, which requires that there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration' to the consultation, and that the information must be available, accessible and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response. He didn't think this was achieved. He went on to comment on the lack of sufficient signage for the consultation, no information about expenditure for the project, no risk and accident information, lack of input

from Parish Councils with local knowledge prior to the consultation, and thought that a better use of money would be to look at the A248 junction with Roseacre Gardens and other areas with greater safety priority.

He also mentioned the lack of signage in Sample Oak Lane. This was something I had noticed. The sign was only there for a very short time so I wrote to Steve Telling, SCC Highways Safety Engineer, and he said some signs had been removed but by this time there wasn't sufficient time to replace them. I therefore put up a hand written sign myself in Sample Oak Lane for the last few days of the consultation.

I did note that a number of people were unaware that the consultation was taking place, some were confused as to which lanes were included (not helped by the unwanted removal of signs), and some wondered what it meant in terms of highways signage in the lanes and possible traffic calming in certain places.

The maps available on-line could have been easier to locate and read. With so many lanes included in this consultation it was a challenge for some people to find the ones they were looking for.

Before the consultation, I had wondered whether residents of the lanes involved would be written to with an explanatory note but with the large number of lanes involved that probably wasn't an option.

At the time of writing this report, there has been no response from Councillor Matt Furniss or the Monitory Officer to the concerns raised by the local resident. Any outcomes will be shared with the Clerk and Parish Councillors.