

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**LISS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Liss Village Hall. 8 members of the Parish Council and approximately 31 parishioners attended, in addition to the full ensemble of the Liss Band (25 members). Mr Keith Budden, Chair of the Parish Council, presided. Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Smith and District Councillor Roger Mullenger.

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair of Liss Parish Council opened the meeting by welcoming those present. A brief safety announcement followed.

Apologies had been received from LPC councillors Don Jerrard, Paddy Payne, Robert Smith and Karen Tordoff, County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer, Iain Neasom, Liane McDonald, Christopher Dowty and Nigel Perryman.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 had been circulated. These were proposed by Dorothy Collard as a correct record of the meeting and seconded by Gill Elmer with those present in favour.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting or the 2023 Annual Report.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair, Cllr Budden, provided the following report:

The 2023/24 Civic Year has been a busy year, of which more in a moment. As has become the norm, we have published our proposed plan for Parish Council activities for the coming year, which is attached to this report.

**Community Engagement**

The Parish Council is committed to encouraging effective local community engagement, and to developing relationships between the Council, individuals, and voluntary and community groups. The Parish Office continues to be open every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We continue to use the Liss Parish Council Website at [lissparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://lissparishcouncil.gov.uk) to tell the community about the business of the council. The Council has also continued to maintain its social media presence, via Twitter and Facebook and most recently Instagram, to help keep parishioners informed.

Our main consultations this year have been thoughts about the pump track and regarding possible plans for the enhancement of Liss village centre. Cllr Andy Smith will speak about this project later in tonight's meeting.

An important form of engagement with the community is that Parish Councillors serve as representatives on a variety of local bodies, for example, the Newman Collard

Playing Fields Trust, The Triangle Centre, Crossover and the Liss Forest Residents Association. We have also supported the work of the Liss Speedwatch Group, Liss in Bloom and the Liss Men's Shed. Each year we also give funding support to a variety of local initiatives and we would encourage local organisations to submit grant applications if you require additional funding. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

### **New Liss Infrastructure**

Last year I mentioned that we had two major infrastructure projects in the pipeline, one being the new pump track at West Liss Recreation Ground, which was opened in June 2023 and continues to be a very popular addition to our facilities.

The second development is a great example of where we can work in partnership with other village organisations. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Newman Collard Playing Fields being provided by the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust who currently have submitted the relevant planning application. We look forward to seeing this project progress later this year.

Liss Forest has not been forgotten in all of this either; we were able to replace the multi-play unit there in August 2023 and we have plans to replace the remaining items in the fenced play area later in 2024.

### **Facilities**

The Village Hall and the Pavilion both continue to be well used both by community groups and private bookings for parties and events.

Having redecorated the Village Hall last year, Jed has now redecorated our parish office and I must thank Jed for all of his hard work and the excellent results.

Our allotments continue to be very popular with a high occupancy rate and we are undertaking some improvements to enhance the sites.

After a lengthy pause while some legal issues were resolved, we have now completed work on the Mill Road Community Garden which now provides a community space and play area on the green space along Mill Road next to Woodbourne Close. We also have a growing community orchard at Mill Road Community Garden.

The Petanque court continues to be well used at Liss Forest Recreation Ground.

I would like to thank the Men's Shed for their continued help with projects throughout the village.

We continue to work with EHDC on the control of Himalayan Balsam growing along the Riverside Walk and the Riverside Walk Management Plan. A Himalayan Balsam management plan also continued at the Andlers Ash allotment site.

### **Storms Henk and Isha**

Storms Henk and Isha struck Liss with a vengeance earlier this year, causing considerable damage to trees along the Riverside Walk (where experts now agree we had some tornado activity) and also at Newman Collard Park. I would like to thank our officers and councillors for their rapid action in addressing these problems, and to our tree contractors who did a great job of felling damaged trees and branches to ensure everyone could safely continue using both recreational facilities in our village.

