

North Cadbury and Yarlington Parish Council

Highways Report September 2023

General

As part of the routine monitoring of the state of our roads/lanes I drove the parish with John Nicholson (Somerset Highways) early last month and generally the condition is quite good with a few exceptions. I expressed my concern about the surface of the slip road onto the A303 and am told that it is now scheduled for some temporary surface dressing fairly shortly.

Potholes tend to get repaired within the 28 day guideline of being reported but priority is given to roads where usage is heavy which is why Pound Lane Yarlington, especially at the top end near Manor Farm, and Frog Lane/ Smallway Lane are still in need of some refurbishment. The latter is affected by heavy vehicles accessing Andrew Hopkins property.

There is quite a lot of mud on the road in some areas, particularly Sandbrook Lane and The Corkscrew. Some of this relates back to the flood in May but it is clear that some is a direct result of large agricultural vehicles accessing fields and it is the landowners responsibility to clear this up where possible. I have spoken to the Montgomerys about Sandbrook Lane and Rory has promised to do some work here.

Drains and Gullies

Somerset Council undertake a routine drain clearance programme which is - outside 30mph and 40mph areas every two years and inside 30mph and 40mph areas every four years with problems outside the planned programme being dealt with as necessary.

The flooding in May has obviously caused problems and there are some drain systems that appear to be seriously blocked, in particular the drainage system below the primary school in North Cadbury - this has been reported and SCC are in communication with effected properties with view to getting a jetting team in the clear the problem. It is impossible for me to spot every drain that is causing problems so I would encourage parishioners to report blockages - it is an easy procedure (Somerset Council website - Report a Problem On The Road - Drains and Gullies and follow the guidance)

Bridges

Some bridges in the parish suffered considerable damage during the May flood but I am pleased to report that both the bridges along The Corkscrew and along Ridgeway Lane have now been fully repaired however the bridge on the Cary Road North Cadbury has apparently been surveyed and not considered sufficiently badly damaged to warrant repair. Residents living either side of this bridge have expressed some concern about this so I will be taking the matter further.

Hedges and Ditches

Another legacy of the flood is that several ditches have been silted up particularly along Sandbrook Lane and Frog Lane. Rory Montgomery is going to clear the Sandbrook Lane one and John Nicholson has promised to contact Andrew Hopkins re Frog Lane.

The hedge on Sandbrook Lane which was badly damaged by flood water is owned by Alan Brian and Nick Fone tells me that he has been given the job to repair it during the autumn.

We are now fast approaching the hedge trimming period (principally November to February) but I see that work has already started along parts of The Corkscrew and Frog lane.

Signage

I have reported the missing junction sign at the foot of Galhampton Hill (junction with Smallway Lane) and Andy Warren has confirmed to me that replacement is now included in their current schedule of work.

Chapel Lane North Cadbury

The road surface here has been badly damaged initially by heavy lorries accessing the re - building programme at the school then exacerbated by the May flood. John Nicholson has assured me that resurfacing will be the responsibility of the council but we have to wait until work at the school is finished and all heavy cabins etc have been removed.

John Rundle