

## Highways

### Down Lane

Proteq have stated that the material used for the pedestrian path (which deteriorated after a short time) is unsuitable for the lane. SCC are negotiating a replacement coloured tarmac alternative and are negotiating with ProTeq to recover costs. No time lines have been given, this will also be used for the crossing between Limnerslease and the Gallery.

The signs for Watts Gallery & Limnerslease were ready for installation and maybe in place by the time this report is given?

We are still waiting to hear from Rob Fairbanks about optimizing the view from the top of Down Lane. Without the summer foliage, the view is particularly good at present with distant views towards Compton village and Binscombe. See attached.

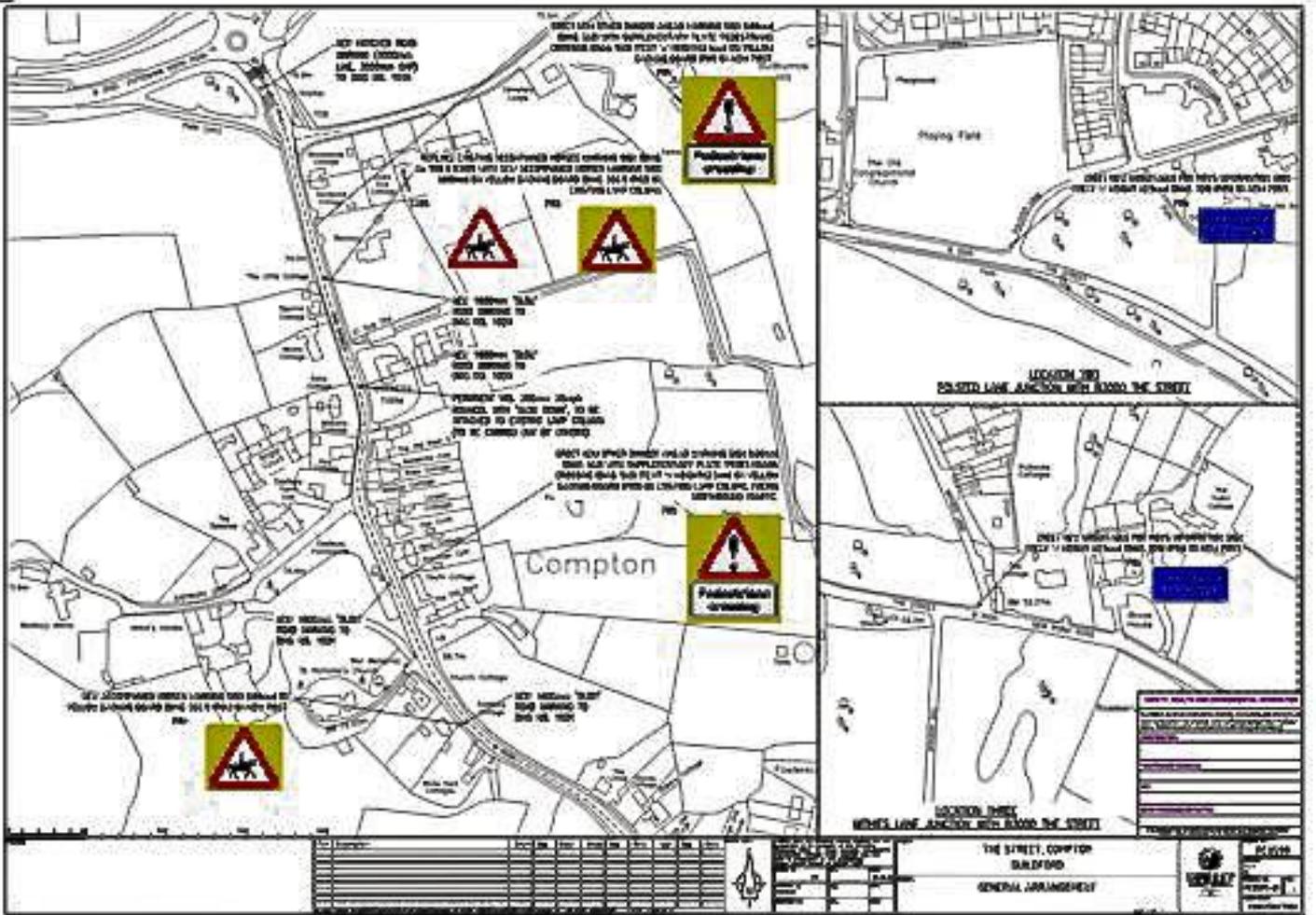


### Road Signage

Due to the very limited amount of funding allocated towards the 'safety scheme' for the Street, the crossing at Eastbury Lane was not included. Clarification is needed as to whether this has been added to next year's budget. I sent off a detailed argument for its inclusion to Bahram Assadi in Highways (with measurements and photos).