### **Roads and Traffic**

Traffic through the village is a continuing concern for residents and the Parish Council has been promoting a number of measures to address concerns.

We are aware that there are continued issues with traffic along Forest Road and Andlers Ash Road and we will work with Hampshire County Council to investigate possible solutions (and their funding) to improve the situation but sadly we don't have a magic wand and so solutions are likely to take a number of years.

### **Village Centre improvements**

We commissioned Hampshire County Council to work up proposals for possible enhancements to the village centre to make it a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. The initial consultations have now concluded and Andy Smith, Chair of our Highways Committee will be updating you more on this later this evening.

It is important to stress that this is only the first step in what will be a major project for the village over the coming years.

While talking about the village centre, I must of course pay tribute to Liss In Bloom. Without their hard work and dedication, our village would not have the numerous floral displays which make it such a pleasant place to be.

### **Planning and Development**

We have continued to provide feedback to the local planning authority, the South Downs National Park, on planning applications across the Parish, and we are pleased that for the majority of decisions our views have been taken into account. Looking ahead to the coming year, we anticipate plans coming forward for some of the other development areas identified in the Liss Neighbourhood Plan, and taking up the planning issues arising from the Village Centre proposals.

### **Changes to Councillors**

I have to start this section with some sad news, Nick Wilson and Phil Deacon both passed away during this year. Both have left very large gaps to fill and are truly missed by councillors and officers.

The elections in May 2023 saw some new faces joining the Parish Council (and the return of a couple of familiar faces), and together with some subsequent co-options, I welcome Ian James, Paddy Payne, Christopher Mort, Robert Smith and Selina Stratford-Tuke to the council and thank them for all of their work this year.

Clayre Williams is my new vice-Chair and Chair of our Finance Committee, Clive Olley is Chair of the Facilities and Charities Committees, Andy Smith continues as Chair of our Highways committee, and I have continued to chair our Planning Committee. I would like to extend my thanks to Sue Halstead and Roger Hargreaves, for agreeing to be co-opted onto committees to help us fulfil our duties as your Parish Council.

### **Parish Council vacancy**

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, so if what you've heard this evening has inspired you to have a go and give us a few hours every month, we would love to have a chat with you. Please speak to either myself, Clayre Williams or Sarah Smith and we can tell you more about it.

### **District Councillors**

We welcome our two new District Councillors, Roger Mullenger and Ian James.

## **County Councillor**

At county level, we have Russell Oppenheimer as our county councillor. I would like to thank Russell for his continued hard work at HCC and his regular appearances at our full council meetings.

## **Running the Council**

The work of the Parish Council is totally dependent on our Parish Clerk, Sarah Smith and the support within the Parish office. The office team consists of Sarah, Rebecca Lawrence our Assistant Clerk, Sandra Humphrey our Responsible Finance Officer and Katrina Burns our Projects Officer. We sadly said farewell to Lizzy Keeling during the year, but we still have contact with Lizzy as she is now working for the Hampshire Forest Partnership, who have provided some of the new trees we have planted around the village.

All of our officers have worked extra hours to keep the Council going and to support initiatives to improve our services and I would like to express my sincere thanks to them for their commitment and enthusiasm and for Sarah's continued steadfast leadership during the year.

They have been supported by Jed Deane, our caretaker for the Village Hall and Julie and Pete Ryan, our caretakers for the Pavilion. Also, Michael Jarman, who will be familiar to many as he litter picks around the village and Paul Knibbs our invaluable groundsman, ably assisted by Jed as Assistant Groundsman. We are very fortunate as a village and I am very fortunate as their Chair to have such an excellent team of councillors and officers, and of course I must also thank the many volunteers who work alongside us to help keep the Parish Council business and projects running.

## **Liss Band**

And finally, we come to Liss Band. We are incredibly fortunate to have Liss Band in the village, they have now been a part of the village community for 50 years and I am very pleased to be able to confirm that they are going to perform a selection of music for us later this evening. We are currently working with Liss Band and other interested parties to pursue their ambition to have a bandstand within the village where they can perform and we hope you will see some real progress on this as we move forward through this year.

