

Report for Parishes and Resident Associations for the month of June for circulation.

I spent a lot of this month in training; I attended 15 training sessions this month in total. I think I spent more time at County Hall than in my own home.

I also attended Boxgrove, Lavant, Chichester City and Westhampnett Parish Councils, Chichester North Ward Public Meeting for the City Council, Singleton and Charlton Annual Parish Meeting, the East Broyle Residents Association AGM, the Summersdale Residents Association and the Madgwick Park Residents Association AGM. I also chaired my first meeting of PROW (there were meant to be two, but the latter was cancelled due to a lack of business, so we had a training session on planning instead) and attended the other committee I'm on (Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee) where we scrutinised the performance of the council's Children, Young People and Learning department.

At Singleton Annual General Meeting, we had a very interesting speech from the director of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum Clare De Bathe, about what the museum has been doing since she took over recently after her 12 years at the Chichester Community Development Trust. I was pleased to hear about the work they're doing with national government and lottery funding to improve accessibility at the museum (for those who are unaware, my father has limited mobility up one side, so disability access is something close to my heart), to bring in audio guides from this autumn and improve signage and information boards, as well as the work they do with home educated children and reduced cost days for people in certain post codes. They're also improving the café to improve the menu and made it so that people don't have to pay for museum entrance to eat at their wonderful café overlooking the lake. I have also been in discussions with Clare about organising a visit to the museum for local children in care, this is now in the early stages. This is an area close to my heart because I work with children in care and I hope to be able to make this a chance for them to have fun and be kids (which is sadly something that is sometimes forgotten about when handling them).

It wasn't just the meetings and training; I have been enjoying the Festival of Chichester (which runs until July 19th and has a lot of interesting events). I also went to the Cathedral's Festival of Flowers, SussexFest on the Cathedral Green, the Midsummer Celebrations at the Weald and Downlands, the Chichester Gala and toured the Rolls-Royce factory at Maudlin. Sadly, my visit to the Highways depot at Drayton has been delayed due to the severe heat.

LGR is still as clear as mud (that's my position, not the county council's), the county council and several West Sussex district council leaders (Chichester, Arun, Horsham and Mid Sussex) have requested the government provide the data they used to justify the government's new footprint for reorganisation that they consulted on, but the government have not provided that data at time of writing. I have asked for permission to release the full letter that the leaders sent, but I haven't received permission from the district leaders yet. The consultation on the proposal that we don't have the underlying data for has now ended without us being able to make an informed decision and we're now waiting for the results, which is believed to be coming out over the next two

months, when the reorganisation part can actually begin ahead of elections to the “shadow” unitary authority/authorities next year.

I wish to correct something in my last report, I misheard something the place team said to me about the scheme to fix the city centre. The York Stone pavers are not being reset, they are instead being replaced entirely to ensure a level surface. The old pavers have been sold onwards to partially finance this. I would like to thank my predecessor who corrected me on this, I am sorry for this mistake, it does mean the scheme is even better value for money than I first thought.

I am aware of a large flood that appeared across Redvins Road, I requested Highways to have a look at that and the severe potholing on Park Lane as well while they were there. Highways will be repairing Park Lane, but Redvins had dried up enough to be passable by the time the Highways marshal arrived, who has asked me to phone them next time. I will try again next time it floods.

On June 8th, I went out on The Street and Stane Street and removed the leaf detritus that was sat on top of several drains and causing localised puddling on the road. I have also reported several blocked drains in the hopes of getting them jetted. These are: On the corner opposite the Old Store by Park Lane (it was so backed up I didn’t even realise there was a drain there at first because it was so covered in grass), one between Oakford Park and Chestnut Lodge on Stane Street, one at the entrance of that gravel lane by the old forge, one just up from the crossroads and the two opposite Ilex, which were flooding the mini roundabout.

Reporting back on actions I took away from the last meeting:

The narrowness of Box-284 (by the Coalyard) – I raised the issue of the overgrowth and the leaning retaining wall of railway sleepers with Highways and Public Right of Way, they have inspected it and will get back to me when they’ve handled the issue of the sleepers and the narrow path.

