

Havant Road Development. In the last weeks you will have noticed some earth works at the Havant road site. This was an archaeological study and investigations showed evidence of a Roman settlement. Details will go on www.horndeanmatters.com when I get them.

A3M Noise. Most of the A3M has now been resurfaced and this has made a bit of an improvement but Acoustic Fencing remains the only technically suitable solution to make a real improvement. We are constantly raising this with the Highways Agency who advise they have no plans to carry out any acoustic fencing works in the short term future.

Hindhead Tunnel. There has been much speculation about the increase in traffic due to the Hindhead Tunnel opening so I sent a Freedom Of Information request to the Highways Agency to get data on the traffic flow. On average about 20,000 cars pass each way through the tunnel. Flow through the tunnel is about 10% higher than the old road junction. At Horndean the traffic flow in 2012 was about 5% more than in 2010. Not as large an increase as we might have guessed. for the full data see www.horndeanmatters.com and the article "Hindhead Tunnel Traffic Impact" dated 17th May.

Horndean Parish Surgery. Cllr Irene Weeks is holding a monthly surgery at Shambles from 10:00am to 12:00 noon on the 4th Saturday of every month. This is to discuss any local issues and all are welcome. Parish look after all of our open spaces, play areas and organise events like Remembrance Day Parade, Christmas Carol Service and litter pick the village. they also look after most of the halls and comment on all Horndean planning applications. The next dates are 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November.

Street Light Replacement. This is now underway and will be complete by Winter. Goodbye Neon Lights!

Grit Bins. HCC are installing additional grit bins to Wasdale Close and South Road following requests. Would your road benefit from a grit bin? Please let County Councillor Marge Harvey know on marge.harvey@hants.gov.uk

County issues chased in the last months. Unsafe footpath on South Rd, broken manhole cover Wasdale Cl. Do you know of any other highways issues which need to be addressed? Contact Cllr Marge Harvey marge.harvey@hants.gov.uk



Information From George Hollingbery our local MP: Solar farms.

Now that the sun has been shining of a bit of late, I think it's a good time to talk about the controversial issue of solar farms. Believe it or not, here in Hampshire we're actually considered a 'sun trap' and for this reason our area is being peppered with large installations of these farms. These are similar to the solar panels you will find on houses but on a considerably larger scale. They are often located in the countryside and are semi-permanent structures designed to generate large quantities of electricity from the sun.

Opinion on solar farms is divided. Most people, including me, are broadly In favour of these renewable sources of energy that are good for the environment. There are, however, a minority who consider them a blight on the landscape and completely out of place in the countryside. I do understand this argument and I agree that councils should ensure that careful consideration of an application should be undertaken before permission is given.

Developing renewable energy is an important part of our future energy strategy but this does not mean we should be blind to the potential downsides. Aside from the obvious negatives of taking up valuable agricultural land and the visual impact of a site, there is also the question of their status in planning law. I have been contacted by constituents and organisations who are worried that these semi-permanent solar arrays will act as a precedent to allow future housing developments in the countryside and this is a big concern for many people. But I have been reassured by the planning minister this is not the case. Indeed the Government has said that the focus for locations of solar farms should be on buildings and existing brownfield sites, rather than prime agricultural land or areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The Government is also issuing new planning guidance to local councils which would make clear that the desire for renewable energy should not automatically override environmental protections or the planning concerns of local communities. I very much welcome these additional protections. Having also consulted with the planning departments of several local councils I am informed that the 'temporary' status of these solar farms would not allow them to be used to set a precedent for future housing development or to change greenfield sites into more easily developable brownfield. By ensuring that solar farms are carefully planned in suitable locations, we can exploit our increasingly sunny climate and provide a source of energy which is both secure and environmentally sound while creating jobs and that has to be good news for Hampshire. **George Hollingbery, Member of Parliament for Meon Valley.**

George Hollingbery holds a **monthly surgery at Waterlooville Precinct** on Saturdays. For the next date contact his office on 01962 734076 to book an appointment. You can also write to him at: George Hollingbery MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or get in touch through his website: www.georgehollingbery.com



Dear All; Here we have the fourth Downs Ward Newsletter. If you know of something I should cover please get in touch! Guy.

