

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council – Planning and Transport Committee

11/8/22

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
 - a. I had a catch up with my ECC drains contact on 18 July: results as follows:
 - i. They have now widened road gullies going down Shepherds Way to try to take rainwater before it floods the properties at the bottom;
 - ii. They have put cameras into blocked pipes in Reddings Close and South Rd (near the railway bridge) where there have been long-standing issues, and should now be taking remedial action in the next couple of months;
 - iii. They should be jetting blocked gullies on Abbey Lane and London Rd in the next couple of months;
 - iv. They have agreed a date to get access to the farmer's field and clear Stonebridge Farm ditch;
 - b. That leaves Bridge Street as the other long-standing issue, which will be a major job;
 - c. Cllr Roberts has emailed me with a number of other blocked or broken drains so I'll take those up next
2. Highways matters affecting the parish:
 - a. Rissa has left and a replacement arrived – Daniel McLean;
 - b. LHP schemes: no further update since July; I've asked ECC Highways about funding schemes through our s.106 monies and as yet had no reply. I've chased again this week;
 - c. High Street pavements – I'm chasing on why they have done just half the High St, to get the rest done;
 - d. Under the "Member Led Pothole Repair Scheme": it seems now that clusters aren't treated as one so I've quickly got through my first allocation of 18, but with another 18 to come. In Saffron Walden they should be doing the Thaxted Rd / Peaslands Rd mini-roundabout, London Road (done), Castle St and the right hand turning lane on the B1383 coming from the station to Wendens Road. Peaslands Rd / Mt Pleasant Rd has too many to do (!) so I've asked for it to be resurfaced – response outstanding!
 - e. We had a call this month regarding the UDC AQMA proposals to improve sustainable transport – I'll let Georgia give an update;
 - f. Plenty of other issues re potholes, requests for speed bumps etc.
3. Bus services and other sustainable transport:
 - a. ECC have circulated details of the new bus services, which largely seem to be an improvement for Saffron Walden although they have withdrawn the buses that used to serve the 3 main London commuter trains – I'm chasing on this;
 - b. On cycling, hopefully the detailed surveys are underway.
4. Street-lighting:
 - a. We had an update on street lights at the end of July at one of the ECC committees I'm on. In case of interest, I've summarised the current situation: Essex Highways are in the process of converting all street lights to LED-based; unhelpfully for us, Uttlesford is one of the last 2 districts on the programme, and ours aren't due to be done until Q1 of

2024. To add to this, because of the global chip shortage, the manufacturers cannot make the controls for the LEDs, and are busy modifying the designs, so no lights are currently being produced, but ECC are optimistic that they can still keep to overall schedule from stockpiles. In the meantime, to compound things, the manufacturers of the sodium lights have stopped making them anymore! So ones that break generally won't be replaced – ECC have a stockpile and are cannibalising ones replaced by LEDs, so safety critical ones will be replaced