



Established 1894

## Angmering Parish Council

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANGMERING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022 AT THE ANGMERING VILLAGE HALL, KING SUITE

**Present:** Councillors Nikki Hamilton-Street (Chair), Lee Hamilton-Street, Norma Harris, Alan Evans, Rhys Evans, Sylvia Verrinder, David Marsh, John Oldfield, Matthew Want, Renée Hobson, Paul Bicknell and Alison Reigate

**In Attendance:** Katie Herr (Clerk), Tracy Lees (Committee Clerk), WSCC Cllr. Deborah Urquhart, ADC Cllr. Andy Cooper and three members of the public

**Acronym:** Angmering Parish Council – APC; West Sussex County Council – WSCC; Arun District Council – ADC; Angmering Community Land Trust – ACLT; Planning & Infrastructure Committee (formally HTP) – PI; Community, Leisure, Environment & Wellbeing Committee – CLEW; Neighbourhood Plan – NHP; JEAAC - Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee; Sussex & Surrey Association of Local Councils – SSALC; Traffic Regulation Order – TRO. Angmering Flood Alleviation Scheme – AFAS.

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTE NO.	AGENDA POINT	ACTION FOR
1	22/061	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> None.	
2	22/062	<b>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.</b> No declarations were made.	
3	22/063	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the committee from <b>Monday 10 October 2022</b> were agreed by all and signed by the Chair.  Cllr. Marsh commented that his surname had been incorrectly spelt in the minutes, an apology was given.	
4	22/064	<b>INSPECTOR NEIL DURKIN</b> Sadly Inspector Durkan was unable to attend at the last minute but did send in his report which the Chair read out.  He hopes to be able to attend the next meeting to be held on Monday 12 December 2022.	

5 22/065 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Two members of the public wanted to voice their concerns over one of the proposed cable routes for Rampion 2 as this particular proposal would pass through Hammerpot where they live and they had concerns over flooding. Their concerns were read out to the councillors – **see appendix 1**. They finished by asking APC to look into this matter on their behalf.

A discussion then took place including reference being made by Cllr. Verrinder to the Decoy Water System and councillors wanting to offer their support.

The Chair said APC would definitely take this forward and it would be taken to the next PI meeting as well as asking a local drainage expert for his advice.

APC will keep in touch with the members of the public, giving updates when possible and also urged them to submit their own thoughts to the Rampion 2 Consultation.

Cllr. Urquhart commented that this option was not a final decision and asked that their concerns were emailed over to her so she can also feed them back.

Cllr. Cooper echoed what Cllr. Urquhart had said.

Two members of the public left the meeting at 19:47.

6 22/066 THE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA, WHICH WILL INCLUDE SPECIFIC UPDATES ON:

The Clerk talked through her report and no questions were asked. The report can be found within the supporting papers for this meeting on the APC website.

The Clerk also wanted to highlight the new Community Cuppa events and asked all councillors to spread the word that this was happening.

Cllr. R Evans asked about recruitment and how this was going (APC currently have 2 vacancies for Administration Assistants) an update was given.

7 22/067 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr. N Hamilton-Street presented her report for November which can be found in the supporting papers for this meeting on the APC website.

She highlighted the following items:

- APCs questions regarding Planning Processes had been submitted to ADCs Full Council meeting and the response shall be circulated to all councillors.

The Chair believes that in her opinion the response was written by officers and not by councillors. Cllr. N Hamilton-Street will re-submit the question in time for the next meeting and this time it will be addressed to ADC Cllr. Shaun Gunner, Leader of the Council and Conservative Group.

See **appendix 2** for the questions and the responses.

- The Chair attended an event organised by Roger Miles to celebrate 3 young people that were responsible for flag raising/lowering during the Queens Platinum Jubilee. They were presented with signed books.
- She also commented on Remembrance Sunday and how well that had gone with a lot of people attending to pay their respects.

## 8 22/068 REPORT FROM THE WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Urquhart read out her report as follows:

**FLOOD Alleviation SCHEME** – phase 1 to start in the spring. An update has been sent to APC.

It has been proposed by the boundary commission that Angmering & Findon move from the Arundel & South Downs Constituency to the West Worthing one. This means that we will cover 2/3rds of the geography of the new constituency – 85% which is in the National Park, with only 10% of the electorate.

