

## Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

### Saffron Walden Town Council – Planning and Transport Committee

10/2/22

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
  - a. Little Walden Road – there has been flooding in the last heavy rains on the stretch between the allotments and Lambert Cross, caused by water coming down a drainage ditch immediately north of Lambert Cross which is blocked where it should flow into a drainage pipe under the road. Unfortunately for the homeowners on either side of the ditch this is a riparian ownership ditch, and there is also an Anglian Water pipe flowing into it – I’ve been in touch with Anglian Water and they say that the blockage isn’t in their stretch! Georgia is in contact with the riparian owners concerned who are trying to keep it clear;
  - b. I’ve got a call next week with my Essex Highways drain contact so hopefully will be able to give you an update on the other outstanding matters in March
2. Highways matters affecting the parish:
  - a. I’ve raised the issue of the Newport Road dip – ECC are going to programme a full road repair for early in the new financial year, and will be monitoring in the meantime;
  - b. LHP schemes:
    - i. I had a long conversation with the LHP officer and the various schemes we put forward are in validation;
    - ii. On the Ross Close zebra opposite Katherine Semar, the officers don’t think the requested location will work and so have asked for it to be moved to nearer the staff access – otherwise the no parking lines on either side of the zebra will interfere with residential parking. I’ve gone back to say we’re happy with that;
    - iii. The Landscape View one will probably necessitate the removal of one, potentially two, trees, but we can look at replanting;
    - iv. The LHP officer doesn’t think we will be able to do all 4 zebras in the same year and has asked if we could prioritise 2 for this year and 2 for next;
  - c. High Street pavements – the UDC tree officer doesn’t want any trees removed and ECC don’t want to do further slab work while the trees are there, but I’m still trying;
  - d. Lots of utility repairs on Peaslands Rd and Mt Pleasant Rd seem to be crumbling – Georgia is going to take a look and some pictures and report them;
  - e. Other issues raised that I’m following up:
    - i. Castle St potholes;
    - ii. Windmill Hill crumbling pavement;
    - iii. Request for more dropped kerbs for mobility scooter access
3. Planning matters:
  - a. Essex Highways have come back with comments and concerns on the Redrow application (100 houses between Bellway and Linden Homes);
4. Bus services and other sustainable transport:
  - a. I’ve been complaining at ECC’s lack of investment in sustainable transport, particularly in rural areas. In answer to a recent series of questions, they have confirmed that they

have received £1.5m of Govt funding for “Rural Mobility” in central Essex and are proposing to run 2 pilot schemes for Demand Responsive Transport schemes (DRT), one of which will be in Uttlesford, with approximately £746,500 allocated for the district. The pilot scheme will be launched later in the year. Having looked at the Essex Highways website however, the funding is for services east of the B184 and north of the A120, so looks to be primarily for access to Stansted Airport and Braintree. I’ll ask if that rules out anything west of the B184;

- b. ECC are also waiting to hear on further DfT funding for rural bus services – unfortunately they seem to have to go through a competitive tender process for most Govt funding now;
- c. ECC are currently consulting on a tender for the 301 and other services when the existing contract comes to an end, and are actually looking to expand the service, which is good news.