

## Hamsey Parish Council

[www.hamsey.net](http://www.hamsey.net)

*Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council*  
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### Minutes of a meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 24th January 2019 - 7.15pm

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

**Apologies:** Cllr.Ian Ginn

**In attendance:** Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.  
1 member of the public. Cllr.Isabelle Linnington LDC

		Action
1191	<b>Apologies for absence –</b> Cllr.Ian Ginn	
1192	<b>Questions from the public</b> A resident queried an article in Hamsey newsletter stating 33% of respondents wanted a tennis or multi-court at Beechwood park. He had raised his query with the chair of the hall trustees. It should have read 33% of those who responded to the question wanted a tennis or multi-court. Cllr.Dodd offered to look at the statistics.	Cllr.Dodd
1193	<b>Declaration of interest by</b> Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. Chair – Item 7 : LW/18/0853 Cllr.McBrown - Item 7 : LW/18/0853 & SDNP/18/05048	
1194	<b>Minutes of the council meeting</b> held 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 were agreed & signed as a true record	
1195	<b>Update on any matters arising from last meeting</b> (not elsewhere on the agenda) None.	
116 1196.1	<b>Financial matters</b> <i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300328 £681.56 GOPak Tables for Beechwood Hall (from CIL funds) Cheque No.300329 £632.25 Clerk salary/exp.November *Cheque No.300330 £308.00 Barcombe Landscapes. Mow/hedge cut Beechwood *Cheque No.300331 £634.98 Clerk salary/exp.December *Cheque No.300332 £93.60 LDC Dog bin empty *Cheque No.300333 £20.00 National trust. Beacon Licence	
1196.2 1196.3	<b>Council noted the current financial situation.</b> <b>Council</b> noted that there was £8,240 ring fenced in CIL funding.	
1197	<b>Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee</b> <b>LW/18/0791/ LW/18/0792</b> Shelleys Folly, Deadmantree Hill, Barcombe - Retain and regularise unauthorised works undertaken and undertake additional correctional works, as listed in the associated schedule of works – <i>no objection</i> <b>SDNP/18/05982</b> Picketts, Ditchling Road, Offham BN7 3QW - Internal renovation including: removal and relocation of internal modern partition walls, new door way, new bathrooms including two new external SVP's, new doors, cleaning of timber beams, new wet overlay underfloor heating, new floor finishes. <i>no comment made</i> <b>LW/18/0853</b> Nursery Cottage Cooksbridge Road Cooksbridge - Ground floor rear extension to link garage to house - <i>no comment made</i> <b>LW/18/0840</b> Springles Barn - <i>no comment made- now withdrawn</i> <b>LW/18/0850</b> Details of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to LW/17/0030 Knights Court, South Chailey – <i>no objection but some concerns raised</i> <b>LW/18/0879</b> 33 Chandlers Mead, Cooksbridge, BN8 4SZ, Single storey bathroom extension and associated alterations– <i>no objection</i>	