A new interactive **Climate Action Hub** has been launched by West Sussex County Council to provide an online space for people to share their ideas and views on ways to tackle climate change. Actions that individuals, households, and communities can be added to the Ideas Bank, and people can start conversations on the Discussion Forum on issues such as electric vehicles, recycling, biodiversity, and food waste.

### **Support with the cost of living**

Working with district and borough councils and charities, WSCC will get help to those most in need, using the £4.8 million Household Support Fund from government, to provide a package of financial and practical assistance this winter.

Our Community Hub continues to offer direct support to vulnerable households, providing essentials such as food and supplies, as well as grants to those who are eligible.

We have 36 libraries across the county offering a warm welcome to all visitors. Staff can help and advise people on a range of topics, from money management to energy saving, job seeking and benefits guidance.

On our 'Here to help - Cost of living' webpages, you'll find lots more advice and information about local and national support, including with finances, food, transport, energy, employment and wellbeing.

### **Changes to Community Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)**

TROs are legal orders that support the enforceable restrictions and movements on the public highway. In West Sussex, requests for TROs are received from communities to deal with matters such as speed limits, parking controls and moving offences.

Following a review of how the County Council processes and delivers applications for Community TROs, applications will be considered as they

are submitted rather than once a year. This will allow more TROs to be delivered, more quickly - typically within 7 to 11 months.

It's very important that Community TROs are supported locally, so the County Council has made it a requirement for any applications to evidence support from their County Councillor and Town or Parish Council. You may find you have an increase in residents contacting you about TROs.

### **Announcing changes to the process for reporting road and pavement issues**

From late November 2022 WSCC will be changing the process for reporting road and pavement issues, replacing it with mobile device friendly eforms.

The benefit of the new process is that your reports will be automatically uploaded into our Highways Case Management System and assigned to the right team.

Customers who would normally make reports using Love West Sussex will receive a pop-up message signposting them to the correct eform for the issue being reported.

Other benefits include a more detailed and accurate interactive map to improve location reporting. The map will feature all current reported issues and status for the type of issue you are reporting for example potholes, flooding or overgrown vegetation. Customers can receive status updates by providing their email address.

Questions were then invited but none were asked.

## **9 22/069 REPORT FROM THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Cooper commented on the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and that it did the village proud.

He again said to the members of the public regarding Rampion 2 to please send him a copy of their concerns so he can also do what he can to help.

Regarding the boundary issues that Cllr. Urquhart had already spoken about he stated that he fully supported what she had said and will be voicing his opinion.

He advised that the Advisory Groups had been re-instated and gave examples of what he wanted to see discussed.

Finally he mentioned the Palmer Road footpath access and would see what could be done.

Questions were then invited but none were asked.

**At this point item 17 Suggested Boundary Changes was brought up the agenda so both Cllrs. Cooper and Urquhart could be part of the conversation. Please see item 17 for the minute.**

**10 22/070 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chair confirmed that the review of the current plan was still on hold.

**11 22/071 ANGMERING FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME UPDATE**

Notes from a recent meeting had been sent to all councillors and the Chair talked through the supporting paper outlining what the meeting had highlighted.

A lot depends on the land owners and funding would be needed to take the second phase forward.

**12 22/072 COMMUNITY LAND TRUST UPDATE**

The Directors of the ACLT were invited to attend todays meeting but had declined the invitation.

The Chair reported that the ACLT had taken the decision to “mothball” the site in Mayflower Way until it is possible to continue. Increasing costs were cited as the reason for this.

A discussion around APC taking the land back was briefly discussed but the land does not belong to APC, so this was not an option at this time. The Chair made comment that at this point this was more of an update on the situation as it stands today.

It was agreed that an email would be written from APC to the ACLT. The Clerk will compose the letter which would be sent to all councillors for comment prior to sending.

Action: Email to be composed, agreed and then sent to the ACLT.

**KH**

**13 22/073 GENERAL RISK REGISTER AND FINANCIAL RISK REGISTER**

The Chair reported that this had been taken to the Governance & Oversight meeting and what had been amended.