Stopping Up in Crockerhill – I have spoken to the lawyer who was involved on WSCC’s side, she has told me that she was in negotiations with the Winterton, but stopped receiving correspondence from their lawyer in 2024. If the Winterton wish to continue to resume negotiations, then they can continue. She noted that the Winterton should be absolutely certain that they own the land under the highway, and it would be good idea to ensure the access for the fields beyond the Winterton are legally protected (e.g. by creating a public footpath) to prevent objections.

On the Halnaker Windmill - I have been provided with a timeline of the works, but it’s dependent on the Assets and Improvements Hub, and Capital Asset Board both approving the spending. I have emphasised both to the Member for Finance (Cllr J Davey) and the Executive Director for Finance and Property that this is a matter of local significance, I have been informed I am not allowed to attend because I’m not a member of either committee. I am still trying to find out the dates when I find out whether it has been approved. Should the finances be approved, the offsite works will begin on assembling the sails this July, then the onsite works will begin next summer (likely in June). It will be dependent on the state of the ground as they will need to get heavy equipment up to the top of Halnaker Hill. I will be keeping a close eye on the timeline to see if there’s any sign of slippage.

On Average Speed Cameras, Katy Bourne (the Police and Crime Commissioner) forgot to mention to the Speedwatch team that this is not the first time she has had conversations with WSCC about funding average speed cameras. The issue is that the police have told WSCC that WSCC would have to fund the annual upkeep of the camera, including the administration cost of issuing the fine. Together those are more than the cost of the camera. It might be possible to fund the installation of the cameras via a community highways scheme or the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP), but the £134k annual cost without any associated income (fines go directly to the treasury) is more than WSCC is willing to fund. It would be helpful if information like that could be included next time before I try to find out something she already knows.

I have asked WSCC why Redvins Road was repaved, as someone raised, and they want to know which specific area is being referring to, they repaired a large number of issues on that road recently with the jet patcher, but haven't resurfaced any of it.

A Highways marshal finally agreed with me that The Street is going to need work done, but he did not agree it's an urgent matter. I will continue requesting repairs through every avenue that I can, including when I go to their depot and get to meet the team. Now that I have the support of both parish councils, I have submitted the initial request for the Community Highways scheme for the footpath between Boxgrove and Westhampnett. I have also unofficially discussed it with one of the teams who provides Community Highways Schemes and they agreed it sounds sensible and feasible. I will keep both parishes apprised on any updates.

I also want to add a note to my report to congratulate the wonderful Cllr Clare Apel (LD – Chi West) from Chichester City and District councils, who has been awarded a very well-deserved MBE. Clare is an inspiration for everyone in public service, having served for nearly 40 years as a councillor at City and for just under 30 years at District level for Chichester West. She is also the Chair of the District Council (and likely to be the last ever Chair of the District Council) as well as being a founding trustee of Stonepillow (which I work for when I'm not being a councillor) and until recently the Chair of Chichester Marks Holocaust Memorial Day (who always put on amazing and thought provoking events every year, I attended the very moving "Music Inspired by the European Holocaust" on 24th June). She's also been involved with Chichester Singers, Amnesty, The Oxmarket Gallery and more besides that I likely forgot. Clare's contributions meant that while most people are only cited for one reason for being on the list, she was on there for three "For services to the Voluntary Sector, to Local Government and to Holocaust Education".

In what I think will become a recurring note for my reports, some links for reporting highways issues, it's always faster to report it directly to highways than to me, but feel free to get me involved if Highways don't respond in time: Please report any potholes you find that are over 15cm (about 6 inches for old money, or one standard biro) in diameter and 4cm (about 1.6 inches, or a golf ball/ping-pong ball) in depth to Highways:<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/road-and-cycle-path-faults-including-potholes/>

You can also report a blocked pavements (unless the blockage is a vehicle, then it becomes a police matter) <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an->

[enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/obstructions-on-road-pavement-or-cycle-path/](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/obstructions-on-road-pavement-or-cycle-path/)

Faded Lines or Damaged Signs <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/faded-lines-or-damaged-signs/>

Vegetation issues (including grass growing through pavements) <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/trees-hedges-weeds-and-grass/>

Blocked footpaths, bridleways and G-class

highways: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/>

Street Lights and Traffic Lights: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/streetlights-and-traffic-lights/>

Pavements and Verges: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/pavements-and-verges/>

Yours,

Cllr Jack Lovejoy

Member of West Sussex County Council for Chichester North