



EMPC Report March 2025

Sewage

Progress is definitely being made.

At a meeting on 12th February with SW attended by me, Mike Critchley and Clare de Lotbiniere we were interested to hear that although FOG (fat oil and grease) is important and can definitely impact flow in a sewer it is not the major issue here in East Meon. SW did however state that the sewer running from The Green development to join the main sewer running under Workhouse Lane was up to 20% blocked when inspected. It has now been cleared. SW stated that the survey had shown that water infiltration was what needed to be addressed, both water infiltration from misconnections and from ground water ingress into the network. SW will be finding out what proportion of the clear water entering the sewer at any given time is from misconnections and what proportion from seepage through cracks in the sewer pipes.

So far as misconnections are concerned, SW explained that its contractors Oneline had established that 9 properties in East Meon had surface water from their roofs being channeled into downspouts which were connected to the property's sewer. SW was not able to show us the report from Oneline but confirmed that they had visited the 9 properties with misconnections and had offered to deal with the problem, free of charge, by disconnecting the downspouts and installing soak-aways. We were disappointed to hear that 5 homeowners had apparently stated that they were not interested in having this done although the other 4 had confirmed themselves as happy to have the remedial work carried out.

Moving onto ground water ingress SW reported that they had already taken steps to alleviate the problem. They have had the main Workhouse Lane Sewer jetted with a high velocity jet to rip out the tree roots in the sewer. The next stage will be to line the sewers to stop water getting in through cracks and severed joints. This will be either patching or full lining from manhole to manhole. Obviously finance is an issue here.

We touched on problems at Windwhistle Rise and The Green development. Neither has a s106 Agreement. The pipe leading from The Green has a number of problem areas which need patching. The pipe is however technically private and not SW's responsibility. The situation at Windwhistle Rise is such that SW is currently not willing to take on responsibility for the pipework.

We await hearing if finance will be made available to line the sewers and to deal with the misconnections.

Meanwhile, of course we have had raw sewage bubbling up from manhole covers and appearing in 2 private gardens again caused by “overload” ie excessive surface water entering the system following intensely heavy rain.

BOATs

At a meeting on 12th February in East Meon attended by 8 East Hants parishes which have BOATs Jonathan Woods of HCC Countryside Access Team reported that he had been making significant progress with reviewing HCC’s byways policies and refining changes to the BOP (Byways Operational Procedure).

He confirmed that the new policies included a number of points already raised by the local parishes in previous meetings and welcomed input on the latest drafts. Parish reps asked that the scoring system be broadened to take into account safety issues, impacts on nature (such as damage to tree roots), the gradient, the importance of tranquility as well as county council designations applying to ancient woodland and heritage assets. There was a clear change of emphasis moving from repairing damage to preventing damage and an awareness of the need to further the objects of the SDNP.

The idea of imposing speed limits was dismissed because they would be unenforceable, although it was acknowledged that speed brings its own risks and might therefore affect the scores for safety.

The revised documents are to be presented to other groups and will then go to the HCC Scrutiny Cttee for adoption. How they will be implemented and how that might lead to the closure of BOATs in the area remains to be seen.

The Fourth Defibrillator

East Meon’s fourth defibrillator has been installed outside the school at the junction of Temple Lane and Coombe Road/Chapel Street serving the residents at the western end of the village. The location is registered and so should be visible to the emergency services. The pads on this defibrillator can be used on a child as well as an adult.

Our thanks go to Clive Tillbrook for heading up a team of people to fundraise, source, install and then register and maintain all of the defibrillators we now have..

East Meon Litter Pick

A big thank you to all those who turned up on a damp but happily dry morning in February to litter pick the centre of the village. Some 10 bags of plastic bottles, coffee cups, crisp packets, sweet wrappers and cans were collected leaving the village looking much tidier.



A plea from the volunteers please pick up your dogs' mess and put the poo bags in a bin and do NOT leave them on the verges!!!

Future Energy Landscapes Workshop East Meon, 5th March

About 25 residents attended this 2½ hour workshop, run by Energise South Downs and sponsored by the South Downs National Park and East Hants District Council. The purpose was simply to engage and inform residents about renewable energy technologies. Discussions were held about the potential of solar farms, wind power, domestic solar energy, heat pumps and anaerobic digestors to provide energy and heating for East Meon. A mathematical model was used to demonstrate the impact of these technologies on the provision of our energy and heating, and our CO2 emissions.

For example, 1 medium-sized wind turbine could provide sufficient energy to power all the homes in the parish!

Certainly, the residents at the workshop seemed to be invested in the process and as we stepped through it, it was interesting to see people's guard come down as their questions were answered and different opinions were posed. However, maybe the discussion would have been even better by having some younger people present, who might feel they will bear more of the brunt of climate change.

A report will be prepared for the Parish Council summarising the output and it will be presented by the Energise South Downs Team at our APA in April.

Path across the Green

Works are due to get underway once the weather improves.

Roads and Traffic

Items included in the traffic calming initiative HCC action scheduled for 2024:

White lines repainted throughout the village.

Narrowing Workhouse Lane entrance with rubber curbs

Dimpled crossings

Items currently waiting for HCC and EHDC to reinstate and repair:

KEEP CLEAR on the bridge outside the Izaak Walton pub.

Alms house disabled parking

Verges along Workhouse Lane

Potholes