

SUTTON BENGER PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Notes from PC Meeting on Wednesday 12 February 2013

Public Forum

Main point of discussion was about the flooding in Seagry Road. Cllr Smedley and Jones outlined the discussions at meeting of Redrow, the County Engineer, County Councillor Howard Greenman, local residents and the Environment Agency (EA). From this meeting a number of solutions were put forward and further discussions at county level were continuing. A short term solution is unlikely; however, the Chairman reiterated the PC support of the residents in finding a solution but pointed out that any action and funding needed to be carefully considered to provide a long term answer without moving the problem elsewhere. It was also intimated in the public forum that the EA had written to landowners along the brook asking for them to be cleared. It was thought worthwhile that the PC did the same.

Sewage Overflow in High Street

This is an ongoing problem causing a number of issues for residents. Traffic, particularly heavy vehicles, mean many including children are having to run the gauntlet of being soaked. Wessex Water have been out and tested the overflow water, saying that it does not pose any health risk. They have also done some running repairs to the manholes. With regard to a solution this is weather related at the moment and the sewage system is very old. However the PC acknowledge that with increase in number of houses connected now and in the near future the problem may get worse in future years. The PC will be writing to Wessex Water to ask for clarification on whether work is being planned to remedy the problem and the PC will ensure we keep up the pressure in the coming months. The PC was also concerned that this particular issue was not tackled adequately by the Planning Department during the approval of the 2 major developments within the village and hope that the infrastructure will be capable of supporting a population increase of 25%.

Highways and Transport

A number of promised road repairs in the village did not take place as promised on the 23rd Jan - this is still being chased.

Update on S106 Developer Contribution

Cllr Woodville has continued to pursue details of how S106 money is likely to be spent – the allocation of in excess of £20K towards Public Art when the Village faces serious issues around flooding and sewerage capacity, neither of which will be helped by the 2 major developments is difficult to reconcile and questions decisions taken at a higher level. The PC will continue to apply pressure to try and ensure that the money is spent in the right areas to benefit only the village and not the wider community, such as Chippenham.

The next meeting of Sutton Benger Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 12th March 2014 in the Village Hall, starting at 7.45 pm.