

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Highways Report May 2023

This report is written immediately following the devastating storm that hit areas of the parish on Tuesday 9th May and may therefore not be completely up to date as hopefully some remedial work will now have been undertaken.

The flooding during the storm has done considerable damage to the road surfaces, hedges, bridges and, of course, effected numerous properties with some 30/40 homes needing to be dried out and repaired.

At this point I think we should acknowledge and thank the numerous parishioners who worked tirelessly to clear roads and help those householders effected.

I drove around the whole parish immediately after the flood and whilst all our villages were effected the majority of the damage appears to be around North Cadbury with the Brookhampton area suffering most.

Roads

Cary Road North Cadbury was under 5 feet of water which when cleared revealed tons of grit which had been washed down from Chapel Lane where the road surface had all but disappeared



Cary Road North Cadbury



Yarlington

The centre of Yarlinton was completely flooded as was the Frog Lane area of Galhampton.

Having walked around parts of the river Cam it is evident that water levels reached some 10 ft above the normal river level but it was not only the volume of water but the speed with which this mass of water passed through the area that has caused so much damage.

One of the worst effected is Sandbrook Lane where the road surface has been lifted to a depth of almost a foot in places. Nick Fone did a marvellous job in levelling out these areas to make them passable but complete resurfacing will be required in due course.



Sandbrook Lane near Bridge Cottage

Other areas where remedial work will be required in due course are Corkscrew Lane, Ferngrove Lane, Sticklepark Lane Yarlinton, Frog Lane Galhampton, Stoke Lane. In many areas the flowing water has gauged out deep ruts along the edge of the road which has exacerbated the existing problem caused by wide agricultural vehicles and now poses a danger particularly to cyclists.



Dodinal House Road

Bridges

Whilst all these road defects will require repair in the near future the more pressing problem is the damage to bridge structures. We already have a dangerous situation on

Ridgeway Lane where the bridge balustrade was demolished by an agricultural vehicle and now results in an exposed drop of some 12 ft to the river below but now the bridge at the junction of Sandbrook Lane and Corkscrew Lane has lost its balustrade, its in the river, and I have noticed that the balustrade along the side of the bridge on Cary Road, North Cadbury has moved and this is particularly dangerous bearing in mind the volume and size of some of the vehicles using this road every day.



Bridge on the Corkscrew



Bridge on Ridgeway lane.

I have reported all three bridge structures and have asked Henry Hobhouse to put some pressure on the council to get repairs done urgently.

Hedges and Ditches

The weight of water flowing through the River Cam valley has destroyed some hedges and left an enormous amount of debris on some roadsides and on the river banks. Also



Hedge on Sandbrook Lane

there are several ditches along the roadsides that will need some excavation to enable them to take runoff of water in the future. We will need to have a discussion with some landowners as the question of blocked ditches has been a problem for some time - Frog Lane Galhampton being a prime example.

Immediately following the flood I made contact with John Nicholson (Somerset Council Highways) and he sent his assistant Tracy who spent the whole day here listing all the damaged areas. We were also visited by Paul Stevens of Somerset Council Civil Contingency department so the Council are well aware of the situation but, of course, we are not the only parish to have suffered and it is now down to the council to prioritise remedial work.

John Rundle



Chapel Lane North Cadbury

PS 24th May

Having returned from holiday yesterday I see that there was a message from John Nicholson advising me that remedial work would commence on the 18th May so I have driven all roads this morning and it is evident that considerable work has been carried out with complete resurfacing on parts of Sandbrook Lane, The Corkscrew, Ferngrove Lane and the junction of Long Street, Galhampton with Hearn Lane (the latter I have been chasing for two years!) I notice also that potholes along Golf Links Road and Lodge Hill, Yarlington have been marked for repair.

I also see that preparatory work has been carried out to the damaged bridge on The Corkscrew.

This is a remarkable response and I have written to John Nicholson thanking him.