So to conclude, another very full year for your Parish Council and thank you for attending this evening.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

## **LISS PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR 2024/25**

The Chair advised that the Action Plan for 24/254 was a draft and would be subject to views of the new Council following the elections in May.

## **During the Council year 2024/25 Liss Parish Council will undertake the following actions:**

- Maintain, improve and promote the use of recreation grounds, open spaces and the Village Hall and Liss Pavilion.
- Comment on all planning applications which fall within or impact on the Parish.
- Represent the views and promote the interests of the parish of Liss, particularly in relation to East Hampshire District Council, the South Downs National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council.
- Engage with the community, including parishioners, local businesses, community groups

and organisations in Liss, including by maintaining an up-to-date website and social media presence in the village, in line with the Community Engagement Policy.

- Listen, investigate and respond to issues identified by the parish of Liss and, if appropriate, to signpost to the correct person/ organisation for resolution/ further progression.
- Work with and support local groups for the improvement of the facilities, environment and social and economic wellbeing in the community.
- Deliver speedy and transparent decisions through full meetings of the Council, supported by appropriate committees and working groups.
- Maintain good financial practices, ensuring transparency and value for money.
- Identify and secure sources of funding to advance LPC priorities.
- Promote training and induction and ongoing support for members of staff and councillors.
- Maintain good governance, including adhering to relevant benchmarks to achieve Quality/Gold Status of the Local Council Award Scheme.
- Fulfil responsibilities as Sole Trustee to three Charities: (West) Liss Recreation Ground (Charity number 301871), Village Hall; (Charity number 301872) and Parish Allotments (Charity number 237190).

Key projects for 2024/2025 include:

- Funding: Deciding priorities for the use of CIL funds allocated directly to Liss Parish Council, drawing on previous and future community engagement, and accessing other sources of investment, including SDNPA CIL.
- Highways priorities:
  - Completing the school zone proposals.
  - Exploring options for highways improvements with HCC using the Community Funded Initiatives Scheme, in particular on Andlers Ash Road and Forest Road.
  - Deploying the two new Speed Indicator Devices (following HCC delivery of necessary infrastructure).
- Facilities priorities:
  - Renovating the children's play area at Liss Forest.
  - Considering further enhancements to the recreation grounds in line with the vision for each site, working with partners as necessary.
  - Undertaking an improvement programme to enhance the allotment sites.
  - Implementing an electronic booking management system for the Village Hall, Pavilion and West Liss football pitch.
- Village Centre Improvement:
  - Consulting on options for enhancement of the village centre with Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.
  - Pursuing funding for the railway platform extension.
- Environmental issues:
  - Contributing to nature recovery through green space projects to enhance biodiversity and protect the environment.
  - Considering the LPC approach to reaching Net Zero by 2050.

## UPDATES ON KEY PROJECTS

### **Village Centre Improvements Project**

Cllr Smith, Chair of the Highways Committee and lead councillor for the project, presented the following information:

- The project's aim is to address issues identified in the Liss Neighbourhood Plan which highlighted the need scope for improvements to the village centre, improving the street scene and tackling traffic management.
- Following approval of the design brief, Hampshire Services were appointed in May 2022 to undertake the Liss Village Centre Project and identify potential improvements to Liss village centre using the Health Streets design methodology <https://www.healthystreets.com/>.
- A public consultation exercise was carried out in summer 2022. Key findings included: traffic issues with the rail crossing blocking traffic flow when the barriers were down with resulting pollution, issues regarding the appearance of the village centre such as lack of green infrastructure, issues regarding poor and illegal parking and perceived issues of anti-social behaviour.
- The full outcome of the consultation process had been published on the LPC website earlier in the day and could be found at [www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk/](http://www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk/) Community Consultation and Engagement / Village Centre Project.
- Concept Design proposals were being finalised by Hampshire Services a public consultation on the designs will be launched in the Spring – with a public meeting where the designs will be on display and where there will be an opportunity to provide feedback will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 18 May.
- Phase 1 of the project is a proposal to extend the London bound platform to accommodate longer trains to prevent them blocking the road and keeping the barrier down longer than necessary. This would in turn unlock other infrastructure and public realm improvements to reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.
- A joint bid with Network Rail and South Western Railway had been submitted to the SDNPA and EHDC to fund the platform extension from CIL.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### **Budget 2023-2024**

