

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council –Planning and Transport Committee 11/6/26

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

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
 - a. *[I'm aware of the flooding at the Radwinter Rd / Thaxted Rd lights from a blocked gully, and the same on London Rd at the junction with Debden Rd; in addition, all of the gullies on the High St seemed to be blocked. All were reported on or before early February, and I've chased all of them. [11/6/26 – I've chased again.]*
2. Highways generally:
 - a. Linden Homes s.106: I've had two presentations from Essex Highways re the proposed cycle / pedestrian path in front of SWCHS, the last on 28/4/26 and am waiting for a further update. The costings they were suggesting are eye-watering currently;
 - b. On the Market Square pedestrianisation, we received an update on 14/5/26 – it's not obvious that we've advanced far. Highways are also looking at what public realm augmentation can be done at the same time – I've asked them to ignore anything of that nature and just concentrate on delivering the scheme that was requested;
 - c. Thw badly clanking manhole covers have I think now all been fixed, after much chasing;
 - d. The Thaxted Rd resurfacing has been kicked into the long grass again. I'll let you know if I hear anything positive;
 - a. ECC have announced that they are putting an extra £7.5m into pothole repairs (I can't see over what period though), and are increasing the number of repair teams from 9 to 12, so hopefully we should see some improvement. I'll let you know if I hear more.
 - b. ECC have also asked me to nominate the 3 roads in my division that would most benefit from being repaired – we were only given 3 days to respond so apologies that I didn't have time to consult widely. I've asked for Peaslands / Mt Pleasant Rd, Thaxted Rd from the Peaslands Rd junction to past the recycling centre and Ross Close.
3. LHP matters:
 - a. I'm not aware that anything is happening – we are waiting to hear.
4. Buses:
 - a. As you know, ECC reversed their proposal to cancel the 59/590/319/321 services. I'm due to meet at some point with the head of Passenger Transport to try to see what can be done about getting a better timetable that ties in better with the trains.
5. ECC matters
 - a. You'll have seen the results of the May 2026 ECC elections. The new make up of ECC is as follows: Reform UK – 53; Conservative Party – 13; Liberal Democrats – 5; Independent – 2; Green Party – 1; Labour Party – 1; Residents for Uttlesford – 1; The People's Independent Party – 1. The LibDems, Green and I have joined to form a Libdem and independents grouping to give more weight;
 - b. The first Full Council meeting was held on 28/5/26; I was away on holiday and haven't had any feedback from the meeting, although apparently we now get the national anthem as well as prayers before the meeting.
 - c. I understand that Essex library staff have been told that they are not now allowed to promote certain events such as Pride and Black History Month. Nothing has been sent to

councillors officially, and I don't know how far the ban goes. I'll let you know when I hear more;

- d. Reform have also said that they are proposing to take legal action to try to block the Local Government Reorganisation. Again, nothing has been said internally.