

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council –Planning and Transport Committee 11/9/25

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

1. Flooding and drainage issues [no change from August]:
 - a. *Thaxted Rd – I believe that the main outstanding is for UDC to clear the drainage ditch, and I’m aware that UDC councillors are following up on this;*
 - b. *No other significant issues outstanding that I’m aware of;*
2. LHP schemes. LHP matters [no change from August; we’re scheduled to have the next LHP meeting on 28/8/25]:
 - a. *I’ve asked for the Thaxted Rd and Ashdon Rd minor pedestrian improvements to be included in the programme, as better than nothing. I also asked if Thaxted Rd could include a pedestrian island but Essex Highways say that the road isn’t wide enough;*
 - b. *There is enough funding for one further small scheme, and then that’s it for the next 2 years. I’ve asked for the Ross Close “pinch point” crossing to be validated quickly so that can be considered. There will be an LHP meeting at the end of September to decide the final schemes;*
 - c. *There seems to have been some progress on the Market Square part pedestrianisation over the last few months, albeit more through the s.106 and UDC Clean Air Route than anything to do with the LHP. I have offered to allocate any remaining LHP funds to the Market Square, but it may be easier to keep it separate. In this context, it was very unhelpful for SWTC to submit an FoI to ECC on the Market Square just as this progress was starting, and particularly immediately after a positive ECC meeting – I did ask SWTC officers to pause it, but they refused. If it can be withdrawn, I think it would be helpful.*
3. Highways generally:
 - a. I’ve forwarded to Georgia notifications from Essex Highways of:
 - i. *“the intended closure of Summerhill Road, due to commence on 8th September 2025 for 26 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Cadent undertakes gas main works”;*
 - ii. *“the intended closure of Springhill Road & Borough Lane, due to commence on 15th September 2025 for 19 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Cadent undertakes gas mains works”;*
 - iii. *“the intended closure of Newport Road, due to commence on 20th October 2025 for 12 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Cadent undertakes gas main works”;*
 - iv. *“the intended closure of Hadstock Road, due to commence on 7th October 2025 for 4 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Affinity Water undertakes new connection.”*
 - v. The making of 20mph zones covering Maylen Rd, Flatfield Rd and Home Pasture;
 - b. I told you that I’ve put forward for my last Member Pothole allocation the 2 crumbling drains on Newport Rd, but the Cadent gas road closures near by are preventing work on Newport Rd. I’ve now been informed that this will happen in January 2026.
 - c. I’ve asked Essex Highways what they are proposing to do about the red crosses being painted on mini-roundabouts.

4. ECC matters:

- a. Local Government Reorganisation – ECC have just published their full proposals and business case for wanting a 3 authority reorganisation, with Uttlesford being part of a north Essex authority including Colchester, Braintree and Tendring. There are currently four distinct proposals being prepared for submission to Government on 26th September:
 - i. Proposal 1: A proposal for a three Unitary structure
 - ii. Proposal 2: A proposal for a four Unitary structure (led by Rochford)
 - iii. Proposal 3: A second proposal for a four Unitary structure (led by Thurrock)
 - iv. Proposal 4: A proposal for a 5 Unitary structure