The precept for 2023/24 was £254,103. Contributions were made to the Village Hall, West Liss Recreation Ground and Pavilion and the parish allotments. These are all registered charities, which are accounted for separately in accordance with financial regulations.

Estimated expenditure for the year is anticipated to be largely in line with budget.

Local organisations and associations supported by Liss Parish Council grant funding during 2023/24 include:

East Hants Area CAB  
 RVS Luncheon Club  
 Liss Historical Society  
 Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust  
 Rake Village Hall  
 St Mary's Church  
 Liss Community Association (The Triangle)  
 HIOW victim support  
 Home Start Butser

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts and allocations to date are as follows:

#### CIL Funding

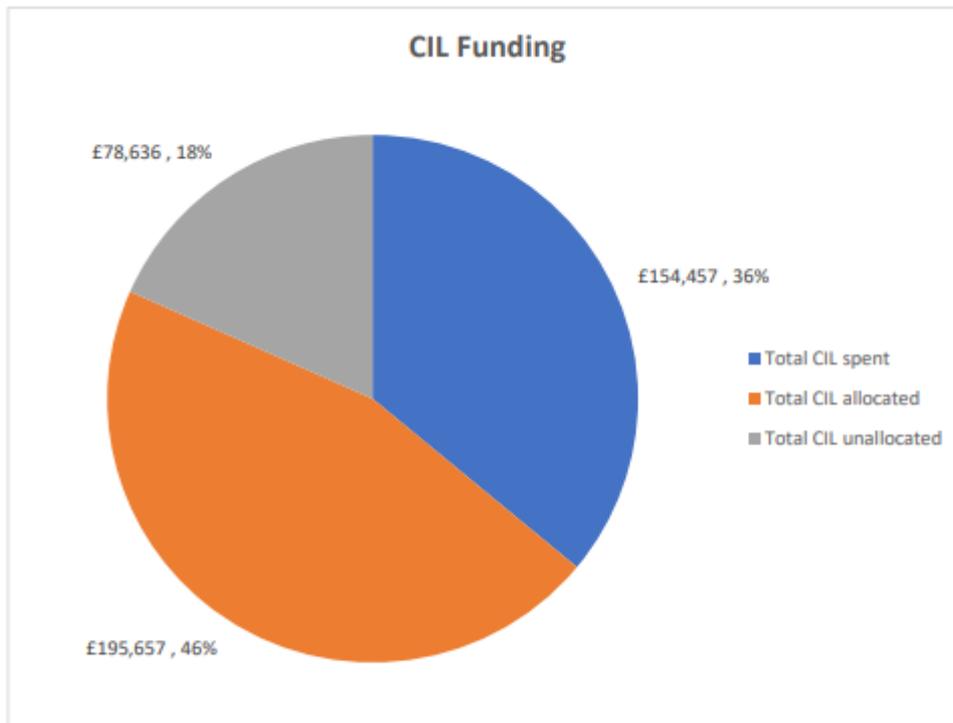
Total CIL received	£ 428,750
Total CIL spent	£ 154,457
Total CIL allocated	£ 195,657
Total CIL unallocated	£ 78,636