<p>1197.1</p> <p>1197.2</p> <p>1197.3</p>	<p><b>LW/18/0864</b> The Old Police House Cooksbridge Road Cooksbridge-Replacement front entrance porch, removal of existing ground and first floor extension and replacement with new, remove garage, increase off road parking- <i>no comment made</i></p> <p><b>LW/18/0894</b> Malthouse, Cooksbridge Road -Alter east elevation- <i>no comment</i></p> <p><b>LW/18/0633</b>The Orchard, North End Lane, Hamsey - Erection of a detached three bedroom house – <i>no objection but some concerns raised</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/05048/APNW</b> Lower Tulleys Wells Farm, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge -Construction of an earth banked farmyard manure store – <i>objection</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/05195/HOUS.</b> Mill Laine Farm, The Street, Offham - Alterations and extension to former farmhouse with loft conversion – <i>no comment made</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/04909/FUL</b> Offham Farm, The Street, Offham -Erection of 1no. livestock barn for housing cattle - <i>no comment made</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/04908/FUL</b> Offham Farm, The Street, Offham -Erection of 1no. livestock barn for housing sheep- <i>no comment made</i></p> <p><b>Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP</b></p> <p><b>LW/18/0633</b>The Orchard, North End Lane, Hamsey - Erection of a detached three bedroom house – <i>granted</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/05048/APNW</b> Lower Tulleys Wells Farm, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge -Construction of earth banked manure store -<i>further prior approval is required.</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/05195/HOUS.</b> Mill Laine Farm, The Street, Offham - Alterations and extension to former farmhouse with loft conversion - <i>granted</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/04909/FUL</b> Offham Farm, The Street, Offham -Erection of 1no. livestock barn for housing cattle - <i>granted</i></p> <p><b>SDNP/18/04908/FUL</b> Offham Farm, The Street, Offham -Erection of 1no. livestock barn for housing sheep - <i>granted</i></p> <p><b>LW/18/0850</b> Details of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to LW/17/0030 Knights Court South Road, South Chailey – <i>approved</i></p> <p><b>LW/18/0864</b> The Old Police House Cooksbridge Road Cooksbridge- Replacement front entrance porch, removal of existing ground and first floor extension and replacement with new, remove garage, increase off road parking- <i>granted</i></p> <p><b>LW/18/0894</b> The Malthouse, Cooksbridge -Alterations to east elevation – <i>granted</i></p> <p><b>Council noted</b> a new application for the manure store at Tulleyswells had arrived too late for this meeting and would be discussed by the planning committee before the deadline for comments (14.2.19)</p> <p><b>Council are continuing</b> to speak with the developers at Chatfields regarding the Northern boundary fence and planting. Cllr.Linnington thought the ancient hedge was supposed to have been retained. She will follow this up. There are also concerns that the developers are renegeing on their offer of parking for existing residents. Chair and vice chair will follow this up.</p>	<p>Cllr.Linnington</p> <p>Chair/ Cllr.Baughan</p>
<p>1198</p>	<p><b>Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall</b></p> <p>Cllr.Dodd said the treasurer to the trustees would be resigning in the summer and this had been a cause of great concern. Trustees are very pleased to have found a replacement. Jenni Toomey has resigned after 8 years of managing the bookings for the hall and trustees were very pleased to accept an offer from Kate McBrown to take this job on.</p> <p>Trustees will be considering whether to install outdoor exercise equipment, which is especially good for the health of older people, possibly also a drinking fountain and maybe a bike repair area.</p> <p>Dog mess and dogs off leads is still a great concern. Some dog walkers have been very aggressive towards anyone trying to enforce the rule.</p> <p>The ladies toilets have been decorated.</p> <p>The November parish party was a great success. Kate has suggested a small event to thank hall keyholders, regular users and helpers.</p>	
<p>1199</p>	<p><b>Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting</b></p>	
<p>11910</p>	<p><b>To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk</b></p> <p>The chair and vice chair gave a report on the SDNPA Parishes Workshop. This looked at possible projects within the park. They put forward suggestions for projects that might be considered in the future ie: cycle paths, and that SDNP could co-operate with. These could be flagged up through the newsletter.</p>	

11911	<b>Council considered the grass cutting requirements for 2019</b> 3 quotes had been received for mowing/hedge cutting at Beechwood Park and council agreed to appoint Barcombe Landscapes for 2019. Council agreed ask ESCC to provide 6 annual cuts to verges in Offham and Cooksbridge, which will be paid for by Hamsey parish council.	
1112	<b>Update on the parish emergency plan</b> There will be an emergency planning training session at Beechwood Hall on 5 <sup>th</sup> February. Cllrs McBrown, Kinch, D'Arienzo and Ginn to attend.	
11913	<b>Highway, Parking and Traffic issues</b> Cllr.Baughan had circulated a report (attached). There is an SLR meeting arranged for Feb.13 <sup>th</sup> . Clerk was asked to send letters to 3 properties with overgrown hedges. Chair said there is still a shortage of volunteers for Speedwatch.	Clerk
11914	<b>Rail and bus issues.</b> A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). A meeting in early Feb. will discuss issues that may arise during the crossing upgrade in March – parking issues and the weekends closures. There will be a safety upgrade to the Hamsey crossing in the Drove.	
11915	<b>Council considered any environmental issues</b> A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). The PC have approached the school regarding a clean air kit that can be used to monitor pollution from vehicles near the school. Network Rail will put 'No Idling' signs on the new barriers. Cllr.Linnington said ESCC are pursuing a campaign of 'Switch off your engines' outside schools.	
11916	<b>Council considered GDPR requirements</b> Advice is available from SSALC	
11917	<b>Council considered Police/Neighbourhood watch issues</b> Safety issues at Downsview car park will be discussed at the SLR meeting. Fuel has again been syphoned from vehicles there. Police attended the community meeting in November. The hedge height was discussed.	
11918	<b>Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda</b> Council has requested the bus shelter in Cooksbridge should be cleaned The telephone book box is being well used. Jane Baldwin has stepped down from editing the community newsletter and Natalie kindly offered to help Kate with this.	
11919	<b>Meeting dates for 2019</b> - March 7 <sup>th</sup> , May 16 <sup>th</sup> , July 11 <sup>th</sup> , Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> , November 7 <sup>th</sup> . All at Beechwood Hall 7.15pm. Annual parish meeting will take place on May 16 <sup>th</sup> before the annual council meeting.	

