

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council – Planning and Transport Committee

14/11/24

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

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
 - a. South Road broken drain – ‘m still waiting for Essex Highways to come back with a proposal
 - b. I’m not aware of any other issues
2. LHP schemes:
 - a. the TRO for the market square regularisation – Terry, Georgia and I met with ECC on 11/10/24, and then went back with follow up information, but have received nothing further from Essex Highways as far as I am aware;
 - b. On market square pedestrianisation – as for the TRO.
 - c. Street clutter – in theory this will happen at the end of this year;
 - d. There has still been no progress at all on the other scheme validations, which have now been awaited since October 2021, particularly the pedestrian crossings, and no sign of the promised improvement to the validation process.
 - e. Ross Close measures – as you know, the request for a zebra crossing was refused. I therefore instead applied for some traffic calming / chicane measures (on 14/11/23), but still no progress;
 - f. Borough Lane / Debden Rd junction – I have included it on the LHP request list, but no other progress
3. Highways generally:
 - a. I’m still getting regular emails from residents concerned about the poor facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in Saffron Walden, and the dangers from cars, but obviously am struggling to help them given Essex Highways’ attitude;
4. ECC matters:
 - a. We had a presentation in the first week of November on ECC’s “Healthy Weight Strategy”, which they believe is a leading strategy in this country. As you’ll be aware, there are a huge number of factors responsible for the current obesity crisis, and no easy answers, so it’s a long term strategy designed to make it easier for people to be a healthy weight – at the moment sadly the default position in the UK is now to be an unhealthy weight. ECC are keen for parish councils to be involved, and should be forwarding some information for me to distribute to parish councils. I’ll let you have it when I get it. During the presentation, I did suggest that changing Essex Highways’ approach from being so antagonistic to sustainable transport improvements would be a big step forwards!