No questions were asked.

**14 22/074 RECORDING MEETING POLICY**

The Chair explained what this policy was about, and no questions were asked. Cllr. A Evans commented that he thought that this was a well put together document.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr. Verrinder **PROPOSED** that the updated policy was adopted. Cllr. Want **SECONDED** and **ALL AGREED**.

**15 22/075 PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The Clerk explained that this will form part of what will be submitted for the Local Council Award APC are applying for and gave an overview of what it was.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr. Reigate **PROPOSED** that the updated policy was adopted. Cllr. Harris **SECONDED** and **ALL AGREED**.

The Chair explained what this was which is basically the culture in which APC should operate. She then read out each point requesting a show of hands if councillors agreed:

- Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role – All agreed
- Our council is committed to training councillors and staff – All agreed
- Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors – All agreed
- Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy (contained in staff handbook) – All agreed
- Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise. – All agreed
- Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens. – All agreed
- Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme – All agreed
- Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate – All agreed

This means that APC have now signed up to the pledge. New councillors will be asked to sign up to this pledge when they join APC.

**This item was brought forward and discussed after item 8.**

The Chair explained the proposal to move Angmering into Worthing West CC from Arundel and Southdowns CC. The review is based on numbers of residents in each constituency and this was a short consultation period with the Clerk needing to respond by Monday 5 December 2022.

A discussion then took place with councillors giving their views and reservations. The point was made that the support we currently have from our MP, Andrew Griffin, would disappear if this was to go ahead.

Cllr. Cooper and Urquhart gave their thoughts and concerns, and a comment was made that ADC would also be looking to reduce the number of councillors over the next few years.

There were several comments around Angmering being semi rural, being mostly made up by the South Downs National Park and the fact that the

number of residents in Angmering was small in comparison to most of the other towns/villages in Worthing West CC and concerned about how much attention Angmering would get.

Cllr A Evans suggested that it would be preferable to push for a reason to stay rather than stress why it would be detrimental if this does happen.

Everyone present agreed that they did not want this to happen and that the Chair and the Clerk would compose a response and will circulate to all councillors for comment.

Action: Response to be composed, agreed and sent out.

NHS/KH

APC will also be meeting Andrew Griffin MP on Friday 18 November 2022 where this will be discussed.

**18 22/078 TRANSPORT SURVEY RESULTS**

A full update has now been given which saw 128 responses which sadly is a very small percentage of the Village. The results will be looked at and added to the relevant agendas, such as PI.

Further discussions regarding the bus routes need to take place.

**19 20/079 PARISH ASSEMBLY GOING FORWARD**

The Chair commented that this meeting must take place in May and the committee needed to agree a format for next year.

The Clerk talked through the paper and a discussion took place, venues and delivering an easy format were talked about. Venue wise the councillors would like to see the event held in St Margaret's Church Hall in 2023 if possible.

After discussion the proposal in the supporting paper was agreed on and therefore will be the format for the 2023 Parish Assembly.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr. Bicknell **PROPOSED** that the format proposed on the supporting paper be adopted. Cllr. Reigate **SECONDED** and **ALL AGREED**.

**20 20/080 INVESTMENTS**

The Chair explained the paper that was to be noted, no questions were asked.

**21 22/081 COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The 2022/2023 budget for Community Grants is £4,000.

6 grants have been awarded so far this year, leaving an available budget of £1,890.00.

No grants have been requested this month and councillors were asked to spread the word that grants were available.

**22 22/082 2022/2023 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The reports were presented, no questions were asked.

Cllr. Reigate signed the reconciliations for October 2022.

23 **22/083 QUESTIONS ON THE ALREADY CIRCULATED NOTES OF MEETINGS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS OR NOTES ON OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED**  
Cllr. A Evans reported on what he had attended and updated the committee on the cycle route project he is part of including how many overgrown paths there seem to be. He also advised a meeting he attended with East Preston and others about solar panels.

24 **22/084 QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING**  
The Planning and Infrastructure Committee – None.  
CLEW Committee – None.  
Governance & Oversight Committee – None.

