Dear Residents

The Parish Council continue to work towards improvements to the Public Toilets on the Duver, and local residents have welcomed the accessible toilet remaining open over the winter and into the spring,

Plans are being developed to continue the renovation programme, and consider the installation of baby-changing facilities, as well as amenities that will better provide for visitors and residents.

The Parish Council have taken part in discussions to better protect the boundary wall at the Parish Church, which, due to its location, is regularly damaged by vehicles – creating health and safety issues, as well as expense for the church.

Working is ongoing with the Community Payback team, benches around the Parish have been renovated and the area near the Village Map, on the road to the Duver, also repaired, has been the subject to much positive comment and appreciation by local residents.

Following lengthy local consultation, and working in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, there has been new drainage and surface water protection work undertaken on Station Road, near the Bus Shelter, to help address the ongoing issues – the situation will be monitored and members recognise the historic background to the issue and the number of well that used to be on the greens.

Further discussions have also been held over the protection of the Greens, recognising the usage of the greens but also clarifying what measures could be taken to ensure the future of the much needed green spaces in the village: recent road works have also helped improve the public realm, and members have highlighted the need to ensure projects protect the Green at the same time.

Progress continues to made on the Heritage Trail and the potential development of a further historic project for the Village, and involving the local school.

This has included discussions with Isle of Wight Council regarding the need to ensure appropriate usage of the Car Park adjacent to the Sports Pavilion, and the introduction of new signage with clearer enforcement guidance could help address the issues raised by residents and taken forward by the Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is in February 2020, when members will discuss the precept, local planning issues and ongoing public realm improvements in and around the village.

Members will also discuss the co-option process for a new Parish Councillor, and work programme for 2020/21.

Best regards, St Helens Parish Council