#### Spent

Liss pavilion - construction and fit out	£ 6,281
Path to new pentanque terrain	£ 2,970
Watering system for village centre	£ 445
Village Hall building maintenance	£ 5,033
Mill Road Community Garden	£ 6,595
Public notice board - village centre	£ 610
Moveable goal posts - WL and NC	£ 3,776
West Liss play area	£ 25,000
Sports wall at Newman Collard	£ 5,585
Floodlight installation fees	£ 1,151
Crossover	£ 5,206
Pump track installation	£ 59,218
Installation of gym equipment at West Liss	£ 950
Liss Forest recreation ground improvements	£ 30,317
Green space projects	£ 1,320

#### Allocated

MUGA at Newman Collard	£ 50,000
Village centre improvements	£ 120,000
Green space projects	£ 3,680
Crossover	£ 2,294
Liss Forest recreation ground improvements	£ 19,683



Allocations are provisional and any underspend will be released for future projects.

Cllr Williams encouraged local groups to consider making an application for some of the unallocated CIL funding which currently stood at £78,636.

### Budget 2024-2025

Budgeted expenditure for 2024/25 is as follows:

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	% change
<b>Budget:</b>				
Staff cost	127.7	138.3	156.6	12%
Insurance	7.2	8.3	8.7	4%
General administration	14.9	13.9	15.1	8%
Grounds maintenance	30.5	31.9	30.9	-3%
Village Hall running cost	21.6	26.3	27.1	3%
Pavilion running cost	21.1	24.8	25.8	4%
Allotment running cost	0.0	0.7	5.2	87%
Grants to local associations	10.1	10.3	14.5	29%
Pavilion loan servicing	27.5	27.5	27.5	0%
Capital projects and provisions	0.0	10.0	20.0	50%
	260.6	292.0	331.3	12%
<b>Funded by:</b>				
Precept	237.4	254.1	263.6	4%
Interest and other receipts	0.0	0.0	20.0	
Rental incomes	23.2	37.9	43.8	13%
Transfer to/from reserves	0.0	0.0	3.9	
	260.6	292.0	331.3	

Staff costs include all salary, employer's NI and employer's pension cost. Staff costs also include an increase to salaries in accordance with guidelines for public sector pay rates.

Allotment running costs are expected to increase by £4.5k. The increase to these running costs is as a result of a renewed allotment maintenance programme and will be somewhat offset by an expected 13% increase to rental income.

Provision is made for capital works in respect of feasibility studies, replacement play equipment and safety surfacing.

The Council has set a precept of £263.6k for 2024/2025 and the charge per Band D dwelling will therefore be £98.20 compared with £95.11 in 2023/2024. This is an increase of £3.09 or 3.25% per Band D dwelling.

The audit of 2022/23 accounts was carried out in April 2023 by Lightatouch, the independent internal auditor and approved at the Council meeting on 19 June 2023. BDO Legal Law Practitioners, the Council's appointed external auditor, signed the final clearance of the accounts in September 2023.

Cllr Williams concluded by saying how proud she was of the work of the Finance Committee and expressed her thanks to members.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

#### REPORT ON ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS

The Clerk, Sarah Smith, reported the following:

Since the last scheduled Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd March 2023, the Parish Council has met formally a total of 9 times.

Cllrs Budden, Baldwin, A Smith and Williams have attended all 9 meetings.

Cllrs James, Olley and Tordoff have attended 8 out of 9 meetings.

Cllr Jerrard has attended 6 out of 9 meetings.

Cllr Payne has attended 5 out of 9 meetings.

Cllr Wilson attended 3 out of a possible 5 meetings.

Cllr Stratford-Tuke has attended 7 out of a possible 7 meetings since her co-option in June 2023.

Cllr Mort has attended 4 out of a possible 4 meetings since his co-option in October 2023.

Cllr R Smith has attended 3 out of a possible 4 meetings since his co-option in October 2023.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO PARISHES 23-24

Russel Oppenheimer, County Councillor for Petersfield Hangars, had submitted the following report:

### 1. New Growth & Skills Boards

I would like to explain some changes that will be coming into effect on 1 April this year as a result of changes to local government structures.