In this issue you will find:

Road works Have Ended - Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! County Elections, Housing and Joint Core Strategy, Police Reports, Devolved Grants, ROW Volunteer Group, BT Kiosk, Hindhead Tunnel Traffic Impact, HPC Surgery, message from George Hollingbery MP and more...

Roadworks - Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! After nearly 9 months of single alternate line traffic and urgent gas main works, the chaos that besieged the centre of Horndean has finally ended. It is clear that whoever plans and supervises these works did not do a good job of looking after our best interests, and several conversations with harsh words have been had to pass on the views of the local community. Inevitably the new surface had only been laid for a week or two before someone had to dig up a square to fix a water leak. We can hopefully look forward to future without temporary lights, but will need our new County Councillor to keep an eye on the damage the building work might do to the road as when Linden are finished it is important we have a road and pavement network that looks like new. The good news is that the works have a 'Section 58' order that prevents any road works unless they are urgent for a period of 5 years.

County Elections: Congratulations to Cllr Marge Harvey on the election win for the County Council elections. If you know of any highways or County issues that need to be addressed then please contact Marge on marge.harvey@hants.gov.uk

Housing: (overleaf pages 2 and 3) EHDC have produced the revised Joint Core Strategy and identified the future housing needs for the District. This will affect us and it is important that you read it here. As always there is also additional information online and the opportunity to register your views. Please take some time to do this.

Website: The website is now getting over 900 visits a month. On the right hand side there are permanent links for bus and train times, forthcoming meetings and events (Remembrance day parade, carol service etc), Planning information and development in general. There are now 120 articles and there have been over 6,300 visitors since it was started with a peak of 150 visitors in one day.

Police Reports: On the 16th August a cannabis factory was discovered in Lovedean Lane This is the second in Horndean in the last year. Burglaries are on the increase which is a worry. Time for a new security light? is your garden shed locked? At least one local home was broken into with their own insecure garden tools.

Councillor Grants: EHDC are launching a new grant scheme for District Councillors to use in the local community. The requirement is that it must provide a valuable service to residents that benefit the community at large. These will be issued to not-for-profit organisations in grants of £250 to £1,000, and the scheme will commence from April 2014. Please see www.horndeanmatters.com "Downs Project Funding" for more information and please email me with suggestions.

Rights Of Way Volunteer Group: Horndean Parish Council have started a ROW volunteer group to either help identify areas where there are problems, or help rectify them. If you are interested in helping out for a few hours a month, or have any issues to report then contact the HPC Countryside team on rowv@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk or on 023 9259 7766

"Coming Up" Dates. (Please visit www.horndeanmatters.com for up to date events and meetings)

- ❖ **Police South Of Butser Surgery.** Beat Surgeries Morrisons 10:30 to 12:00 Sat 22nd Sept, Sat 20th Oct.
- ❖ **EHDC Council Meetings:** 12 Sept, 24 Oct, 5 Dec Penns Place 18:30
- ❖ **Horndean Parish Council meetings:** 16th Sept, 28th Oct, 16th Dec from 7pm
- ❖ **Horndean Comedy Night** 27th September at Horndean Technology College www.comedy-allstars.co.uk
- ❖ **Butserfest Kids Music Festival** Sat 14th September 11am to 10pm QEII Country Park www.butserfest.co.uk
- ❖ **Horndean Parish Council Carol Service** 10th December - details to follow on www.horndeanmatters.com
- ❖ **Horndean Remembrance Day Parade:** Sunday 10th November 10:45 centre of Horndean.



Photo London Road, Horndean circa 1905. For a before and after comparison visit www.horndeanmatters.com and look for article "Gales Brewerv Beer Prices" 20th Mav 2013.