25 **22/085 TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT MATTERS, FOR INFORMATION ONLY, ARISING SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THIS AGENDA**  
The Chair opened up an invitation to councillors which had been received from the Lavinia Norfolk Centre regarding their Christmas Fair taking place on Thursday 24 November.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee's next meeting will be on **Monday 12 December 2022** at 7:30pm in the King Suite, Angmering Village Hall.

**The meeting concluded at 21.07.**

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date.....

## Appendix 1

### Rampion 2 –Consultation

#### Area 4 Lymminster to Sullington Hill Eastern Route Reasons to oppose focusing on AA19

Question 4A. We strongly oppose the idea of the cable route coming through Hammerpot for ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> reasons A] Flooding B] Access and C] Geology and Land Suitability D] Mains water and field drains.

#### Flooding.

We have been resident at Hammerpot since March 1981 and therefore have extensive experience of flooding both in the fields, our garden and four times into our property.

The north side the A27 at Hammerpot is at the lowest point in the valley which starts at Jewshead Wood (there are two large ponds in the wooded area) and the ditches follow the pond in Seldon Lane, through the woods to Swillage pond and the ditches through to Hammerpot before going through the culverts under the A27 on to Decoy Pond, the Black Ditch and eventually to the River Arun.

When the A27 was upgraded to dual carriageway, the eastbound road was built at a higher level than our lane and the properties "Southview" and "Homeview". Consequently we have experienced flooding in our homes, gardens and extending back into the field behind the Woodmans at the low level in extreme bad weather. The small field between Homeview, and the Woodmans, is also largely underwater at these times. Various measures have been taken by WSCC and Highways England over the years to improve the situation. We have nevertheless been flooded in our homes on four occasions, each time taking months to repair and recover. On the last occasion in 2012 we had to vacate our property as extensive repairs were necessary and it took 12 months before we were back to our normal routine. Since then, although we have not had flooding indoors, we have had several occasions including in the last two years when flood water had been right across the road, our garden underwater, the garage flooded and water lapping at the front door, kept at bay by floodgates.

As we depend so heavily on the drainage system being maintained, and not adversely affected in any way, we do not want the Rampion 2 cable to come through Hammerpot. The shaded area on your plans covers the lane (Hammerpot Back Road), and the verge where the drainage ditches are situated. If any excavation work takes place there, for any reason, it would surely affect our flooding situation at the time of construction and possibly afterwards.

We are also concerned that any of the other sections of cable laying may also affect the drainage downstream from us. When we have had two to three feet of water in our home, it has been noticeable that it begins to drain away exactly when the tide turns at Littlehampton.

#### Access

Turning left into Hammerpot from the A27 is becoming increasingly difficult as drivers behind come so close although we are signalling well in advance. There is no slip road. The lane is narrow and already in a poor state of repair breaking up at the sides. It is used by residents and the businesses at the Woodmans. Given the area you plan to take over for construction covers both the lane and the verge, how are we supposed to gain access to our properties while work is in progress?

You have marked Clay Lane as an access point. This bridleway is in regular use and apart from the initial section is extremely muddy in winter and Spring and is difficult to negotiate. Again this highlighted area is right alongside the drainage ditch.

Are Rampion 2 planning to park their construction vehicles and equipment at Hammerpot and if so Where? What would be the expected useage of heavy construction equipment and vehicles along the lane as it clearly not suitable for anything more than the occasional lorry and commercial vehicle.

### **Geology and Land Suitability**

To the west of Swillage Pond there is a large ditch with a swallow hole which we understand drains into an underground stream to Decoy Pond. In 1995 Highways constructed a deep channel soak away coming across the field from Cottage Rough to link with the swallow hole. In recent years this has become less effective as the farmer has levelled the field and the deep ditch flowing into the swallow hole has not been maintained and cleared out to the standard it was in the mid 1990's.

The land from Patching through to Hammerpot is London clay so does not drain quickly like chalk. When the Environment Agency created an exploratory bore hole in the field north of Southview, where Rampion 2 plan to lay the cable, when it was uncapped in the summer on a fine day and the ground was very dry, the pressure sent the water at least 10-12 metres into the air. This demonstrated that the water table here is very high. We do not feel this is at all a suitable site for the cable to be laid.

