

Flooding in Itchenor

West Itchenor Parish Council conducted a survey of ditches, culverts and streams around the Village after the heavy rains in mid January, to try and identify areas where improvements could be made to reduce or eliminate flooding. On the whole local residents and landowners had done a good job of clearing out pipes, ditches and culverts ahead of the wet winter weather. There were, however, several areas around the Village where the Parish Council identified that further action was required.

There was some flooding in Club Lane. The open ditch was in good condition but there is evidence of a blockage within the pipe, which needed attention.



The ditch in Club Lane

Another problem area was the corner by the Memorial Hall. A lot of run-off water from the fields to the west and northwest meet up at this point. The water then flows under Itchenor Road and into a ditch in front of the Black Bungalow and hence into a pipe behind The Sheiling and Dobbies. This pipe then enters Sunnybrook and flows into an open ditch to the Rithe (aka The Haven). There was significant flooding in Itchenor Road at this corner.



Puddle on Itchenor Road, nr the Memorial Hall

There was also flooding at the top of the Village by Bluegates. This area is technically in Birdham rather than West Itchenor, but Haines Boatyard has agreed to dig out the ditches as soon as practical.



Pond emptying into the Rithe

The Parish Council was concerned that the Rithe which carries water from the Village pond to the Harbour might not be draining efficiently and often backs up after heavy rain. We have written to the Environment Agency which is now reviewing the Rithe and the sluice gate.



The Rithe emptying into the Harbour

The Parish Council has written to residents and landowners reminding them of their responsibilities to keep ditches and culverts clear. The Environment Agency has produced a pamphlet that outlines your riparian rights and responsibilities. It is available at:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0407BMFL-e-e.pdf>

Feedback has been positive and we hope the village will experience less flooding the next time we have heavy rains.

Annual Parish Meeting Monday 18th April 6pm Itchenor Memorial Hall

Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting and find out what the Parish Council has achieved throughout the last year.

Councillors will give brief presentations on the new Conservation Area, the new footpath, flooding issues and the forthcoming Localism Bill. With Government about to give power back to local councils and communities there has never been a better time to get involved and help shape the future of your village.

It is expected that the meeting will last an hour and the Parish Council hopes that those attending will stay on for drinks and social chatter.

The Parish Council is grateful to the Itchenor Society for agreeing to provide the refreshments after the meeting.

Parish Council Elections

The term of office for the current members of the Parish Council ends on May 9th and the newly elected councillors take office from this date.

Your councillors for the next term are;
Michael Chater, Graham Colbourne, Ric Dukoff-Gordon, Jim Hartley, Susan Taylor and Sarah Varvill.

There does remain one vacancy on the Parish Council and it is hoped that someone will come forward to fill this vacancy at the May meeting.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk, Carol Smith.

Remember your neighbours!

Our email-based Neighbourhood Watch system is now well-established and works smoothly.... but it covers only those households who are on-line, which is about half the total number of houses in Itchenor. People without computers tend to be older, and often they are the ones targeted by criminals. They can only be warned by the yellow notices on our village notice boards, which cannot be posted as frequently and immediately as the warnings sent out by email. Their effect also relies on people passing a notice board and reading the warning.

Our system therefore relies on the people who *are* on our email system passing on any warnings received from us to their neighbours who are *not* on-line, especially if the warning is serious and urgent.

Bob Ferguson
Neighbourhood Watch
Area Co-ordinator



Louise Goldsmith

Residents may be aware that Louise Goldsmith resigned from the Parish Council last year to concentrate on her role as Leader of the County Council.

Louise had been a long standing member of the Parish Council and was for over 5 years the Chairman. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Louise made to the Parish Council and thanks her for her good guidance and support to the Council whilst Chairman.

Permissive Path Update

Since our last newsletter, preparations for the construction of the new Permissive Path have been making steady progress. Planning approval for the path and car park spaces was granted on 8th October 2010 and since then we have been drawing up the necessary agreements between interested parties and getting together estimates for the materials required for construction of the path.



Unfortunately the quarry which supplies the Fittleworth Stone which we had specified for the finished surface of the path closed down at the end of February this year. However we have now found a substitute which

has been approved by both the Harbour Conservancy and by the Local Planning Authority.

We have also begun work on the ground and we held a very successful working party in early March when a band of eleven willing volunteers cleared the route of the path, levelling the surface and cutting back the hedgerows in preparation for the construction phase.



The positions of the parking spaces and two mobility (kissing) gates have been settled and as we go to press we are waiting for the final legal documents to be signed before the diggers move in.



Ted Roose

After 8 years service Ted stands down from the Parish Council in May.

Ted has played a very active role within the Council. He spent some years as Chairman of the Planning Committee and has played a leading role in issues such as the Common registration & management, negotiations on the public toilets and HGV deliveries to Travis Perkins. The Council would like to thank Ted for his very significant contribution.

West Itchenor Parish Council

Chairman Councillors

Michael Chater - Itchenor Cottage, Shipton Green, PO20 7DA
Graham Colbourne—Mizzen Top, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA
Ric Dukoff-Gordon - Ebenezer, Shipton Green, PO20 7BZ
Jim Hartley - Fairfield, Itchenor PO20 7AE
Edward Roose - Rye Cottage, Spinney Lane, PO20 7DJ
Susan Taylor—Dobbies, Itchenor Road, PO20 7AA

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