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

JT 25/11/18

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

## Highways Report – January 2019

Since the last report, it has continued to be a challenging period with many issues still awaiting resolution, although no new highways issues have been identified. A brief summary of the status of current highways issues involving East Sussex Highways is provided below:

### Issues Resolved Since Last Report

- Nothing to report.

### Pending Issues



- **Case 167567 - Bridge railings at North End** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 22-10-17. In the update received from East Sussex Highways on 13-08-18, they advised that they are having to arrange for a specialist contractor to carry out the repair works and that 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 in the latest update received on 31-10-18, a date for these repairs to be carried out was still to be advised. This issue will be raised again at a meeting now arranged with East Sussex Highways to be held in February 2019.
- **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. 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 and, should there be any safety issues, arrange for the appropriate repairs to take place.

Following a further communication to Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council on 08-10-18, pointing out the deteriorating state of the footpath and the urgent need for this safety related issue to be addressed, we have now written to our local MP Maria Caulfield to seek her assistance. Maria Caulfield raised the matter with Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at East Sussex County Council, who in turn investigated with East Sussex Highways. We received an update from Maria Caulfield on 21-11-18 advising that the local Highway Steward carried out an inspection on 05-11-18 and had arranged for siding works to take place between these junctions to improve the accessibility of this footway.

The outstanding repairs to this footpath will be raised again at a meeting now arranged with East Sussex Highways to be held in February 2019.



- **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 advised on 31-10-18 that if the parish would like to apply for a licence for posts/bollards, we would need to complete an application form to gain a licence to do so. This issue will be raised again at a meeting now arranged with East Sussex Highways to be held in February 2019.

- **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 are continuing to raise this issue on a frequent basis and in the latest update received on 31-10-18, a date for these repairs to be carried out was still to be advised. This issue will be raised again at the meeting arranged with East Sussex Highways to be held in February 2019.
- **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.
- **Case 1075067 - Provision of a 'No Through Road' sign for Malthouse Way, Cooksbridge** – An issue has been 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. Accordingly, this issue has now been raised with Lewes District Council and a response is still awaited.

### **New Issues**

- Nothing to report.

### **General**

Hamsey Parish Council continues to maintain a positive relationship with East Sussex Highways and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership during 2019 to ensure that highways issues affecting Hamsey parish are appropriately addressed.

A meeting of East Sussex Highways and Hamsey Parish Council has been arranged for February 2019 to strengthen our relationship and to review and prioritise the current list of outstanding highways works in our parish. During this review we will seek firm commitments with dates from East Sussex Highways for addressing the most urgent safety related issues and review all potential options for addressing other outstanding items.

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 – January 2019**

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



- **GTR May 2018 Timetable** – Experience of the Gvia Thameslink Railway (GTR) timetable implemented across the network on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, is increasingly positive for Cooksbridge rail users, with timekeeping in particular improving significantly. GTR are still looking to target specific trains where timekeeping is still an issue, to put in place measures to address this, but the general trend is one of improvement.

