

North Cadbury and Yarlington Parish Council

Highways Report January 2024

Following the diabolical weather over recent months I was expecting our roads to be badly effected however having driven every lane over the past few days I was surprised to find them not as bad as expected but with some exceptions.

Potholes

The prolonged rainfall followed by some very sharp frosts has resulted in a number of new potholes appearing and I have submitted reports to Highways on all of them although I suspect that some have been reported by residents already.

Bearing in mind the Highways guidelines that a reportable pothole should be 40mm deep there are only a few that meet that criteria at the moment. The following have been reported :

Golf Links Road (Near the Toll House)
Lodge Hill (These have been marked so repair imminent)
Sandbrook Lane
Ferngrove Lane
The Corkscrew

In addition I met with Maria to discuss the situation in Yarlington (adjacent to the fingerpost) where the road is breaking up resulting in raised covers. At the time we met the whole area was frozen and quite dangerous. This has been reported and, in fact, John Nicholson has been out and seen the position for himself but still no repairs. The large potholes in Pound Lane still await repair.

Frog Lane/Smallway Lane remain a problem with deep ruts and continual flooding exacerbated, I suspect, by heavy lorries accessing the Emily Estate Property

Drainage

There have been numerous blocked drains following the exceptional rainfall over the past couple of months but in many cases these do not need jetting (

a facility which is difficult to get hold of at short notice) it is more a question of clearing debris covering the grill. For example I was contacted recently about a series of drains on the Ridgeway - when I went to look at them I was able to clear the covers with boots and a stick and discovered the chambers below completely empty.

Having said that however there is a serious blockage on Long Street Galhampton (outside the village hall) which is now a river running down to the pond and then overflowing across the road into Frog Lane. I am told that this was reported following the May flood and subsequently inspected and residents were told that repair was needed as a matter of urgency. Nothing has been done. Last weekend this was an ice rink with potential for a serious accident.

I wrote to John Nicholson on the 5th January with no response so I wrote again on the 19th January only to be told that John was out of the office until 22nd January. I tried to contact him by telephone this morning(22nd January) and have asked him to call me as soon as possible.

On another matter I reported water leaking through the road surface along Brookhampton (immediately outside the entrance to Brookhampton House) shortly after my report I met an engineer from Wessex Water on site who advised me that it was a main sewer leaking and following water testing up stream repairs would be undertaken. This is still not resolved and I have received complaints from residents recently. I have now spoken with Wessex again and been promised an inspection this week.

Bridges

It has been brought to my attention that the bridge over the Cam tributary along Stoke Lane has been damaged by flood water and I visited it with Maria last week. The bridge itself appears to be ok but there is some deterioration in one of the parapets so I have reported it to the bridge team at Somerset Council.

John Rundle