

## Report to Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

Cnty Cllr Christian Mitchell  
Monday, 3 February 2025, 7:30pm

### Culvert Broadbridge Way (Enquiry 3818797)

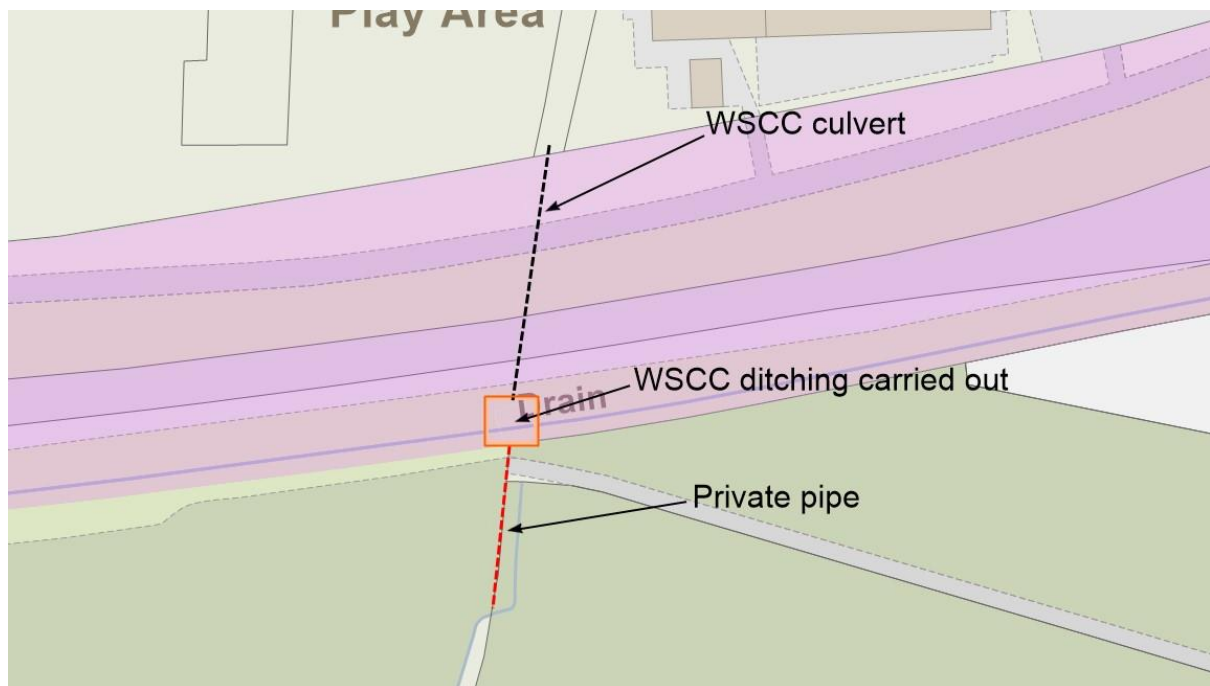
Mr Liam Nally updated the Parish Council on 10 December 2024:

“We carried out ditching works in September and jetted the culvert early October, notes from this jetting job:

*“Update for Broadbridge Way, attended site and met with client, jetted 900mm culvert upstream towards play area to clear debris within the pipework, we found that the downstream was piped with a 225mm plastic pipe and had a large grate in front, we cleared the grate and jetted the pipe however this runs to an unmaintained ditch, after clearing all associated pipework it is clear that the 225mm pipe is not large enough to take the amount of water coming from the upstream, this will need to be dug out and ditched to cope with the water. No other defects found.*

“Although our culvert may have silted up slightly, the issue is caused by the downstream pipe not being big enough to cope with the amount of water, we see this happen in places where the upstream pipe/ditch is of a larger capacity then the one it flows into causing a bottle neck and a backup of water. The pipe is also likely silted up or has other issues with it such as a break or root ingress and as this is a private pipe and the issue is not affecting the highway, WSCC will not get involved in contacting the land owner.