Overcrowding due to the revised train formations has to date not materialised in the Up peak hours, although we are aware of some occasional issues with Down



peak hours services from London. Off-peak services from Cookebridge continue to be very crowded and the Cookebridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) have now raised this issue with GTR. However, GTR have explained that due to the constraints of available units during the peak hours, and the current need to attach/detach trains at Haywards Heath, there are no immediate solutions to this issue. We will however continue to press for measures to address the unacceptable issue of overcrowding.

Following a concerted effort, we were successful in securing the provision by GTR of a stopping service at Cookebridge between Christmas and New Year within the special timetable implemented on these days.

- **Full 7 Days per Week Train Service** – As part of our ongoing campaign for a full off-peak weekday train service from Cookebridge, as well as at weekends, the Cookebridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) wrote to GTR in November 2018, highlighting the increasing demand for rail services arising from current and planned new housing developments within the station catchment area.

As part of the same campaign, a further constructive meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January with Phil Hutchinson, GTR’s Head of Strategic Planning, and his team to continue the dialogue with respect to the enhancements we are seeking to the train service from Cookebridge within the current franchise.

Further to this, we have requested 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 Cookebridge for the next franchise which is due to be awarded in 2021.



- **Hamsey Level Crossing – Red Light Safety Enforcement Cameras** - Further to the investigations that we carried out during July 2015 together with Network Rail into misuse at Hamsey Level Crossing that occurred at that time, and our subsequent lobbying for safety enhancements, Network Rail have now written to Hamsey Parish Council advising that red light safety enforcement (RLSE) cameras will be installed at this level crossing by the end of 2019.



Network Rail advise that ‘much like a speed camera, red light safety enforcement (RLSE) cameras are fully-automated, capturing evidence and identifying vehicles that jump the red lights at half-barrier level crossings. Offenders are automatically notified of their violation and are given the option to pay a fine and receive points on their licence – or sit a level crossing safety awareness course.

As an additional deterrent, signage warning motorists of the presence of enforcement cameras is installed at each location to encourage drivers to obey the law. Network Rail does not administer, nor benefit from, the fixed penalties. At the four level crossings where the cameras have already been installed, initial results show a significant reduction – more than 80% on average – in the number of motorists ignoring the warning lights or swerving around the barriers. Although our railway is the safest in Europe, level crossings are still a very real safety risk. These cameras are a proven, cost-effective way to improve safety and encourage motorists not to take unnecessary risks when crossing the railway’.

With its automated half-barriers and the associated risk of misuse, Hamsey Level Crossing represents by far the greatest rail related safety risk within our parish and the installation of these red light safety enforcement (RLSE) cameras is a potentially life-saving development and very good news for local residents, rail users and motorists alike.

## **railfuture**

- **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. The CARAG Cooksbridge train service aspirations have been added to the Railfuture ‘wish list’ that is being created ready for the start of the consultation process for the renewal of the existing GTR franchise which is due to end in 2021. Although the UK government’s ‘Williams Review’ considering the future structure of the UK rail industry is now in progress, with a reporting date of September 2019, the Railfuture position is to continue preparing for the renewal of the existing franchise in 2021.



- **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 range of enhancements to the existing rail infrastructure as part of the Brighton Main Line Improvement Project with the aim of improving long term reliability.

Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) attended a briefing on this planned closure on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and information on replacement bus services has now been published by GTR. CARAG is in the process of clarifying the arrangements for these bus services before sharing details with Cooksbridge rail users in due course.

- **Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade** – The existing life-expired level crossing equipment, commissioned in 1985, is being 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, are continuing over the next few months in preparation for the commissioning of the new level crossing equipment on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Benefits of the new level crossing to local residents will include more reliable infrastructure, new barriers, improved road markings and fencing, and the provision of anti-pollution signs.



Network Rail’s contractor Atkins have been working 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 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 continuing to work closely with the Network Rail project team responsible for this upgrade to ensure that bespoke 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. Furthermore, Richard Sayell, the Network Rail project manager responsible for the level crossing upgrade works at Cooksbridge gave a presentation to local residents at the Community Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November which was most informative and very well received by those present.

