

# Friends of Meadowside Newsletter February 2024



## Optimism for 2024

The Friends of Meadowside team continue to work to [look after the interests](#) of the residents and users of the Meadowside estate and its open space. Despite some disappointing outcomes of our recent efforts, we [remain optimistic](#) for the year ahead having seen some changes in the Parish Council and already witnessing a [proactive and positive problem-solving](#) approach. We look forward to collaborating further with them throughout the year. If you would like to work with us to take action for our community please [do not hesitate to get in touch](#).

## The Meadow



Have you ever spotted a tawny owl round here? We are hoping that a family of tawny owls will take up our offer of a new home on the Meadow. Thanks to funding from [Sussex Wildlife Trust's](#) Storrington branch, we have a brand new owl box in one of the oak trees. This box is the work of a local Sullington couple ([Martin & Debbie Standen](#) <https://lilyscottageupcycling.square.site>) made from recycled palate wood. Look out for little owlets later in the year!

We are so very fortunate in having such a lovely green space on our doorstep. It is a [haven for wildlife](#) - birds, small animals, trees, flowers - all within a stone's throw of our homes. It is set to thrive even more thanks to our partnership with the Wilder Horsham District (WHD) which is proving very successful. As well as the owl box we have [six new black poplars](#) planted near the river - our [thanks to the Storrington Conservation Society](#) for planting these.

Thanks to Horsham District Council, we also have [new steps at the play park end](#) of the Meadow to help the less agile among us to walk all the way along the river and back up to the road. Now we need do our bit to help maintain the Meadow and keep it beautiful. That means we would like lots of you to come and [help with a work party](#) on the morning of [2<sup>nd</sup> March](#) to clear litter and generally tidy up before all the vegetation grows high in the late spring. Put the date in your diary now - there will be [free drinks and biscuits!](#)

## Ravenscroft development

As many of you will know, the Government Inspector granted an appeal by A2Dominion Housing Association, giving them permission to go ahead with building the 78 homes on the allotment and fields behind Ravenscroft. However, we have [heard nothing further](#) about this development since September. We know the allotment holders should be given a minimum of 12 months' notice to vacate the sight and we understand that this has not yet been forthcoming. We are obviously extremely disappointed that the appeal was upheld and will be [watching the project closely](#) to ensure compliance with any planning conditions as well as [social and environmental responsibilities](#).

# Pothole problems and road news



The potholes in Browns Lane are a [major concern](#) and people are worried about the safety of themselves, their vehicles and of pedestrians, especially children. A [young child was recently injured](#) in an accident involving one of the potholes. We have the support of the Parish Council who are fully aware of the problem and we are working with them to establish [who is responsible](#) for the

maintenance of the Church Street end of Browns Lane and also whether it is possible to get this section of the road [adopted by West Sussex County Council](#), especially given the prospect of increased traffic when the development at Ravenscroft starts.

Sadly, [despite taking the advice](#) of West Sussex Council to combine our 20mph Traffic Regulation Order application with applications from two other parties and move to a Community Highway Scheme application, we have recently heard that the application has been unsuccessful. Frustratingly the feedback is that there is a lot of competition for Community Highway Schemes and our application would be better suited as a Traffic Regulation Order! We continue to spin around on this roundabout and have [expressed our confusion](#) to the decision makers! We are committed to keep trying to get something done about both [the speed](#) of vehicles using the road and to [deter HGVs](#) from using it (unless for access).





**MEADOWSIDE  
SPRING CLEAN**

**Cutting back brambles, clearing  
paths & a general tidy up**  
Some tools provided, please bring  
anything you think could be useful

**Saturday 2nd March  
10.00am to 12noon  
All ages welcome**  
**Refreshments provided**  
find us on the meadow near the bridge



## Storrington Traffic Group

We've participated in recent meetings chaired by our Horsham District Councillors, who've formed a "Storrington

Traffic Group". This collective believes the [village's traffic is a substantial issue](#) affecting residents and visitors. We've raised concerns about the Meadowside area, and while it's early, we anticipate [actions to address](#) these issues. To learn more or contribute, please contact our councillors - Joan ([joan.grech@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:joan.grech@horsham.gov.uk)), Claudia ([claudia.fisher@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:claudia.fisher@horsham.gov.uk)) or Emma ([emma.beard@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:emma.beard@horsham.gov.uk)).

The other concern is [recent flooding](#) in part of Browns Lane, which has occurred twice after heavy rain. This is thought to have been caused by a blocked culvert in the [flood defence system](#) in the fields to the rear of Ravenscroft and Post View. Some of the pipes have now been cleared by residents.

Chair, Sue: 01903 742300

Secretary, Liz: 01903 744332

[friendsofmeadowside1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:friendsofmeadowside1@hotmail.co.uk)