

## Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

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

10/3/22

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
  - a. New (to me) issue of flooding in Little Walden on the Hadstock Road just up from The Crown, with the road just about passable. I've asked ECC Highways to prioritise this, particularly as the road from Saffron Walden is largely shut because of the utility works at the Gladman development. ECC visited on 7/3 and will be sending a jetting crew on 8/3 – it seems that the issue is a blocked pipe preventing water from the surface drains discharging into the stream;
  - b. All the other ECC drainage work over the last 9 months (eg Stonebridge Farm, East St, Rowntree Way and Newport Road) seems to have worked successfully despite the recent heavy rains.
2. Highways matters affecting the parish:
  - a. We received notice of the proposed closure of Little Walden Rd for 19 days for a new gas supply to be fitted for the Gladman development. Cllr Gregory managed to track down the MD of the contractors and has negotiated improved access arrangements. I need to discuss with ECC what discretion they have to refuse or modify road closure requests such as these;
  - b. LHP schemes:
    - i. The Planning Committee on 24/2/22 approved the 2 new LHP requests, for dropped kerbs to allow disabled residents to get from the Ross Close / Winstanley Rd end of town into the town centre, and to make the green bollard areas on George St / Hill St pavement; I've submitted the two request forms;
    - ii. No further update on the other requests;
  - c. High Street pavements – I've informed the LHP officer of the Planning Committee discussions on 24/2/22 that we would be happy to follow the ECC tree officer's advice for 4 unhealthy and / or inappropriate trees on the High St to be removed and replaced by young London Plane trees, with properly constrained roots in order for a scheme of repair on the High Street to be programmed in. I actually bumped into the LHP officer, ECC tree officer and 2 highways maintenance officers on the High Street on 4/3/22 as they were conducting an inspection, which was useful. They will come back to the Town Council with a proposed scheme. I said that I would request that the Planning Committee resolved to submit the appropriate planning application for the removal of the 4 trees, or to support ECC's application, whichever route ECC preferred;