

4. Chair's Report. February 2024

We entered 2024 feeling rather despondent about the progress of some of our projects:

- B430 speed limit
- B430 radar speed sign and potential S106 money from Southfield
- Oak tree built up path removal
- OCC Environment dept giving us a report on Sainthill Copse
- planning enforcement showing signs of activity at Southfield Re: waste discharge, drainage
- Planning department respecting the conventions around a Conservation Zone re: tree felling, and verges being turned into car parks (on North Lane)
- Planning department respecting the Neighbourhood Plan in its decisions

Things are progressing in February as there is some movement, as you will hear at tonight's meeting, about a couple of the items! Hopefully, our District and County Councillors will be able to update us on these matters.

-Council members will have recently received an update on the East/West rail. Some progress has been made and I will continue to push the issue of adequate bus service from villages to the rail station.

- The Village News informs villagers about a lot of information, news, and developments. Over the next couple of years, our Playground work will need to be a highlight of the magazine. Some of you will remember when the last version of the magazine was about to close, three people including Alex Reid, Colin Rosser and I agreed to work together to keep a new version of the magazine going. Colin was a new Parish Councillor and former publisher and so he felt he fit into the role of finance & advertising. You will know he has been unwell and has stepped down from the PC. He has now decided to retire from the Village News as well. So, there is a vacancy for another talented person to take on the role. It is in the PC's interest to keep a high level of support so please either ask if you are interested or help Alex and myself think of villagers to approach who might fit the brief. The matter is quite urgent.

As always, fellow councillors deserve a great deal of praise for their work on behalf of the village over the past month.

Diane Bohm