

## **Report to Broadbridge Heath Parish Council**

Cnty Cllr Christian Mitchell  
Monday, 8 April 2024, 7:30pm

### **Neighbourhood Centre car park**

WSSC wrote again on 20 March 2024, further to other correspondence, to Elmdon Real Estate LLP, the leasehold management department for the land owner of the neighbourhood centre car park. WSSC are arranging a date to meet with the Parish Council and likely to be in early May 2024.

### **Chairman of West Sussex County Council**

At the Annual Meeting of Council held on 225 March 2024 Cnty Cllr Peter Montyn was elected Chairman of WSSC County Council for the Civil Year 2024/25 taking over from Cnty Cllr Pete Bradbury.

### **WSSC Highways**

The very wet weather has played particular strain on services since this winter. WSSC Highways have experienced unprecedented levels of rain and named storm events over this autumn/winter. To put this in context, over the past five months (October 2023 to February 2024) Highways have had more rain than would normally have in a year. February 2024 saw the highest level of rain since records began and in the first week of this month (i.e. March 2024) have already experienced a month's worth of rain.

Unfortunately, with these conditions' potholes can form as water seeps under the road surface and saturates the substrate, leading to a hydraulic effect as vehicles pass over. This is particularly the case where there are 'evolved roads' which don't have formal construction layers or where there is existing damage to road surfaces.

It is therefore unsurprising that we are now seeing a large number of issues on the network, and Highways are experiencing very high numbers of customer reports. The Highway Teams are dealing with double the amount of enquires they would normally see e.g. 2,500 per week over the past two weeks.

Contractor's gangs are working twilight shifts and Saturdays to manage the increased number of safety jobs. Highways have also increased the number of gangs and will continue to add to this resource but sourcing additional gangs at this time is very difficult and is a national issue.

In terms of drainage, in WSSC Highways normal cleansing programme they have cleansed 90,000 gullies this year. In addition, Highways have four gully suckers operating across the network carrying reactive work to alleviate flooding issues. They have tackled over 600 jobs on our highest priority sites.

### **Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) inspection of West Sussex Local Area Partnership**

The report (released on 29 February 2024) gives West Sussex Local Area Partnership the middle rating for delivery, planning and commissioning of services.

### **Business of the County Council**

Full Council last met at the Annual Meeting of Council on Friday, 22 March 2024:  
<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=3645&Ver=4>

The next meeting of full Council is Friday, 7 June 2024 at 10:30am:  
<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=3646&Ver=4>

ENDS