

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
Bowling Green, Chiltington Lane, East Chiltington BN7 3QU, East Sussex
Tel: 01273 890621 Email: clerk@hamsey.net

Minutes of a meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 8th November 2018 - 7.15pm

Present: Cllr.D'Arienzo, chair
Cllr.R.Baughan, vice chair
Cllr. M.Dodd Cllr.J.Harmer
Cllr.Ian Ginn Cllr.K.McBrown
Cllr.N.Kinch

Apologies: Cllr.Isabelle Linnington LDC

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 2 members of the public

		Action
11181	Apologies for absence – Cllr.Isabelle Linnington LDC	
11182	Questions from the public Both residents had attended to discuss SDNP/18/05048/APNW. Chair agreed to move that item up the agenda.	
11183	Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. Cllr.McBrown declared an interest in SDNP/18/05048/APNW – friend of applicant Cllr.Harmer declared an interest in SDNP/18/04909 & SDNP/18/04908 - applicant Cllr.Dodd declared an interest in SDNP/18/05195/HOUS – neighbour	
11184	Minutes of the council meeting held 13 th September 2018 were agreed & signed as a true record	
11185	Update on any matters arising from last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda) None.	
11187.1	Chair moved planning item: SDNP/18/05048/APNW Lower Tulleys Wells Farm, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge -Construction of an earth banked farmyard manure store, to this point in order to adjourn the meeting and allow the two attending residents to address the council. They explained that they were neighbours to the application site and were very concerned because the proposed site for the manure store is so close to their property and neighbouring caravan site. Cllr.Ginn asked why the manure pit couldn't be sited elsewhere on the farm, further from neighbours. The residents said that the site had been chosen in order not to lose any farmland. They felt that between the bungalow and barn would be a more suitable location for such a big manure store. There was a discussion about the likely construction, which was proposed to be just 20ft from the neighbours and is likely to affect their livelihood as presently they rent out a cottage and run a caravan site – no one would come because of the smell and flies. Cllr.Baughan suggested that North of the railway embankment would be a good position, but that may be too close to a stream. The residents asked for it to be noted that they objected to Cllr.Harmer taking part in the discussion as he was known to be a friend of the applicant. Chair reconvened the meeting and asked councillors what they wanted to do. 1 councillor supported the application, 2 abstained and 4 felt the council should object to the present application because of the proposed position. It was therefore agreed that council will object and will recommend that the applicant suggests a location with less impact on neighbouring properties.	
11186 11186.1	Financial matters <i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300317 £361.20 Barcombe Landscapes. Mowing Cheque No.300318 £630.90 Clerk. Salary/expenses - September Cheque No.300319 £93.60 LDC Dog Bin empty	

