

Dear Neighbours,

This newsletter has some urgency about it due to the impending closure of Crossways Road.

Crossways Road Closure from 12th November

I learned on Saturday that Hampshire County Council plan to close Crossways Road for resurfacing. I admit to being rather unhappy about this and so I thought I'd let you know what I have learned and also my views on the subject.

The resurfacing is part of Hampshire County Council's "Operation Resilience" and I've spoken directly with the Principal Highway Engineer responsible for the whole programme.

Operation Resilience, (OR), was devised when I was still a County Councillor and the strategy makes sense. Every now and then really get to work on a road that is costly to maintain and do the work to a high standard such that it should last 20 years. I always supported that.

Crossways Road has been troublesome ever since it was last resurfaced with the speed bumps and I agree something needs to be done to stop those holes reappearing with such frequency. Hampshire told me that the number of call outs for small scale repairs such as this is so high that it makes economic sense for them to carry out one of these OR projects in Crossways Road.

So it makes economic sense in the long term.

However, the level of disruption is going to be immense. When the "Fiveways" junction was resurfaced some years ago, I arranged for it to be done during school holidays and also over a bank holiday so that the main disruption was minimised.

I asked my contact if we could implement a similar solution, a bank Holiday weekend during school holidays, but unfortunately, Hampshire feel that they cannot defer the work any longer. I admit I'm rather disappointed.

To help out, they are sending me the planned diversion route(s) which I'll publish here as soon as I get it.

They are also going to put a traffic manager at every junction to help locals get in and out of their homes and also to/from side roads.

Finally, I have been promised the mobile 'phone number of the Hampshire County Council manager in charge of the project and I can call him at short notice with any urgent problems.

If you experience any awkward problems other than the inevitable short term disruption please contact me or County Councillor Floss Mitchell and we'll do our best to help.

Tri Golf Planning Application.

The committee debate on this application has been deferred again. The issue of the structural changes to the building to enclose the “open” side, where the driving used to take place, are not yet clear to the Council.

Meanwhile, in co-operation with County Councillor Floss Mitchell, I have been challenging the County Council’s highways advice which is that there are no issues with the new highway access.

I was so upset with the way in which the point had been missed by the County highways engineer that I requested a meeting to discuss it. The meeting was held and I await the County Council’s response.

For information, the issues I raised were thus;

1. The County said that because the daily movements from the Plymouth Brethren church per day would be less than the old golf range and nursery, per day, there was no problem. Obviously flawed logic as the golf range and nursery traffic volume was spread though the day but the church traffic will be entirely condensed into 30 minute blocks. So the hourly rate will in fact rise four fold!!!! This is a major highway safety issue completely overlooked by the County.
2. The County engineer had no idea of the Headley Road traffic volumes at the time the church would be in use. At 6pm it’s going to be pretty busy there. So Hampshire have no idea of the safety or congestion implications of taking a four fold increase in the hourly volumes overlaid onto one of the busiest times of the day on the Headley Road.
3. There was also no answer to my question, what happens when, despite the good traffic calming and diversion measures planned, extra traffic finds its way from the new Whitehill and Bordon development which will also peak at this time of the evening?

I don’t see how the planning application can be considered until these various highway and structure matters have been resolved.

New Car Parking Regime in the Village

The second and final consultation phase is over now and the modified scheme is expected be implemented in January.

Both consultations yielded improvements, so thank you to everyone who took part.

The big consultation in the village hall earlier this year caused the Council to pull the scheme back to the simpler first phase of time limited on street parking. Subsequent phases of time limited off street parking in the car parks and permits for all day business users have been suspended.

The most recent one following the lamp post notices yielded just 16 responses, which, I am told, is amazingly low for such a far-reaching scheme and in itself reflects a high measure of support.

I have taken up one aspect of the new yellow lines which was the subject of a complaint. I looked into it and discussed the complaint with council officers. As a result the yellow line scheme has been changed and the complainant has written to me to express their satisfaction.

The Council accepts that this isn't simple and I there is an expressed willingness to modify the scheme should implementation throw up any gremlins.

Remembrance Day 2018

As I mentioned in October's newsletter, I will not be laying the EHDC wreath this year; Cllr. Francom of the Parish Council has kindly agreed to do it on my behalf.

The reason, (as reported in the Haslemere Herald), is that my Mum is 100 on that day. She was born on Armistice day itself, 11th November 1918. As you can imagine, I see my duty to her on this very special day, as my first priority. Yes, you still get a card from The Queen on your 100th birthday!!!!

And finally.....

As always, if you have queries or worries about the District Council, please contact me, thus;

Email; Ferris.cowper@easthants.gov.uk
'Phone; 01428-609858 or 01730-234003

Cllr. Ferris Cowper
East Hampshire District Council
Ward Member for Grayshott.
Cabinet Member for Whitehill and Bordon.
Chairman of the Whitehill and Bordon Strategy Board.

6th November 2018.