

Broadband Speeds in West Itchenor

West Itchenor Parish Council is very pleased by the response to our survey on Internet speeds and mobile telephone reception. Ninety premises responded to our survey (30%) of which 80% use BT as their internet provider.

We expected to find a gradual deterioration in service as we moved through the village and further away from the Birdham sub-exchange. Although there is a modest trend of this type, the most remarkable result of the survey is how premises very close to each other have materially different broadband speeds.

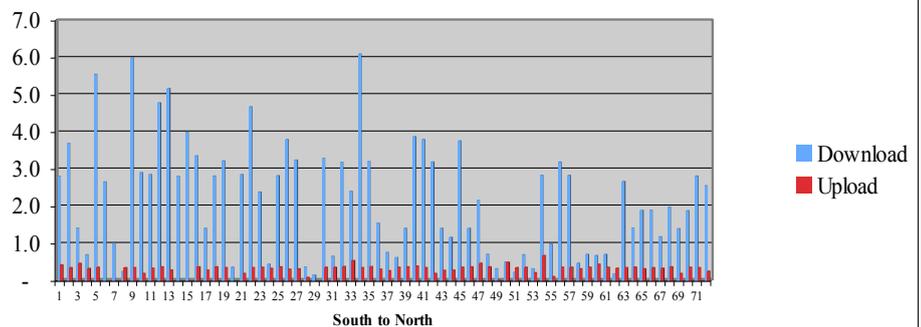
The Council appreciates that due to Itchenor's distance from the main BT exchange in Chichester (and being about 2 miles from the sub-exchange at Birdham) combined with the lack of fibre optics, we are unlikely to experience speeds anywhere near BT's advertised levels. Some residents are obtaining broadly acceptable speeds of over 3mb, but many others are well below this level. (Some residents have noticed an improvement since the beginning of the year as BT has made various minor upgrades.)

It seems to us that many residents are achieving a lower speed than available, probably because of local issues. In fact, several residents told us in the survey that their broadband speed was increased significantly after several calls to BT and, in some cases, the replacement of the copper wire to the home and / or new telephone sockets.

Before looking at options to increase the overall broadband speeds in Itchenor, the Parish Council asked BT to help us assist in getting all premises up to the 2mb – 3mb download speed that is obviously obtainable.

Regrettably we have yet to receive a satisfactory response to our letters from BT. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this, but in the interim we suggest that each resident approaches BT (or your other internet provider) if your download speed is lower than 3mb. It should be possible to achieve at least this speed anywhere in Itchenor.

Itchenor Road, The Street etc



Mobile Telephone Reception in West Itchenor

Parish Councillors thought overall mobile telephone reception was poor in the Village, but the results of the survey were even worse than we had been expecting. The Parish Council considers the inability of residents and businesses to have access to reliable mobile telephone services is a serious disadvantage to living or working in West Itchenor.

One hundred and twenty-three users responded to our survey of which 40% are Vodafone customers. We have written to each of the main mobile telephone companies used by Itchenor residents. Their replies have been very disappointing from "we are planning to do nothing" to "we have no intention of formally replying".

The Parish Council has yet to decide how to proceed, but an approach to

Ofcom is possible due to the lack of responsiveness from the Companies. Clearly they do not value your business.

Summary Survey Results

Residents and business were asked to rate their mobile telephone reception on a five point scale:

5 - excellent, 4 - good, 3 - adequate
2 - poor and 1 - none.

Provider	Number in Survey	Average	
		Inside	Outside
	3	1.0	2.0
O2	33	1.5	1.9
Orange	20	1.7	2.2
Tesco	1		
T-Mobile	13	1.5	2.1
Virgin	3	2.3	3.7
Vodafone	50	2.0	2.4
	123	1.8	2.2

Quality Council Award

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May Lord Lytton presented the Chairman and the Clerk with the Quality Council certificate.

The award is part of a government-sponsored scheme to enhance the role of parish councils.

To gain accreditation, councils have to provide evidence they have met certain standards expected from an effective, representative and active organisation.



Land opposite Shelbourne

It will not have gone unnoticed by residents that the plot of land between The Oast and the public footpath alongside The Barns has large mounds of earth situated on it which were not previously there. Further the trees that had been on the land have been cut down and are now beneath the mounds of soil. These works were carried out in May of last year. Within days, the Parish Council contacted Chichester District Council to report the activities and to enquire what action would be taken.



During the past twelve months the Parish Council has been monitoring the site and communicating with the Enforcement Team at Chichester District Council. The Parish Council has also been in contact with the Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council regarding both the ditch in front of the plot which was in danger of becoming clogged up resulting in flooding and the footpath becoming impassable as the soil and other debris was encroaching onto what is a popular footpath.

Initially CDC considered that engineering works had been carried out for which planning permission was required. The owner of the land was notified of a date by which a

planning application had to be submitted. The date was not met and an Enforcement Notice was issued requiring the owner to reinstate the land. The Enforcement Notice had to be complied with by the 21st May. The owner had the right to appeal against the Enforcement Notice which he has now done. The appeal procedure finished on the 15th May.

The appeal was by way of written representations and a site inspection by the inspector. It is not known when the Inspector will make a decision.

The Appellant alleges that the mounds of earth have always been on the property. This assertion has been challenged by a number of residents some of whom have submitted written statements and photographic evidence both to the Parish Council to Chichester District Council.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and updates given at both Planning and Parish Council meetings.

Its farewell to.....



In March the Parish Council said a sad goodbye to Ric Dukoff-Gordon who had served on the Parish Council since 2006. Ric spent some time as Chairman

of the Planning Committee and played a key role in the provision of the new John Davis Memorial footpath. He was also heavily involved in the working parties that undertook work at the pond as well as being an important part of the Emergency Planning Group.

Michael Chater OBE



Michael Chater, the Chairman of West Itchenor Parish Council, was awarded an OBE for his services to Local Government in the Queen's New Years Honours list. As well as serving as Chairman of the Parish Council, Michael is also the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils, a role he has fulfilled since 2009. He has also served for over ten years representing town and parish councils on the South East Regional Assembly, latterly as one of its Vice Chairs. Currently he is a Vice President of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils.

The Parish Council congratulates Michael on his well deserved OBE.

And hello to.....



On the 29th May Jane Boadle was co-opted to join the Parish Council. Jane has lived in Itchenor for 15 years and was

Chairman of the Spinney Lane Association for 3 years, looking after the upkeep of the lane, elderly residents and liaising with the Neighbourhood Watch contact. She has also been heavily involved in the Sailing Club on the social side.

West Itchenor Parish Council

Chairman	Michael Chater - Itchenor Cottage, Shipton Green, PO20 7DA	512213
Councillors	Jane Boadle - River House, Spinney Lane, Itchenor PO20 7DJ	512788
	Graham Colbourne - Mizzen Top, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA	513963
	Jim Hartley - Fairfield, Itchenor PO20 7AE	512612
	Alastair Spencer - Anchor Cottage, Itchenor PO20 7AB	514618
	Susan Taylor - Dobbies, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA	514034
	Sarah Varvill - Farleigh Cottage, Glebefield Road, Itchenor PO20 7DB	512431
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