	<p>Cheque No.300320 £41.98 Chairs expenses for Dog waste bags – Cooksbridge</p> <p>Cheque No.300321 £17.00 Offham Church for Poppy wreath (s.137)</p> <p>Cheque No.300322 £120.00 B.Thomas – repairs to Malthouse Park fence</p> <p>Cheque No.300323 £1,800.00 Sports Courts UK (from CIL funds)</p> <p>Cheque No.300324 £20.93 Networkworld sports. Tennis net straps (from CIL funds)</p> <p>Cheque No.300325 £40.00 Pipers Garden services. Cut Malthouse park hedge.</p> <p>Cheque No.300326 £628.20 Clerk. Salary/expenses – October</p> <p>Cheque No.300327 £8150.00 S.Funnell. Kitchen supplied to hall (from CIL funds)</p>	
11186.2	Council noted the current financial situation.	
11186.3	Council considered a request for a grant of £550 toward mowing at Hamsey Old church 2019/20. This was agreed by all. Grant funding from HPC to show £450 as general grant s.137 and £550 as grant s.214 in future.	
11186.4	Council considered the budget and precept requirements for 2019/20. It was noted that both LDC and ESCC have cut back hard on what they can supply, leaving parish councils to cover the shortfall. Mowing verges in Cooksbridge was one example of funds now having to come from the parish. Council agreed the precept needs to cover these extras.	
11187	Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee LW/18/0633 The Orchard, North End Lane, Hamsey - Erection of a detached three bedroom house – <i>no objection but some concerns raised</i>	
11187.2	SDNP/18/05195/HOUS. Mill Laine Farm, The Street, Offham - Alterations and extension to former farmhouse with loft conversion. Members of the planning committee will carry out a site visit	
11187.3	SDNP/18/04909/FUL Offham Farm, The Street, Offham -Erection of 1no. livestock barn for housing cattle - and	
11187.4	SDNP/18/04908/FUL Offham Farm, The Street, Offham -Erection of 1no. livestock barn for housing sheep Cllr.Harmer explained that the barns are recycled units from another farm. They will have chalk floors and a concrete front piece. Planning consent is needed due to the nearby listed building. The barns will be partly sunk and no higher than existing barns on site. They may be visible from the road but probably not from the neighbours. Members of the planning committee will carry out a site visit	
11187.5	Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP SDNP/18/03124/HOUS 2 Bretts Cottages, Whitfeld Lane, Hamsey - Alterations to brick outbuilding (attached to main house) to create a conservatory – granted	
11187.6	LW/18/0577 21 Malthouse Way Cooksbridge - Proposed porch extension -refused Council discussed the landscaping proposed for the Chatfield site- The trees are not yet planted and look very immature and poorly. Cllr.Baughan will follow this up.	Cllr.Baughan
11188	Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall Cllr.McBrown said the kitchen had now been refitted and was more suitable and easier to keep clean. This was funded through the CIL grant. Two new hall trustees had been appointed, Rea Hamilton from Hamsey School and Tamsyn D'Arienzo. Delia Minoprio had stepped down as a trustee and take a paid role as secretary, data protection officer and website administrator to the trustees. There will be one more double swing installed but probably not until the new year now. There will be a tree planting morning involving children from Hamsey school on November 20 th . The trees will be supplied free of charge by the Woodland trust and will help to landscape the new car park.	
11189	Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting	
111810	To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk The chair and Cllr.Ginn gave a report from the LDC conference	
111811	Update on any plans for 11th November – Beacon lighting etc. The beacon will be lit at 7pm by the chair and a representative of the Royal Sussex	

	regiment. All councillors will try to attend the service at St.Peters at 10.30am and Cllr.Ginn will lay the wreath on behalf of the council.	Cllr.Ginn
111812	Update on the parish emergency plan The ESCC emergency planning officer has offered to run a workshop for parish councillors. Date to be arranged.	Chair
111813	Highway, Parking and Traffic issues A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). A deadline has passed for Cllr.Sheppard and ESCC to respond regarding repairs to the footway between Cooksbridge and the garage. Cllr. Baughan has asked Maria Caulfield to apply pressure for these repairs. Council noted that a resident has also contacted ESCC regarding this and hoped more people would complain as this all adds weight to the council's request. Speedwatch needs more volunteers to come forward. Anyone interested in helping to reduce speed through Cooksbridge should contact the chair.	
111814	Rail and bus issues. A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). A meeting in October with GTR pushed for a better service for Cooksbridge. Council was very pleased to note that cameras will be installed at the crossing in The Drove, something the PC had pushed for as a safety priority.	
111815	Any update on parish event to be held in November Invites have gone out to all residents, including new residents at Chatfields.	
111816	Council considered any environmental issues A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). ESCC have asked if the parish council will employ contractors to cut the grass through Cooksbridge 2019 or if they wish to pay ESCC to carry out the cuts on their behalf. The cost would be £337 pa. Council discussed this. Clerk had asked ESCC to clarify the position regarding verges through Offham but had not received a reply. Clerk will chase ESCC and also ask local contractors if they are able to meet the ESCC list of requirements, which had proved a problem in 2018.	Chair and clerk
111817	Council considered GDPR requirements Chair is going to consult neighbouring parishes to see what they are putting in place.	Chair
111818	Council considered Police/Neighbourhood watch issues A survey went to neighbours of the Downsview car park regarding safety issues. 14 replies were received. A motion sensor security light was popular but cutting the hedge to the recommended safe height met with a mixed response. Council will contact ESCC regarding safety concerns when pulling out of the car park due to poor visibility and oncoming vehicles negotiating the traffic island. Council hope that when that section is resurfaced something could be done as a warning – hatch marks? There are still problems with dog mess being left on driveways through Cooksbridge. Evidence has been gathered in order to prosecute the offender.	Cllr.Baughan /Chair
111819	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda 21 Nov. – SDNP Workshop, 18:30 – 21:30. Chair and Cllr.Baughan will attend. There will be a community meeting on November 22 nd Beechwood Hall Council considered the Neighbourhood plan was still current and relevant	
111820	Meeting dates for 2019 - January 24 th , March 7 th , May 16 th , July 11 th , September 12 th , November 7 th . All at Beechwood Hall 7.15pm. Annual parish meeting will take place on May 16 th before the annual council meeting.	

