

**NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2018 at 7.30pm
AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL**

CLERK'S REPORT TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AGENDA

1. Public Forum

The Public Forum will last for a period of up to 15 minutes during which members of the public may put questions to the Council or draw attention to relevant matters relating to the business on the agenda. Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes. Business of the meeting will start immediately following the public forum or at 7.45pm whichever is the earlier.

3. Declaration of Interests

Members are advised to consider the agenda for the meeting and determine in advance if they may have a Personal, Prejudicial or a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any of the agenda items. If a Member decides they do have a declarable interest, they are reminded that the interest and the nature of the interest must be declared at the commencement of the consideration of the agenda item; or when the interest becomes apparent to them. Details of the interest will be included in the Minutes.

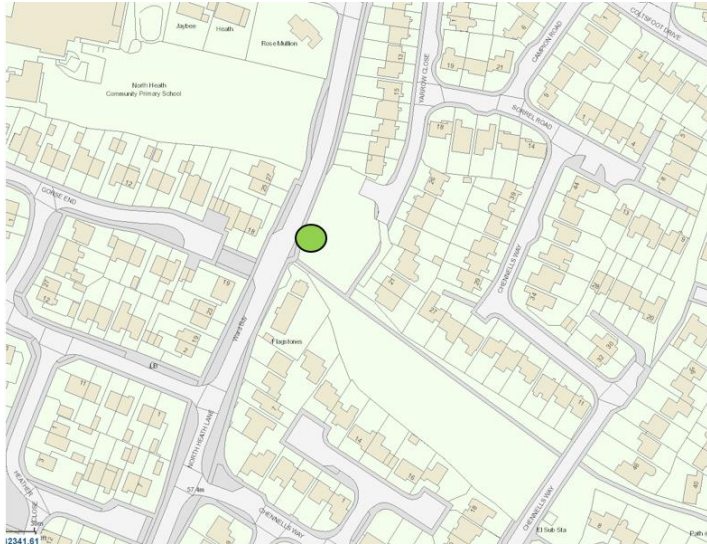
Where a Member has a Prejudicial Interest (which is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest), Members are reminded that they must now withdraw from the meeting chamber after making representations or asking questions.

If the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Members are reminded that they must take no part in the discussions of the item at all; or participate in any voting; and must withdraw from the meeting chamber; unless they have received a dispensation.

5. Chairman's Announcements

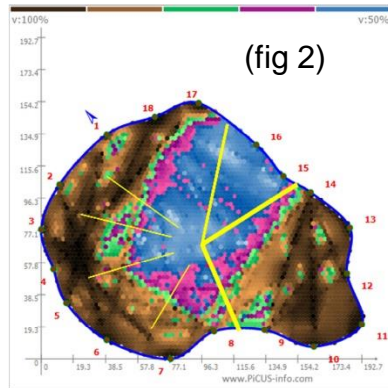
- (a) Cllr D. Searle had attended the Brittaniacrest Liaison Group Meeting on Monday 5th November 2018 as a Parish Council observer. He was informed that Brittaniacrest had not yet decided whether they would appeal against the decision not to allow an incinerator on the site. The deadline for appeal is 11th January 2019. When the decision has been made, Brittaniacrest will circulate the information to the Site Liaison Group.
- (b) Cllr J Gough had attended a meeting of the Wimplehurst Road Residents' Association and West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) held on 31st October 2018 where concerns about traffic along Wimplehurst Road was discussed.
- (c) Langhurstwood Road Residents Association has requested to be included in the North of Horsham Development Parish Liaison Meetings.

(d) HDC's Trees & Contracts Officer has notified the Parish Council there is a requirement to remove the mature oak tree at Chennells Way open space (fig 1).



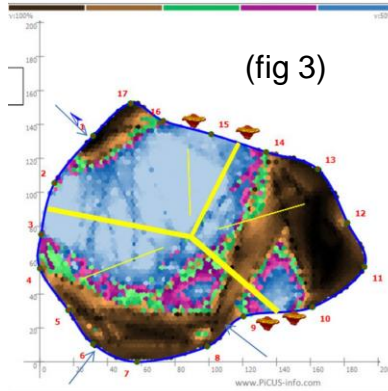
(fig 1)

The tree was identified as having been colonised by a significant fungal pathogen April 2016. A picus tomograph inspection (a device that provides an internal view of the tree) produced this image (fig 2).



