

FBWRA Chairman's Report for the January 2023 Committee Meeting.

This report broadly covers the months of November and December 2022.

Planning – as previously advised the planning appeals relating to the applications for telephone masts in Friern Barnet Road, near St John's Church and FB Library have been decided and the applications allowed. The Inspector decided that whilst the proposals would cause harm to the settings of the Church and the Library, this was outweighed by the benefit to the telecommunications network.

Highways-

Ashurst Road and Buxted Road . I am waiting for an update from the Council on timing for the repainting work that they have undertaken to carry out following our intervention.

I am also awaiting the result of the Council's review of the refusal to provide information in response to our FOI request about the "traffic study".

Water company street works – I sent a complaint to Affinity Water in relation to street works being left unattended and traffic lights left in place and operational even after the works had been finished and the barriers removed. The response explained that the former was due to the need to allow concrete to cure before traffic could pass over it (fair enough, and difficult for us to "police"), but the second issue was ignored.

Boundary Commission –I received favourable comments from some members concerning the Mailchimp email on this issue.

Membership Survey – I have contacted all members who offered assistance.

Membership Leaflet – Jointly with the Secretary and the Treasurer, I have settled a new leaflet for the Association to use for recruitment purposes. A copy is attached. We intend to ask ACE to smarten it up and then to print perhaps 150- 200 copies in the first instance. I have earmarked some of these to distribute to households in Ashurst Road when we have more on the roundabout issue, and plan to include an additional brief flyer on our success on the repainting issue.

Freedom of Information – I am awaiting responses on some highways related requests that I sent in after I received the unsatisfactory response on the Ashurst traffic study request (above). These include accident statistics for various broadly similar secondary roads in Friern Barnet and Whetstone.

Peace Statue – with others, I attended the civic ceremony on 6th December to mark the return of the statue of Queen Victoria to Friary Park. The timing was fortunate in view of the change in the weather later in the month.