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

JT 09/11/18

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....

Highways Report – November 2018

It continues to be a challenging period for highways matters within our parish and below is a brief summary of the status of current issues involving East Sussex Highways:

Issues Resolved Since Last Report

□ **Case 263624 - Speed sign outside Hamsey Community Primary School out of alignment** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 26-06-18 – The flashing 30 mph speed sign had been knocked out of alignment and this issue was reported to the East Sussex Highways traffic safety team for rectification on 26-06-18. We also requested that the possibility of changing the sign to show 20 mph during school times be investigated to determine viability and associated costs.

East Sussex Highways were being chased on an almost daily basis to rectify this issue given that school-children attending Hamsey Community Primary School were being put at unnecessary risk from speeding motorists and local residents living opposite the sign had to put up with constant red and white flashing LED light being projected into their homes at all hours of the day. After months of chasing, East Sussex Highways attended to rectify the sign on 05-10-18 which has now been restored to its correct alignment and is again functioning correctly. Accordingly, this case can be considered as closed.

□ **Case 275581 - Hamsey AHB Level Crossing - Approach Signage on The Drove** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 29-08-18 as vegetation is beginning to obscure the approach signage advising motorists on the approach to Hamsey Automatic Half Barrier (AHB) Level Crossing.

East Sussex Highways wrote to Hamsey Parish Council on 11-09-18 advising that the local Highway Steward had recently inspected the site and advised that some areas of vegetation had been cut back recently. However, more still needed to be done and so they had contacted the relevant land owner, asking for more vegetation to be cut back. On 25-09-18 East Sussex Highways wrote to advise that the local Highway Steward had recently inspected the vegetation by the level crossing signs on The Drove and had confirmed it had been cut back sufficiently. Accordingly, this case can be considered as closed.

Pending Issues

□ **Case 167567 - Bridge railings at North End** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 22-10-17. The latest update was received from East Sussex Highways on 13-08-18 when they advised that they are having to arrange for a specialist contractor to carry out the repair works. As soon as a date/time scale for the works has been confirmed, they will advise Hamsey Parish Council. We are continuing to raise this issue on a frequent basis and a date for these repairs to be carried out is still awaited.

We wrote again to East Sussex Highways on 30-10-18 and an update is currently awaited.

□ **Case 207892 – Damage to footpath between Cooksbridge and Offham** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 20-02-18. The damage caused to the footpath by a contractor's vehicle has been raised on many occasions with East Sussex Highways and on 25-04-18 they advised that the local Highway Steward had inspected the site and, although they have noted areas where the pavement is untidy, these were not at the level at which they were causing a safety issue.

Representatives from Hamsey Parish Council met on 27-06-18 with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council and the local Highway Steward when we jointly inspected the damaged footpath and explained our position that repairs must be undertaken given the safety implications alongside the busy A275 road. Cllr. Sheppard agreed to escalate this issue within East Sussex County Council for resolution and we are currently awaiting a response. We wrote again on 25-08-18, alerting East Sussex Highways to the fact that significant vegetation is now growing through the broken surface of this footpath, thereby further increasing the risk to users.

Following a further exchange of correspondence and additional lobbying by local residents, East Sussex Highways wrote to Hamsey Parish Council on 11-09-18 advising that one of their engineers has inspected the path and has asked that the path is considered for larger scale works in the next financial year. They also advised that the local Highway Steward will continue to monitor the pavement here and, should there be any safety issues, arrange for the appropriate repairs to take place.

Finally, as a result of the unacceptable risks posed to the children of Hamsey Community Primary School when negotiating this unsafe path on 08-10-18, to attend their annual Harvest Festival service at St Peter's church in Offham, we have written again to Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex

County Council pointing out the deteriorating state of the footpath and the urgent need for this safety related issue to be addressed. A further update received from East Sussex Highways on 31-10-18 again advised that they have asked for these works to be added to their list for the next financial year. Constant pressure will continue to be maintained with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council, and East Sussex Highways, until these repairs have been undertaken.

□ **Case 250259 - Damaged / decaying wooden posts at junction of A275 and Beechwood Lane** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 31-05-18. We took the opportunity to discuss this issue with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council and the local Highway Steward during their visit to Cooksbridge on 27-06-18.

