

Shere Parish Council

7th February 2017

Agenda item 16/185: Church Lane, Holmbury St Mary

'There is considerable concern in Holmbury St Mary about the very poor state of Church Lane. Representing the PCC at St Mary's church, I have been in discussions over a lengthy period with Naia Edwards at the Shere Manor Estate, whom we understand own the lane, about the possibility of repairing the stretch that runs alongside the churchyard, between The Green and the small car parking area at the top. Our understanding is that the lane is a Private Road and that the owners of properties adjacent to the road (the 'frontagers') have an obligation to pay for the repair and upkeep of the road.

Naia (on behalf of the Shere Manor Estate) has had quotes for the repair work and expressed a willingness to organise and manage the repair work and St Mary's PCC have offered to contribute to the Estate's costs involved in repairing that section of the road that runs alongside the churchyard. Naia was (as at November last year) planning to contact the other property owners along the lane to seek contributions for the work from them. Since then, the condition of the lane has deteriorated further and I have heard from several people with mobility constraints who are struggling to get their cars up and down the lane. I am, of course, chasing Naia to learn of her progress, but have heard nothing back from her as yet. Would Shere Parish Council consider contributing to the cost of repair to this section of Church Lane?

I have discussed the situation with Councillor Bob Andrews and I am aware that the Shere Parish Council have an interest in a section at the other end of Church Lane that it is a matter of concern to the Parish Council that this thoroughfare is repaired and restored to a useable condition. I understand from Bob that the Parish Council are actively considering the priorities for works that will improve the amenities for villagers in Holmbury. St Mary's church provides a range of amenities to the village, including the venue for Holmbury St Mary's Playgroup and access to the Church Room, which is used for meetings on an ad hoc basis by some village groups. I hope that the St Mary's PCC, as providers of some valuable local amenities, will be invited to participate in such discussions. '

Churchwarden, St Mary's, Holmbury