From next month, HCC will assume the economic development roles previously carried out by the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). Those were the Solent LEP and the Enterprise M3 LEP (within which our area came). The intention of the Government is that these functions will be taken over by a Mayor for Hampshire under a devolution deal by 2030. Until that happens, the staff and cash reserves of the LEPs will come under HCC control.

I see this as very good news because it means we will have more democratic control over the allocation of economic development and regeneration funding. This funding is crucial for sprucing up our towns and villages and promoting active travel.

HCC is already in the process of setting up “Growth and Skills Boards” for each district comprising representatives from business, education and local government. There will also be a single “Place Board” for the whole of Hampshire which will comprise all the Leaders of Districts and Boroughs.

The work of the Growth and Skills Boards will be framed by the Hampshire Economic Strategy and based around themes such as Town Centre Regeneration, Housing Growth, Rural Economy and Skills Retention and Development. These themes and any other local priorities will in due course be discussed and agreed by the new Boards.

I would expect the new Boards to want to engage with Parish and Town Councils as they seek to refine and define their local regeneration and infrastructure priorities.

I am also optimistic that the new Place Board will enable Hampshire to start to build alliances across the region so that we have a powerful voice for the South in regional funding matters.

### 2. Budget update

At our Full Council meeting on 22 February HCC formally approved the budget for 2024/24 with a Council Tax increase of 5%. Nobody wants to raise taxes at a time when the cost of living has risen so much. But with a budget gap of £74m next year it would have been irresponsible for us not to go for the maximum permitted Council Tax increase. To do so would have put services for vulnerable people at risk.

Thanks to prudent management over the last 27 years, HCC has reserves which will allow us to bridge this projected budget gap of £74m.

Hampshire County Council's council tax is among the lowest of any county council in England and we remain as focused as ever on delivering the best possible value for money for Hampshire's taxpayers.

The 5% Council Tax increase will help to generate an extra £39 million towards our overall service delivery costs – in areas like education and learning across hundreds of Hampshire schools, looking after vulnerable children and adults, maintaining over 5,000 miles of roads, libraries, outdoor spaces and country parks, household waste recycling centres, public health, and trading standards.

As you know, HCC is consulting on possible savings from 2025 through the Future Services Consultation. If you have not yet responded to the consultation then you still have time! The consultation closes on 31 March.

### 3. New School Streets policy approved

At our meeting on 6 February the HCC Cabinet approved a new policy around School Streets. This is a scheme which enables the temporary closure of certain roads around the school entrance at drop-off time. The intention is to encourage walking and cycling whilst reducing congestion and pollution. The full report can be read here:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s116625/School%20Streets.pdf>

As a result of the new policy there is now a willingness for HCC to engage with schools and communities who wish to initiate their own School Streets scheme with local funding. The set-up costs are likely to be around £15,000. There are not high ongoing costs because the schemes are run by volunteers. Maintaining that voluntary effort has been a challenge on the pilot schemes and is something to think carefully about.

You will note in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet Report that County Councillor support is one of the criteria required for consideration of a School Street scheme. I can say that I will be likely to be supportive of such schemes as I think they are a very good idea.

I know that all Parish Councils have excellent links with their local schools. If any Parish Council wishes to work with a local school on a School Street scheme, I would direct you to this web page which also includes the link to apply.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/school-streets>

#### 4. New role for HCC in broadband roll-out

HCC has decided to take on a strategic leadership role in the Digital Place strategy with three key themes:

- **Digital Inclusion**, making sure no-one is left behind so that everyone can access services easily.
- **Digital Infrastructure**, although our contract with Openreach is now completed, we will continue supporting BDUK with Project Gigabit and advocating for the final hardest-to-reach rural properties. This may include wireless technologies such as 5G and Satellite broadband.
- **Systems Leadership**, working with industry and other public sector bodies to identify and exploit cutting-edge opportunities for Hampshire.