“The trash screen in front of the pipe is also private and the responsibility of the land owner. We are able to raise jobs to clear trash screens, however I believe this is limited to our own assets and for issues affecting the highway.”



### **Proposed County Council budget to go to Full Council for final decision**

West Sussex County Council's Cabinet met on Wednesday, 29 January 2025 and endorsed proposals to deliver a balanced budget for the year ahead and provide support for the most vulnerable in line with its Council Plan priorities. The decision means the proposed budget for 2025/26 and Council Plan will now go before full Council on Friday, 14 February 2025 for a final decision.

The council's priorities, which are underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of 'protecting the environment' are:

1. Keeping people safe in vulnerable situations
2. A sustainable and prosperous economy
3. Helping people and communities fulfil their potential
4. Making best use of resources

To meet increasing demand pressures and cost of services, particularly in social care, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and home to school transport, the County Council is proposing to spend more than £2.2 billion in 2025/26 on vital services such as:

- Caring for adults and keeping people healthy - £553m
- Managing schools and education, children's social care and support - £1,283m
- Fire and Rescue services and supporting communities - £65m
- Protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal - £98m
- Maintaining our roads and providing transport - £87m

An additional £47.4m is allocated in the proposed budget this year for service demand pressures and continued additional investment in the county's roads. The pressures facing the County Council outweigh the funding received from Government and a balanced budget is proposed by increasing council tax by 4.99% (2% for adults' social care and 2.99% for general fund services) and spending reductions of £12.3m.

The pressures facing local government finances have been on-going for several years and show no signs of abating and it is understood why our residents are not keen to see council tax increase. However, Government funding continues to be insufficient to meet the growing needs of our residents, which means the only alternative would be to cut front-line services. WSCC continue to lobby government for adequate long-term funding to provide the financial resources we need to deliver on the priorities set out in our Council Plan

### **Jetting**

WSCC's new contractor for jetting have CCTV on board, the cyclical gully cleansing go to a two yearly programme as opposed to four yearly.

### **Devolution**

The Cabinets of the three Sussex upper tier Councils have today agreed to submit an expression of interest to be considered for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority which could unlock new powers for the region.

The Government's white paper on English Devolution states that Mayoral Strategic Authorities will bring funding and local decision-making powers down from central government to deliver on economic growth, jobs and skills, housing and transport.

Whether or not WSCC, ESCC and Brighton & Hove Council are on the Devolution priority programme, the Government will be writing to all councils in two tier areas later this month – Counties, Districts and Boroughs – as well as smaller unitaries such as Brighton & Hove, to invite proposals on local government reorganisation.

Whatever timetable WSCC are on, it is understood that Government will expect all local authorities to work with neighbouring authorities to build consensus around new unitary authority boundaries. It is anticipated that Ministers will make decisions regarding which places are part of the Devolution Priority Programme by the end of January 2025.

The expected timeline following the submission of the proposal is:

- A devolution consultation would be held before the end of March 2025.
- The results of the devolution consultation will be assessed in the Spring 2025 following which a Ministerial decision will be taken as to whether to proceed with a Mayoral Strategic Authority (prior to unitary re-organisation). The Spending Review will then confirm future mayoral investment funds for new mayoral areas.
- Relevant legislation will be laid before Parliament in relation to the creation of Strategic Authorities.
- In March 2026 notice of mayoral elections will be given for a Mayoral election in May 2026. A decision whether to move to a Mayoral Strategic Authority under the reorganised arrangements would follow.

There will follow a separate process of local government re-organisation

- A formal invitation to submit reorganisation proposals will be issued to all authorities in January 2025.
- At the end of 2025 and in early 2026 Ministers will consider unitary proposals and delivery phasing with statutory consultations being undertaken on the first tranche of proposals.

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

Full Council last met on Friday, 13 December 2024 [here](#).

The next meeting of full Council, to set the budget, is on Friday, 14 February 2025 at 10:30am [here](#).

ENDS