After installation of the signs, we received a detailed schedule of works. The schedule is attached. We have received complaints about the size and colour of the signs, which are very large, on new large poles (estimating 12 feet high). We have been told that we will get used to it and if not, we can have signs without the yellow background. The reason given for the large signs is that size is commensurate with speed. The speed limit has been 30mph for a long time yet the signs are much larger and so, once again clarification is needed as to why we have these large signs.

Two new 'unsuitable for HGV's' signs have been installed at Polsted lane and Withies lane we are still awaiting those in Down Lane



## The Avenue

The flooding issues and the impact on lives have been reported to Bahram who has sent the report to maintenance. We are awaiting direct contact details so that we can continue to follow this up.

Cornwall BC has an excellent leaflet that explains land owner's / farmers obligations in terms of appropriate drainage and preventing mud etc from entering the drainage system / highway. The Diocese owns the land and the leaseholder is Richard Matthews, who grazes horses there.

Details of the issues are outlined in the email below.

Highways maintenance confirmed receipt of the following report on 14th March ref **ME-206264**

*Thank you for responding to my email dated 23.02.16. I will respond to this in a separate email.*

*I am writing for a different reason about an issue that has been raised by a number of residents and hence will be reported at our Parish Council next week and I would appreciate your thoughts on the matter.*

*The Avenue in Compton has a problem with flooding. Yesterday was particularly bad and cars were reversing and turning round which caused havoc. Excess mud and silty water was pouring off the land onto the Avenue, blocking the drains and causing major problems for householders on the side of the road marked in grey on the attached map.*

*The road has no pavement and is disintegrating at some pace; this issue is exacerbated as the road is continuously water logged (even in summer). This road connects Compton to Binscombe and hence is the only route for pedestrians and cyclists visiting the doctor's surgery and shops. Both are forced into the middle of the road. This is a safety hazard and is a serious issue after dusk as the area has very little lighting.*

*I came across [this leaflet produced by Cornwall Council](#) and wondered whether Surrey has anything similar that could be sent to the land owner? If not, could a letter be sent to the landowner to encourage better management of the water that is causing damage to the highway and becoming an increasing safety hazard for residents?*

*The Traffic Committee and / or Parish Council may follow suit with a letter, but will be guided by your advice on this matter.*

*The landowners contact details are; Mr Ken Mussell, Diocesan buildings manager, Diocesan House, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3XG and [ken.mussell@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:ken.mussell@cofeguildford.org.uk)  
Thank you*

## **Litter**

We received complaints about the litter in Compton and on the slip road from Compton onto the A3. In addition to the usual litter are many cans of Fosters lager. Several residents have complained and David Haskins has taken up the matter with Anne Milton and Chris Wheeler from GBC. The rationale for not clearing the slip roads, is linked to health & safety. Despite the fact that the litter is behind a safety barrier and is on a slip road and not a main motorway, it has been risk assessed as a major risk and work cannot be carried out there unless the road is closed.



It appears that the road may have been closed recently as re-surfacing of the A3 North has taken place, yet the litter remains.

I have reported fly tipped litter in Down Lane (image above).

## **Transport**

### **The 46 Bus**

Karen, Perdita and Chris attended the consultation in Godalming. I put notices in the bus stops and set up an on-line petition. Watts Gallery collected signatures and so did Ken from, staff and visitors, residents, bus users and staff from the Lemongrass and Bupa care home. I wrote to the Dragon & Surrey Ad, as did a member of staff from Watts Gallery to highlight the impact of omitting Compton from the 46/72 route. Testimonials from the businesses in Compton have been handed in to Laurie James SCC as have letters from Watts Gallery and Compton Parish Council & Compton Village Association.

Parish Cllrs. initiated the on-line petition which was signed by 316 and approx 150 handed in on the 11th March at the meeting with SCC between Laurie James, Cassie Brewer and Fiona, Perdita and Ken. We presented our case, put forward alternative solutions and were assured that they would be considered but no decisions will be made until SCC's meeting with Stagecoach in the 3rd week of March followed by a meeting with the Cabinet, in May.