It was explained to us that, due to financial constraints, individual missing or decaying posts could be replaced by East Sussex Highways with a plastic alternative and this is something that Hamsey Parish Council will consider carefully given the aesthetic implications. However, an option exists for Hamsey Parish Council to arrange to procure and arrange for the installation of replacement wooden posts to match those existing and East Sussex Highways are in the process of providing the necessary information to facilitate this.

□ **Case 260218 – Damaged fencing on A275 between the Chalkpit Inn (Curry Cottage) and Landport Fork** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 02-07-18. East Sussex Highways wrote on 18-07-18 to advise that a permanent repair to the fence is being arranged but that they do not currently have a date for the works.

We wrote again to East Sussex Highways on 30-10-18 advising that virtually the whole section of this fence between Landport Fork and the Chalkpit Inn (Curry Cottage) is now collapsing and, given that this fence protects pedestrians and cyclists using the A275 footpath from a very steep drop towards the Ouse valley, the safety implications require that these repairs are carried out as a matter of urgency.

An update from East Sussex Highways is currently awaited.

□ **Defect to southbound carriageway of A275 adjacent to traffic island to north of Beechwood Lane** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 02-07-18. There is a defect (a depression in the road surface) that could be associated with drainage issues at this location and the opportunity was taken to raise this issue with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council and the local Highway Steward during their visit Cooksbridge on 27-06-18. A date for repair of this defect is still to be advised.

New Issues

□ **Case 1075067 - Provision of a 'No Through Road' sign for Malthouse Way, Cooksbridge** – At a recent meeting of residents, an issue was highlighted with the significant number of motorists who divert into Malthouse Way, Cooksbridge from the A275. This is particularly the case for northbound traffic when approaching Cooksbridge level crossing with the barriers down, in the expectation that Malthouse Way may be an alternative diversionary route. As Malthouse Way is a cul-de-sac, these motorists then have to perform a three point turn at the end of Malthouse Way before retracing their route back to the A275. This unnecessary traffic is a potential safety hazard to young children who often play in this area as well as a cause of airborne and audible pollution to residents.

This issue was reported to East Sussex Highways on 01-10-18 who responded advising that we should address this issue to Lewes District Council in the first instance to request that they consider the addition of the 'no through road' symbol at the end of the street name plate at the entrance to Malthouse Way.

A response from Lewes District Council is currently awaited.

General

Hamsey Parish Council continues to ensure that highways issues affecting Hamsey parish are raised with East Sussex Highways at the earliest opportunity in order that they are registered for rectification. However, limited progress continues to be made on a number of outstanding issues against the backdrop of increasing budget constraints within East Sussex County Council. It will be necessary for us to continue to keep up the pressure with East Sussex Highways to ensure that necessary works to address highways issues within our parish are afforded the appropriate priority.

For any issues requiring the attention of East Sussex Highways, please don't hesitate to let me know. I will add the details to our log and ensure that they are raised with the appropriate department.

Councillor Robert Baughan

Rail Report – November 2018

Since the last Parish Council meeting there have been a number of developments relating to rail issues and a brief summary is provided below for your information:

□ **GTR May 2018 Timetable** – The new Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) timetable was implemented across the network on 20th May including the addition of two new early morning weekday trains from Cooksbridge at 06.06 (to London Bridge) and 06.22 (to London Victoria), an earlier train from Cooksbridge to Lewes at 06.48, two evening services from London Bridge instead of the current one, as well as other enhancements incorporated in the re-cast timetable.

Although there have been significant issues across the GTR network since the introduction of this new timetable, particularly affecting Thameslink and Great Northern services as a result of driver availability / training resulting in the publication of a revised version from 15th July, so far the new timetable has generally performed well at Cooksbridge. In particular, the anticipated overcrowding due to the proposed new train formations has to date not materialised, although we are still continuing to monitor this situation whilst also addressing specific performance issues such as the frequent delays to the 08.16 service from London Victoria.

In response to requests from Cooksbridge rail users, the Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) has now written to GTR requesting an additional stop at Cooksbridge on the 15.16 train from London Victoria to provide an afternoon return service for Cooksbridge customers within the Super Saver window and this is currently under consideration. We have also written requesting an additional stop at Cooksbridge on the 17.45 train from London Victoria to address a gap of 51 minutes in service at a time of peak demand by commuters, however the initial response from GTR is that this is unlikely to be possible within the constraints of the current timetable due to the need to maintain the connection with the Seaford service at Lewes.

