

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council – Planning and Transport Committee

27/1/22

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
 - a. Newport Road drainage issues – Essex Highways have been out in the first half of January; I had hoped that they had now cleared the drains and blocked pipe but spoke too soon – they’ve found a further blockage that needs repairing but they will be back to do it;
 - b. The next major drainage priorities are issues on Windmill Hill / Bridge St, Shepherds Way and South Road where there has been flooding, which I’ve been chasing for some while;
 - c. In addition, since the article in the Walden Local about drain clearance, I’ve had new issues about blocked drains on Rylstone Way, Abbey Lane and outside Friends School, so these have now all gone on to the ECC jetting programme.
2. Highways matters affecting the parish:
 - a. I’ve chased up Essex Highways on my request for Cromwell Road and Winstanley Road to be re-surfaced in 2022/23, and they’ve confirmed these roads will be in the programme. The Thaxted Road / Peaslands Rd mini-roundabout isn’t yet bad enough to merit re-surfacing;
 - b. The LHP have come back on the request to sort out the High Street pavements saying nothing needs to be done (!), so I’m trying to chase that;
 - c. Various minor highways matters being followed up – lots of potholes and broken streetlights!
3. Planning matters:
 - a. Nothing new;
4. Cycling and buses:
 - a. I attended an ECC Corporate Policy and Finance Scrutiny committee this morning, and there seems to be a vast mismatch between what ECC are saying on sustainable transport and what they are budgeting for. They have promised to come back with a written answer setting out the proposed expenditure on sustainable transport forms over the next 4 years