In the meantime the bus has a revised timetable with fewer buses in an effort to improve reliability. The petition will not be heard at the next Local Committee meeting after all, but will be considered by Cabinet. I am awaiting details for timings and procedure.

### **Drains**

Ken and I met with Jason Lewis who confirmed that the drain at Eastbury Lane was blocked and causing significant flow of water onto the road. Following an accident and several icy periods where warning signs had to be put up, the drain was cleared.

The drains are also blocked on the same side, up to Little Cottage. It was acknowledged that these should have been cleared last summer but have not been done.

The drain by Polsted lane has a main outlet that goes under the B3000 towards the deep ditches opposite. This appears to be broken and hence water is backtracking to the secondary outlet onto Polsted lane. This was supposed to be fixed last year, but wasn't. It has now been re-requested and the contractors have 6 months to do the job, which will entail closing the road or a lane of the road for 1-2 days. It should be done between April and June. Cllr Sharples has complained to SCC about the failures in dealing with this problem. The initial explanation did not fully explain the failures and hence clarification has been requested (letter is below).

The loose drain cover by the war memorial in the Street was reported and fixed.

*Dear sir or madam,*

*I write in relation to the response I have received to the above complaint reference, concerning planned drainage repair works that have not been delivered to date. Whilst I appreciate the apology from your local highways team, it simply does not address the issue, and instead highlights what seems to be a catalogue of mistakes in the management and delivery of these works.*

*The complaint raised relates to water that has for some considerable time been ponding on Polsted Lane. I can appreciate that Polsted Lane may not itself be a priority, but this ponding is located immediately adjacent to the junction with the B3000, the primary link between the A3 and Godalming. The damaged drainage system in fact seems to serve the B3000, feeding into the system of drainage ditches and pipes running alongside this main route. Vehicles travelling from Polsted Lane to join the B3000 have to drive through the collected water, dispersing it - throughout the winter months - onto the B3000. This route is not only part of your Precautionary Salting Network but is also included within the "A-Roads and Strategic Network" that still receives salting treatment when stocks are limited and have to be prioritised. I struggle therefore to understand how the works required to rectify this problem have not been dealt with as a priority in order to minimise the risk to the travelling public from ice forming on a heavily trafficked and strategic route. I would welcome an explanation on this.*

*Turning the specific points raised in your response, I have the following comments and questions:*

- 1. You refer to "a report of a blocked drain at this location". Can you please provide information on the number and dates of reports received about blocked drains, large puddles, water ponding or other descriptions in this general location that could reasonably be assumed to relate to the same defect, between November 2013 and 4th November 2015?*
- 2. Can you please clarify the extent of the damage to the drainage pipe that was identified in your investigation, and the extents of the proposed remedial works?*
- 3. You say that you "believed that the work had been approved" by your Streetworks team. When was the streetworks application submitted, what was the duration of the proposed works and what type of traffic management was proposed in the application?*
- 4. Please confirm whether the application had actually been approved. If not, please advise why it was not approved and at what point either your highways team and/or the contractor was notified.*
- 5. Having stated that works were planned for January 2016, you then state that "due to the nature of the investigation the traffic management required would not have been realistic and required a road closure". Can you please clarify whether the traffic management proposed therefore related to a further investigation, or to the actual planned works?*

7. Was an emergency closure considered, given the potential for the ponding to create dangerous driving conditions on a Strategic Route? If not, why not? I am aware that notice to residents would be required, but given that a suitable short diversion is available via Spiceall or Polsted Lane and Withies Lane, this should not create much of an inconvenience.

8. Has the road closure request now been processed? If so, what dates does the order cover, and what are the proposed dates for the works cited?

9. You seem to suggest that although funding will again be available in the new financial year, that your contractor will wait until 1st April before even starting to schedule the works. Why can't they be scheduled now, with a start date of 1st April?

In trying to summarise the information you have provided, it seems to me that you have:

- Failed to correctly submit the initial streetworks notice;
- Failed to identify the appropriate traffic management to safely deliver the works;
- Failed to request a road closure with sufficient time to achieve the planned works date;
- Failed to ring fence the funds for what should have been considered an urgent repair;
- Failed to provide any useful indication of when the works will be completed.

Suffice to say that, in response to your question, I am far from happy with the "solution/explanation" you have proposed.

I realise that the information I have requested could take some time to collate. I would much rather that the time be spent on actually addressing the problem itself and getting an early date for these essential safety works agreed, with all the relevant approvals and orders in place, and would welcome this as your response. If this is not possible however, then I shall look forward to receiving your full and detailed reply.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Christopher Sharples