□ **Full 7 Days per Week Train Service** - The Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) campaign for a full off-peak weekday train service from Cooksbridge, as well as at weekends, is continuing and a meeting was held on 31st October with Phil Hutchinson, GTR's Head of Strategic Planning, to progress this initiative. We are also seeking the assistance of Maria Caulfield MP in providing contacts within the Department for Transport to start the process of influencing the train service specification for Cooksbridge for the next franchise which is due to be awarded in 2021.

□ **Railfuture** – The Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) continues to be represented at meetings of Railfuture (the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for passengers and freight) to harness the support of that organisation for improvements to the rail service at Cooksbridge. CARAG has now provided details to Railfuture of the service specification required for Cooksbridge (minimum of hourly service, 7 days a week) for the next franchise to incorporate in their list of issues to be addressed with the Department for Transport during the process of service specification for the new franchise.

□ **Brighton Line 'Blockade'** – Network Rail have agreed with GTR, which operates Southern, Thameslink and Gatwick Express services, to close the lines between Three Bridges and Brighton and Three Bridges and Lewes for a nine-day period coinciding with the February 2019 school half-term, in addition to a number of weekend closures. This is to enable Network Rail to implement a number of enhancements to the existing rail infrastructure as part of the Brighton Main Line Improvement Project with the aim of improving long term reliability. CARAG is attending a briefing on this planned closure on 9th November and information on replacement bus services, etc will be shared with Cooksbridge rail users in due course.

□ **Lewes Bonfire** – Hamsey Parish Council and CARAG (Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group) were alerted to the fact that the Lewes District Council (LDC) and Sussex Police led Tactical

Coordination Group were planning to stop trains to a number of stations including Cooksbridge after 17.00 on Bonfire night, in an effort to reduce crowds in Lewes and so improve safety. Hamsey Parish Council and CARAG objected to this and the decision was escalated to the Scrutiny Committee at LDC, where a case for both sides could be heard.

Hamsey Parish Council and CARAG were represented at the Scrutiny Committee meeting by Cllr. Tamsyn d'Arienzo who put across our case to persuade the committee that this was not the best course of action. County Cllr. Sarah Osborne and District Councillor Isabelle Linington also made representations on our behalf.

After the meeting, an update was issued by the Tactical Coordination Group stating that the station closures (including Cooksbridge) were still be implemented as planned from 17.00 but that they would be stopping the 16.16 train from London Victoria at Cooksbridge at 17.20 to allow commuters an opportunity to return home. Hamsey Parish Council responded stating that these proposals were still unacceptable and re-stating our position that a full train service should be provided from Cooksbridge on 5th November. With 5th November again falling on a weekday in 2019, we will have to be vigilant and continue to lobby for a full train service on this and future Lewes Bonfire celebrations.

□ **Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade** –The existing life-expired level crossing equipment, commissioned in 1985, will be renewed and replaced with a modern equivalent controlled from Network Rail's Regional Operating Centre at Three Bridges. These works, being undertaken on behalf of Network Rail by their contractor Atkins, will be continuing throughout the rest of this year in preparation for the commissioning of the new level crossing equipment in March 2019.

Network Rail's contractor Atkins have now started work from their site compound on land adjacent to the Malthouse Way footpath and a series of enabling works are now in progress leading up to the main commissioning period in February / March 2019. The REB (relocatable equipment building) was successfully delivered to site at Cooksbridge during the weekend of 20th /21st October and over the following months various other works will take place including the construction of a new walking route, new fencing, new pedestals for the barrier machines, alterations to lighting and a new CCTV column and cameras. We are working closely with the Network Rail project team responsible for this upgrade to ensure that informative letters are issued to local residents before any weekend works, with detailed information relating to their potential impact and the mitigation measures adopted to address environmental issues including noise. Details of the arrangements for the final commissioning period during February / March 2019, including any associated road closures, are still being developed by Network Rail, and their contractor Atkins, and we will be sharing full details with residents as soon as they are known. Finally, the Network Rail project team responsible for delivering the Cooksbridge level crossing upgrade works will be attending the forthcoming Community Meeting on 22nd November 2018 to present an explanation of the planned enhancements, how they are managing the works to minimise their impact and the benefits of the upgraded level crossing. There will be an opportunity for residents to ask any questions they may have about these works at the end of this presentation.