For those with an interest in these issues you can read the full report at this link:  
<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s116628/Digital%20Hampshire%20Future%20Strategy.pdf>

#### 5. New Local Transport Plan for Hampshire

After four years of gestation, the fourth Local Transport Plan for Hampshire has been formally adopted by Hampshire County Council. You can read the final Plan here:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s116580/Appendix%20-%20Local%20Transport%20Plan.pdf>

As I have mentioned in previous reports, this new plan puts walking and cycling at the top of the hierarchy. It aims to create healthy and prosperous towns and villages.

Proposed schemes for further development are also included in the plan such as the roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, higher quality bus services in urban areas, better quality cycle facilities, changes to our roads to reduce congestion and improvements to high streets and town centres so they are more accessible and safer for shared use by pedestrians, cyclists as well as those pushing prams and those in wheelchairs.

The plan will now have formal status in planning decisions and in highways priorities. It will take some years for the shift to transform our road systems but I would encourage Parish Councils to familiarise themselves with the key points and be ready to challenge HCC to live up to the commitments made in the Plan.

6. Confiscated vapes poised to be sent for destruction

As Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services I am responsible for the Trading Standards department at HCC. I am pleased that our crackdown on vaping over the last 12 months has been effective. Over £300,000 of illegal vapes have been seized from vape shops. I visited the Trading Standards secure office recently where there are about 25 cabinets of confiscated vape bags like this one.



Disposing of these vapes responsibly is a challenge. They cannot be sent to incineration because they contain batteries. It would be wrong to send them to landfill as it would cause contamination. So we need to employ a specialist contractor to take them apart. This is a very frustrating problem to have and I look forward to a time when we have less vaping in society and better compliance by retailers. Nobody knows what the long term health effects of vaping will be. I am glad that the Government is going to ban coloured and flavoured vapes.

7. Grants awarded during 2023/24

I am in the habit of publishing my grants list for the year once the grant round has closed for the sake of transparency. I always make efforts to spread the grants around the Petersfield Hangers Division. Here is my list for the year which has now ended.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant</b>
King George V Memorial Hall (Froxfield Village Hall)	Main Hall floor refurbishment	1000

Froxfield and Privett Parish Council	Parish Verge Cutting	1000
Petersfield Shakespeare Festival	Petersfield Shakespeare Festival 2023: Twelfth Night (Accessibility)	800
Ropley Parish Council	Improving access to Ropley footpaths	900
Petersfield Youth Theatre	'Summer Fun' and 'Show in a Week'	600
STEEP FILM SOCIETY IN MEMORY OF SIR ALEC GUINNESS	Installation of Induction Loop, Public Address System and professional tuning of sound output	500
Steep and Stroud Newsletter (a part of Steep PCC)	Keeping Communities Informed and Engaged	500
Petersfield Musical Festival	Petersfield Musical Festival 2024	500
Petersfield Community Land Trust	Reservoir Lane Self and Custom Build	1000
Friends of Sheet School	Laptops for school	1000
Home-Start Butser	Home-Start Butser Safeguarding Training	200

The new grant round for the year 2024/25 opens in June 2024 and I am always happy to discuss potential applications.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

#### UPDATE ON EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Ian James presented the following report:

##### **Monthly district councillor surgeries**

These were being held on the first Saturday of each month at the Triangle. The majority of issues raised were for the County Council and so the District Councillors were working closely with County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer.

##### **Grant allocation**

Sums had been awarded to the Triangle, Liss In Bloom, LPC for pump track signage, the Future Energy Landscape Project for a Community Power Scheme and Liss Tennis Club for the Village Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

The new funding pot would be open from 1<sup>st</sup> April and so Cllr James encouraged applicants.

### **Riverside Walk Management Plan**

This was a key issue for Cllr James as he was keen to ensure that the Riverside Walk was being managed again. The Plan had recently been published on the EHDC website.

