

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council – Planning and Transport Committee

11/1/24

[Note, items in italics are repeats from last month, still unresolved]

1. Flooding and drainage issues:

- a. South Road broken drain – Openreach finally moved their duct, and Essex Highways tried to do their necessary clearance work just before Christmas, but were blocked by parked cars! They are going to be trying again on 11/1/24, and I have notified residents to make sure that the drain gullies are left clear for them.
- b. There was considerable flooding on the Thaxted Rd over the last few weeks, which seemed to be coming from the new developments. I've asked Essex Highways to investigate and take action against the developers if that is the cause.

2. LHP schemes:

- a. *We have now had an indication of this year's budget and it looks as though it will effectively be negative! We're still waiting for confirmation, but it looks as though ECC is refusing to carry over the schemes from last year, and it looks as though the new money being offered this year will be considerably less than the value of the schemes now being cancelled. We have been promised a breakdown of the budget so we can understand how much money is available, but we are still waiting for it;][14/12/12 – I have chased again but with no response; we have an LHP meeting on 14/12/12 and I'll update you afterwards]*
- b. In terms of the LHP schemes that were due for delivery by 31/3/23 but weren't delivered:
 - i. *the TPOs for the market square regularisation and pedestrianisation – I've chased yet again for Essex Highways to let us have a method statement for SWTC to agree to for the road closures, which seems to be the only hold up. In the meantime we have had a draft TRO for the market square regularisation (they refuse to do both schemes in one TRO), which was incorrect, but have just had a corrected one. [14/12/23 - Essex Highways have produced 2 drafts of the market regularisation TRO, but have yet to draft it correctly. On the Market Square closure, the LHP says that a design is to be produced in mid-December – despite my continued chasing, I still haven't been able to get Essex Highways to talk to me or SWTC to understand our wishes, so I hope the design will reflect our wishes. I have asked again that SWTC are involved in the design;][11/1/24 – still no change – I have chased again to find out what is going on]*
 - ii. George St / Hill St build outs – hopefully this will be going ahead from next week
 - iii. *[9/11/23 - On the Great Chesterford to SW cycle path, the Sustrans scheme was on the west side of the B1383 because ECC Highways hadn't told Sustrans that there were s.106 arrangements to bring a path from Great Chesterford to Little Chesterford on the east side of the B1383. I'm now trying to get the LHP to re-commission the design of the scheme so that the Little Chesterford to Littlebury*

section is also on the east side;][11/1/24 – I've had confirmation that this has been commissioned and should be prepared in the first 3 months of 2024]

- iv. [Street clutter – I still can't get a date for when this will happen] [8/6/23 – no update] [13/7/23 – seems to have gone nowhere – I'll chase][9/11/23 – I still can't get a date][14/12/23 – the LHP is now saying that the scheme will go over budget! I'll see what I can do] [11/1/24 – I'm waiting for the LHP to confirm what is proposed now.]*
 - c. [8/6/23 - In terms of the schemes which hadn't even got to validation, I'm still chasing on the various zebra crossing requests and whether we can use the Linden Homes money for some of them and am still waiting for answers. I haven't yet had any new validations. The LHP officer said that all LHP schemes were deliberately paused for about 6 months to save money, although we were never told that, and that Essex Highways are now trying to get the design team to full strength to focus on validations, but I've been told that at least 3 times in the last 9 months by the Cabinet Member for Highways, including when I wrote to him this time.] [13/7/23 – no change; still no new validations][11/8/23 – no change][9/11/23 – still no change I'm afraid][14/12/23 – the only new validation was to reject the Water Tower Place ramp! No obvious progress on anything else - I am chasing;][11/1/24 – still no change; I have chased again]*
3. Highways matters affecting the parish
- a. The pothole scheme has now closed but obviously I can keep chasing as usual, so let me know if there are significant potholes that have been reported and are not being fixed;*
 - b. [9/11/23 - I've talked to Essex Highways about speed cameras; unhelpfully, their rules seem to preclude speed cameras pretty much anywhere. I've asked them to see whether they can install one anywhere on the B1383 through Great Chesterford, on the basis that if they won't do that, I can't see them doing any in Saffron Walden][14/12/23 – I've chased again][11/1/24 – possible progress! Essex Highways have confirmed that the Gt Chesterford speed camera would meet their criteria, so I'm trying to progress that; if I can get that installed, I'll see if we can get one for Saffron Walden, although I imagine there may be nowhere that satisfies their criteria]*
4. Cycling, walking and other sustainable transport:
- a. LHP schemes – see above;*
 - b. UDC have commissioned the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, so that's progress; [14/12/23 – still ongoing. I'm keen also that it includes the SW / Ashdon former railway line as a future walking / cycling scheme] [11/1/24 – no update]*
 - c. [14/12/23 – My request for a cycle path in front of SWCHS to link Saxon Way and the Wenden Rd cycle path is "in validation"] [11/1/24 – no update]*