The predominantly blue/pink area defines the extent of the affected timber i.e. cavity/decay. As a result, the tree received a significant canopy reduction. This reduction was designed to reduce the mechanical loading on the area of weakness.

A follow up picus tomograph inspection was undertaken September 2018, the area of decay has advanced significantly (fig 3). Further canopy reductions are not considered sufficient to ensure public safety. The only acceptable course of action is the removal of the tree. The Tree & Contracts Officer confirmed the tree is not subject to the protection of a TPO and not growing within a designated Conservation Area. Subject to weather conditions, the tree is scheduled for removal week commencing 19th November 2018. It is anticipated that 2 days will be required to complete the task. Both footpaths will be closed and there will be use of traffic management.



6. Traffic issues on Rusper Road on the approaches to Littlehaven Railway Station

The Planning Environment and Transport Committee authorised a letter to be sent to WSCC at their meeting on 19th July 2018 to draw attention to concerns raised by local residents regarding speeding on Rusper Road on the approach to Littlehaven Railway Station, noise, emissions pollution and anti-social behaviour by motorists.

The Parish Council suggested erecting “Kill Your Speed” signs along the section of Rusper Road leading from the dual carriageway (A264), 30mph markings on the tarmac and interactive flashing signs to emphasise the 30mph speed limit. The Parish Council also requested that consideration be given to a safe pedestrian crossing point to the south side of the level crossing.

WSSC has responded that an interactive sign and crossing point are extremely costly and are not features installed on request. Instead it is suggested that an application could be submitted for a Community Highways Scheme to secure funding. WSSC is specifically precluded from installing speed signs or marks on the tarmac in street lit 30mph zones. The street lights themselves are considered to function as repeater signs as per the guidance in Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (2016).

7. WSSC rejection of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for speed restriction on Lambs Farm Road and Hawkesbourne Road

The Parish Council’s application for a 20mph. speed restriction on Lambs Farm Road and Hawkesbourne Road was rejected by WSSC

With all speed reduction TRO applications WSSC are required to look at speed data to comply with the West Sussex County Council Speed Policy when seeking to introduce a reduced speed limit. This states that Highways Officers considering a scheme should “aim to encourage consistency of setting speeds across the County, to encourage understanding and compliance by drivers.”

The policy states that there are certain minimum average speeds that are required when seeking to reduce a speed limit. So, for example, when looking to install a 40mph speed limit, average speeds taken from the speed data should be lower than 42mph. Where installation of a 20mph speed limit I proposed, as in the application for Lambs Farm Rd and Hawkesbourne Rd, the Speed Policy states that average speeds should be lower than 24mph. The aim of these minimum speeds is to ensure that, where speed reduction are installed, a law and disorder issue for the local police is not created by setting unrealistic speed limits.

Speed data at three collection points in the Lambs Farm and Hawkesbourne area was taken, and of these three, two of the speed averages were between 25 and 26mph. Under those circumstances, WSSC is unable to progress the application for a TRO, as it does not conform to WSSC’s speed policy.

There is no appeals process as such. However, the Parish Council could contest the decision not to progress the TRO via the WSSC corporate complaints procedure. Otherwise, this does represent a closing down of the application, based on the application not complying with the County Council’s Speed Policy.

It has been observed that the speed data was collected at a time when major gas works had closed Crawley Road. This could have had an impact on through traffic.

8. Concern regarding Harwood Road/ Manor Fields junction

A response has been received from West Sussex County Council's (WSSC) Traffic Officer regarding the forwarded concerns from a local resident, which was raised at the last Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting, held on the 25th October 2018. It was stated WSSC had no legal powers of speed enforcement and this issue is best taken to the police with a request for speed enforcement in the area. The Traffic Officer visited the site and said the sight lines were adequate and the accident data for the area reflects the reasoning there is not a major issue. The one incident reported in the last 5 years at this junction involved a cyclist and was unrelated to sight line issues.

9. Consultations

Gatwick Masterplan – On 18th October, Gatwick unveiled a draft Master Plan for ongoing development and sustainable growth at the airport, which sets out how the airport can meet the growing demand for air travel and deliver connections to global opportunities. Gatwick launched a 12-week public consultation to help inform the publication of the final Master Plan early next year. As part of that consultation they are holding six public exhibitions, the first being held in Horsham on the 3rd November 2018, 14:30 to 19:30, at The Barn, Causeway. Information regarding the exhibitions were circulated to the committee prior to the event.

10. Planning Appeals

None notified.