If however the cable does go ahead at Hammerpot we are extremely anxious that both during and after the work has taken place, the drainage at Hammerpot should in no way be adversely affected and our properties be more at risk. It is a fine balance in times of sustained heavy rain. We would be concerned that if we find we have additional problems, that Rampion 2 would not take responsibility.

### **Mains Water and Field Drains in field north of Southview.**

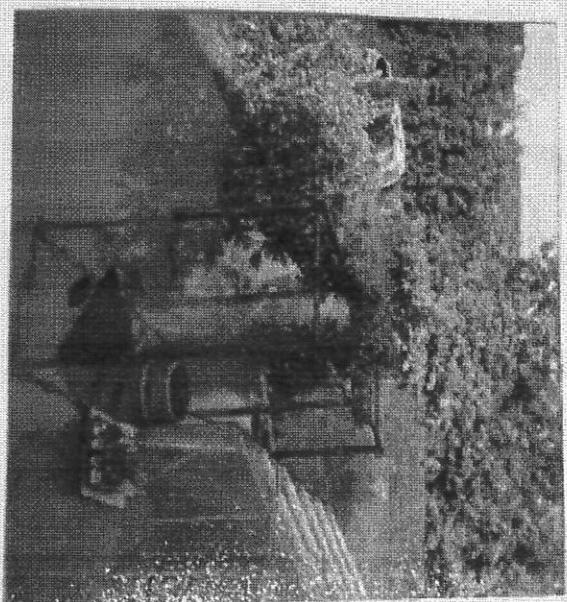
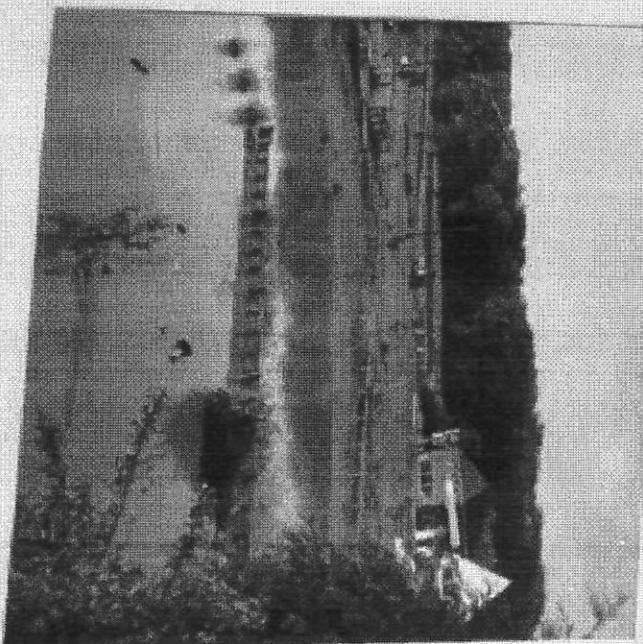
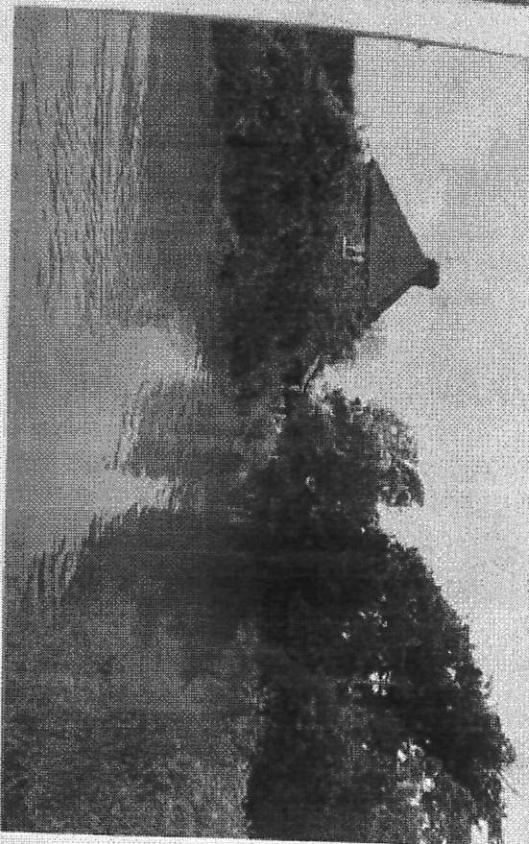
In the grass verge opposite our driveway and garage there is a water mains inspection point and water pipe which goes across the ditch. When this was put in we were told that it was to supply water to Chestnut Tree House in Dover Lane. We do not know further details but this water pipe must cross the field where Rampion are planning to lay the cable.