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, in association with East Sussex County Council and we will be sharing full details with residents as soon as they are known. As part of this, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March inclusive, there will be a blockade of all rail services between Polegate and Haywards Heath to facilitate the final commissioning of the new signalling system in the Lewes area and the Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) is in the process of clarifying with GTR the arrangements for replacement bus services during this blockade before sharing details with Cooksbridge rail users in due course.

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 – January 2019



**Lewes District Council Recycling Service** – All residents were written to at the end of 2018 by Lewes District Council, thanking them for making their new mixed recycling service such a success.

Between November 2017 and July 2018, approximately 40,000 new 240 litre recycling wheelie bins were delivered across the district. This resulted in an extra one thousand tons of waste being recycled during the same period, which is a significant improvement and largely due to the way that residents have embraced the new mixed recycling service.

Once collected, all recycling waste is transported to a Material Recycling Facility where it is automatically sorted for onward sale, with none going to landfill. Lewes District Council have appointed Viridor as their contractor to manage this service.

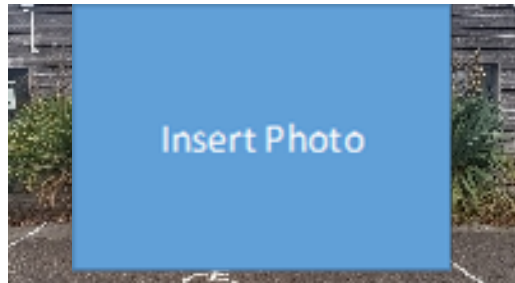
**Litter Heroes** – We continue to be grateful that more and more local residents are joining this scheme and adopting their local areas to complement the quarterly parish litter picks. Many areas of the parish have already been adopted by ‘Litter Heroes’ and if you, or any one you know, wish to join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



**Air Pollution** – As well as the anti-pollution signs that Network Rail have agreed to install at Cooksbridge level crossing as part of the upgrade works, we are looking at creating bespoke signs to place along the A275 in the zone where road vehicles are regularly queuing whenever the level crossing barriers are down. The intention is that these signs will make reference to Cooksbridge and the potential effects of the emissions from idling road vehicles on the lungs of the young children walking past each day on their way to attending Hamsey Community Primary School.



In a related initiative, we have requested a Clean Air Pack from Friends of the Earth so that the children at Hamsey School can measure car fumes near to the road at the school gate and, as a contrast, away from the fumes. As part of this there is an amazing education pack for the children to take part in, including a fun assembly, so we are hoping that maybe the children can prompt their parents to think and act more responsibly, switching off any idling engines.



**Parish Litter Picks** – On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January, nine hardy residents joined us to walk off the mince pies and clear the litter that was building up again around the verges and lay-bys of the parish.

Particular ‘hot spots’ encountered were along the A275 between Landport Fork and Cooksbridge, where a number of recent road traffic accidents had resulted in bits of cars strewn along the roadside, and the lay-by at the bottom of Deadmantree Hill, where the neighbouring ditch was in a truly appalling state, full up with around 50 beer cans and other miscellaneous junk.



A big thank you to Pete, Miki, Mary, Terry, Jim Edwards, Sue, Margot, Kevin and Jim Redwood, for their contribution to this litter pick. Overall, this wonderful effort resulted in what is probably our biggest haul of rubbish and junk yet which was collected by our friends at Lewes District Council Waste and Recycling.

We are planning litter picks for the rest of 2019 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> October respectively as the Sunday dates appear to be working well. We will continue to do all we can to publicise all litter picks in the Hamsey News, on the community website (with alerts for registered users) 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 are still ongoing and we are continuing to work closely with Network Rail to ensure that appropriate environmental behaviours are being adopted by all of their staff and those employed by their main sub-contractor Atkins.

Environmental issues addressed during the works to date have included the need to manage site waste appropriately, minimising noise and vibration, avoiding ground contamination, ensuring that staff do not drop litter and limiting the amount of road vehicle movements associated with these works. Where damage has been caused to the environment, for example grass verges, Network Rail will be making this good upon completion of the works.

In the lead up to the final testing and commissioning phase of the project, we will continue to work in partnership with Network Rail to ensure that affected local residents are appropriately informed by letter before any significant evening or weekend working and that the impact of these activities is kept as low as reasonably practicable whilst maintaining the safety of staff involved.

**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**