### **Parking issues**

Another area of interest for Cllr James following multiple reports of inappropriate or illegal parking in the village. He had helped persuade HCC to increase parking enforcement controls.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

District Councillor Roger Mullenger presented the following report:

**Ten months as a new district councillor** After a lot of inductions, training and meetings I feel that I am now in the position to be effective as your district councillor. I have found it very interesting although somewhat diary destroying.

### **Councillor grants**

I used up all my councillor £4,500 grant pot on 10 projects during the year of which more than £1,000 was spent on environmental related projects.

NCPFT -Wildflower Planting (environmental pot) - £487

Petersfield Youth Theatre Workshop - £250

The Secret WW2 Learning Network Signboard - £326

Spirit of Music Performance - £500

LPC Pump track signage - £500

Triangle Beer Festival - £525

Liss Tennis Club Village Day - £500

LPC Mill Road Community Garden orchard sign & water butt stand environmental pot -£150

Energise - Local energy - (in part from environmental pot) - £700

Liss Community Association (The Triangle) - New sink - £513

This year I will only have £3,500. The other £1,000 will be in a separate environmental pot, but the process for accessing it is yet known.

### **Surgeries**

Ian James & I have run a two-hour surgery on the first Saturday each month. Some months have been quiet, others busy, but it has enabled us to pick up casework and to pass on information, especially as all the levels of government are complicated.

### **Casework**

I have tried to deal with all casework and have managed to successfully get answers to many problems. Plenty relate to Hampshire County Council issues, but the process on those is slow, although parking seems to be moving along. Planning I have reviewed all planning applications for Liss, making comments where I believe that the results will be particularly adverse or beneficial. In the case of tree work I comment as to whether I believe the work is necessary. It is frustrating when people move into a house and immediately want trees felled or severely pruned.

### **EHDC business**

The budget was set this year at a 3.5% increase. I am on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Audit committee which gives me a very good overview of policies and finance. Some of the papers I read are confidential so unfortunately, I cannot pass that on.

No queries were raised from parishioners.

### PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made:

**Racheal Barber** was awarded the title of Villager of the Year 2024 for her outstanding contribution to bell ringing in Liss.

**Gill and Bob Elmer** received a commendation following their nomination for the Villager of the Year Award 2024 for fundraising for the Rosemary Foundation.

**Brenda** received a commendation following her nomination for the Villager of the Year Award 2024 for village planting in Liss outside the Triangle.

**Chris Pashby-Taylor** received a commendation following her nomination for the Villager of the Year Award 2024 for her your services to the Liss Forest Residents' Association and Liss Forest.

**Trish Stemp** received a commendation following her nomination for the Villager of the Year Award 2024 for all the voluntary work she does within the village.

**Howard Linsley** received a commendation for his extensive service as Councillor to Liss Parish Council for over a quarter of a century until 2023 and Chair to Liss Parish Council, 2010-2013. In accepting his certificate. Howard encouraged members of the public to get involved in the parish council as the role was rewarding and fulfilling.

**Roger Hargreaves** received a commendation for his for his significant contribution during his service as Councillor of Liss Parish Council, 2014-2023 and Chair to Liss Parish Council, 2017-2021.

**Kitti Krizsan** of Plot 14A Lower Green was congratulated for achieving a complete transformation of the plot through a lot of hard work during a short period of time.

The following awards were announced although the receipt was not present (certificates would be forwarded to them):

**Christopher Dowty** had received a commendation following his nomination for the Villager of the Year Award 2024 for all the voluntary work he does within the village (he was not present to accept the certificate).

**Liane McDonald** had received a commendation for her service as Councillor to Liss Parish Council, 2016-2023.

**Richard Baker** had received a commendation for his service as Councillor to Liss Parish Council, 2021-2023.

**Nigel Perryman** of Plot 10B2 Lower Green had been recognised for his assistance to LPC in making improvements at the site.

Lastly, **Liss Band** was awarded a commendation in recognition of 50 years, 1974-2024, and for outstanding contribution to Liss.

#### MEETING CLOSURE

The formal meeting was closed and Liss band played a short concert which was followed by refreshments.