Details of the arrangements for the final commissioning period, including any associated road closures, are still being developed by Network Rail, and their contractor Atkins, and we will be sharing full details with residents as soon as they are known.

If any of the above requires further clarification please don't hesitate to let me know and I will do all I can to assist.

Councillor Robert Baughan

Environment Report – November 2018

Public Recycling Bins - Lewes District Council (LDC) has now installed new bins to allow residents to recycle easily while out and about.

The 'Recycling on the Go' scheme was launched on Monday 22nd October allowing people to recycle items in local street bins for the first time, and thereby helping to further reduce the amount of waste being incinerated.

A total of 10 new bins, each clearly showing the materials that can be recycled, have been introduced by LDC in five areas across the district at Lewes, Ringmer, Seaford, Newhaven and Peacehaven. These bins complement the public recycling bin that was installed by Hamsey Parish

Council in the centre of Cooksbridge at the beginning of last year and has proved to be very successful.

LDC has also recently appointed a new Waste and Recycling Engagement Officer to increase participation across local communities. The role includes working with schools, supporting litter picking groups and coordinating events to promote the importance of reducing waste in people's daily lives and we looking forward to working with them as we continue our great partnership with LDC's waste and recycling team.

Litter Heroes – We are really grateful that more and more local residents are joining this scheme and adopting their local areas to complement the quarterly parish litter picks. Many areas of the parish have already been adopted by 'Litter Heroes' and if you, or any one you know, wish to join them and take part in this initiative to 'adopt' your own part of our parish please do let us know.

Dog Fouling – CCTV has now been installed at Beechwood Park, to address recent issues of theft and vandalism, and this will also be used to monitor compliance with the requirement to keep dogs on leads and to avoid dog fouling.

A new dog waste bag dispenser to the side of the dog waste bin on the A275 footpath adjacent to the level crossing at Cooksbridge and the dog mess situation seems to have improved since installation.

We are continuing to monitor this important issue of dog fouling that affects the lives of all residents who wish to enjoy our public spaces and to try to strike the right balance for the benefit of everyone in our community.

Parish Litter Picks – After our long hot summer, litter was building up again around the verges and lay-bys of the parish and it was great to see a number of local residents join us on Sunday 14th October to tackle the latest accumulation!

A big thank you to Mary, Pete, Jim, Miki, Terry and Ian for their contribution to this litter pick which saw a large number of full black bags and other roadside junk picked up for collection by our colleagues at Lewes District Council's Waste and Recycling department.

Litter picks on Sundays seem to have worked well this year and so, building on this success, we are intending to continue on the same day with the following dates planned for 2019: 13th January, 7th April, 7th July and 13th October. All litter picks will continue to be publicised in the Hamsey News, on the community website and by posters and we hope very much to see as many of you as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean!

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade – The works associated with the Cooksbridge level crossing upgrade have now commenced and we are continuing to work closely with Network Rail to ensure that all environmental measures are appropriately addressed, both during the works and for the new level crossing installation that will enter into service in March 2019.

We are pleased to confirm that new 'anti-pollution' signs have now been ordered by Network Rail for installation as part of the permanent new level crossing infrastructure.

The significant works involving rail-mounted equipment / plant are taking place over some weekends this autumn, and we are working closely with Network Rail to ensure that affected local residents are appropriately informed by letter before these works and that sound levels are kept to the lowest possible level whilst maintaining the safety of staff involved.

Beechwood Hall Recycling Compound – We have been investigating the possibility of installing recycling bins, and an associated compound, in the corner of the car park at Beechwood Park for consideration by the Beechwood Hall trustees. This initiative, being developed with the collaboration of the Waste & Recycling team from Lewes District Council (LDC) would, if approved by the Beechwood Hall trustees, allow us to satisfy the growing demand from hall hirers and guests who want to recycle the waste they clear when they clean the hall at the end of their event. As an 'eco hall' we really want to make this possible for them.

Vision - Tamsyn and Robert are continuing to talk with neighbouring parishes to share information and to join forces on environmental initiatives. We have many really exciting initiatives now in progress and more ideas in the pipeline and we would always welcome contributions and suggestions for consideration.

We continue to share a vision of Hamsey parish as a community working together to ensure a clean and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

Councillors Robert Baughan and Tamsyn D'Arienzo