There is a field drain with a clay outlet pipe. The water flows into the ditch and into the culvert which goes under the A27. The outlet pipe is where you have shaded purple for your access on the map 4A

Peter and Helen Gayler

November 2022

Hannspet Flooding



### **QUESTION NINE**

#### **From Parish Councillor Hamilton-Street to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman**

##### **Question**

After several recent issues, we are compelled to bring these questions directly to you.

We also have the full support of Felpham Parish Council, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council, Jaine Wild - West Sussex County Councillor Felpham, Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council, Slindon Parish Council, Clapham Parish Council, Kingston Parish Council, Walberton Parish Council, Clymping Parish Council, East Preston Parish Council, Aldingbourne Parish Council, Rustington Parish Council and Yapton Parish Council who support the content being asked.

In the last 2 months we can give examples where planning processes have sat with consultants, and not council employees and compliance issues are not being addressed.

We have 2 questions that we would like answered by Cllr Chapman.

How can Arun District Councillors provide suitable reassurance to the above parishes and their residents that the council is effectively holding the Planning Department to account in ensuring that developers are held to the planning applications, conditions and compliance issues? Because the above parishes and their residents know that it is currently not undertaking its duties.

##### **Response**

Thank you for your question. In answering it, it is important to draw a distinction between compliances issues on strategic sites and elsewhere. On the former, the Council has two officers who are in regular contact with the developers to ensure that for example conditions are discharged at the appropriate time and infrastructure is delivered in accordance with the consents. They also follow up issues brought to our attention which might impact upon residents. For example, during the summer the Council was contacted about dust issues at the Fontwell development and the team then engaged with the developers to address this. For non-strategic site matters it has been more challenging because of staff vacancies and subsequent difficulties recruiting. Unfortunately, this is not a situation unique to Arun. All parishes have been advised that the Council has instructed consultants from 1 July to work on the higher priority compliance cases. Compliance issues are being addressed to the best of our ability within the resource constraints that we have. I obviously do not know the details of the two cases you refer to, but I would urge you to contact the Group Head of Planning if you feel that these cases are a priority. Members are fully aware of the difficulties that the Council has with resources in Planning Compliance and I am aware that the Group Head is developing a project to hopefully provide a more long term solution to this problem which will in due course be presented to members but such a solution won't provide a quick fix and therefore it is likely that subject to

appropriate funding being available the Council will need to continue with external support.

## **QUESTION TEN**

### **From Parish Councillor Hamilton-Street to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman**

#### **Question**

How will the Arun District Councillors make it a priority to ensure that Arun residents have an effective planning department, and this is prioritised in a timely manner, so that communities do not continue to be ridden rough shot over by developers doing what they want without any recourse, as has happened in recent weeks?

#### **Response**

Arun Planning Department has to work within the planning system that is set out nationally. As a District Council we have one of the highest levels of required homebuilding across the country and the Council has to work within an exceptionally permissive planning system. I entirely appreciate that many members of the public and Parish Councils will not agree with some decisions made and I share many of these concerns personally. Regrettably, what might be a popular decision to reject a development is rarely a robust decision in the context of the current planning system. It is true that developers are able to secure planning permission in very unpopular locations but that is not a fault of the Planning Department or Council. When we have tried to resist such inappropriate and poor development very recently, we have lost at appeal. The Government has indicated for some time now that it intends to modify the planning system and that might help to address a number of the concerns you and I share but until we know how the system will change it is difficult to identify what pre-emptive actions we should take. Until then we need to continue to encourage those who have permission to proceed at pace and where land has been allocated and we need to continue to work with developers towards the submission of high quality schemes and then secure early delivery.