

Councillor Report September 2020 for Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council



Motor Cross course at Chilton Farm

Some three weeks ago there was a sudden increase in the level of motor bike noise here in Brighstone on a Saturday between 10 am and 4pm and I started to receive complaints regarding the noise levels, not least of which was from our MP who lives in Mottistone for the peace and quiet as I am sure most residents do. On investigation by way of a walk along the Military Road, I discovered that an impromptu Motor Cross course had been built on farmland at Chilton Farm. As I hadn't seen anything regarding this from planning and it is sited in the AONB and indeed our Heritage Coast I thought I had better ask planning to look into it and regarding the noise levels, I asked Environmental Health to investigate also. I made a visit to the site on the day that Environmental Health were visiting to test noise levels and I have to say for the homes in the immediate vicinity it was very noisy and disruptive to their amenity. Planning Officers and Environmental Health put a report together that concluded; given the landscape harm, noise levels, harm to residential amenity and the ecology, this was not a suitable site for this kind of racetrack.

I have to say that this was a very well organised group and the facility is good for giving residents of the Island something exciting and interesting to do so I have no problem with this events group themselves, it is just a case of the right thing in the wrong place and for the younger ones amongst them, it is a good way of keeping them occupied and off the streets causing trouble as a lot of youth do these days, so I would support the events team if they moved to a more appropriate site. Planning Enforcement has now served a notice to cease immediately and soon after a notice was served to reinstate the landscape on the farmland.

Litter at Shepherds Chine

As we move back into tourist time and lockdown eases I received emails notifying of litter at Shepherds Chine which it would appear might be attributed to a lot of camping on the beach and around the Chine area. There was a lot of rubbish at the entranceway, which I reported to Island Roads who have the contract for picking up fly tips. As for camping on the beach I made enquiries with officers and asked them to look into this further. Meanwhile we still had a lot of rubbish on the beach to take care of so as it was a nice sunny day my wife,



Beverley and I took to the beach amongst the sun bathers and swimmers enjoying themselves but alas we were there for another purpose and some three hours later we had collected four large bin bags full of rubbish and I am pleased to say that we removed a lot of broken glass and fish hooks!

Diamond Races Announcement



I should say from the outset that I have had conversations with a number of residents and the Chairman of Brighstone Parish Council and I share their concerns.

I also share the concerns that Bob Seely MP has expressed but to date I have reserved judgement on the whole idea until we have had a chance to express those views in public meetings either physical or virtual with the organisers present to answer question directly, current circumstances permitting.

There are clear financial benefits to the Isle of Wight and locally by way of community benefits as has been stated by the organisers but as yet we don't know what form these will take.

I know only too well about the issue of boy racers both in cars and on motorcycles and the various marked spots with flowers along the Military Road are testament to this, whether this has increased or not I am not sure as it has always been apparent, especially at weekends.

I have had regular conversations with Police leaders on the Island requesting greater presence along the Military Road but have always been told that they are short of numbers so could not support this action, however we now know that more Police are coming our way so I wonder how this would benefit this area?

The Police have been active along the Military Road recently and made some arrests and a number of fines for speeding etc. but I don't feel this is nearly enough.

The organisers are claiming to want to engage with the Bikers in order to make them rethink how they behave on roadways and give training and safety talks etc. but again I don't know how much benefit this would produce but would be welcome.

From a personal perspective as I live in Brighstone, on Galley Lane, we hear the full throttle racing of Motorbikes all the time but this is not new due to the Diamond Race organisation as it has always been going on and if we can find a solution to this I would be very pleased indeed.

I hear what has been said about the TT races on the Isle of Man and this is probably my biggest concern with the death and injury statistics there and these are the same people involved here (their clerk of the course would be clerk of the course here)

Residents have made some very good points regarding this area being an AONB and of course we now have Biosphere status also.

I am in the process of trying to get public meetings set up for all the local parishes and I am sure residents would wish to attend these to have the opportunity of questioning the whole concept but also specifics with the organisers directly. Indeed we had a preliminary virtual meeting with the Chairs and Clerks of Parish Councils recently to get their feelings and to make arrangements under COVID conditions to hold consultations with local residents.

I now look forward to community engagement coming soon.

With best wishes,

Steve, Councillor Steve Hastings, Cabinet Member for Procurement, Waste Management and Special Projects - 078701270