

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Highways Report - February 2021

When I reported to the PC meeting this time last year I wrote “ *I am aware that there are numerous examples of areas where the road surface is deteriorating and repairs are necessary but when I approach SSDC I am told that they have hundreds of defects across the council area that need attention and dealing with them is a question of priorities and available funds*” we are now twelve months down the line and very little remedial work has been done and the lanes are deteriorating rapidly.

The pandemic has resulted in fewer council staff being available to carry out the necessary work and only last month we were advised that 700 SCC staff have been redeployed to assist with the vaccination rollout alone. The cost of dealing with the Covid situation is obviously having a drastic effect on all council activities and will do so for some time to come.

I keep a close eye on the lanes around the parish and the weather over the course of the last few weeks has caused flooding in several areas which in turn has the effect of lifting the tarmac surface so that we end up with more potholes.

I recently had a complaint from James Buxton about the junction of Hearn Lane and Long Street (just outside the Manor House) he was concerned that the flooding on this corner could eventually seep down and effect his properties on the eastern side of the road. I was well aware of the situation here and have reported it to John Nicholson on several occasions - in fact he and I drove around the area some 18 months ago and this particular problem was highlighted then. This is a typical example of a blocked drain causing flooding and the a break up of the road surface. I reported it again last week. Many of you will walk the Corkscrew regularly and will be aware of the state of this lane. The situation where the badgers have tunnelled under the road is now a serious problem and whilst repairs are going to take some months (because of ecology reports etc !!) I was told that steel plates would be placed over the potholes to protect vehicles but as of yesterday this has still not been done. Someone is going to be claiming for a broken suspension here before long.

There are several other areas where we have continued problems - flooding in Frog Lane and the limited jetting that was done in Woolston before Christmas has still not rectified the situation and a recent meeting with Karen and several residents identified where the run off should be and it is a question of getting the jetting team back and the same applies to Parish Hill.

On a more positive note the hedges around the parish are looking excellent thanks to our local farmers and contractors!.

There is little more that we can do other than constantly monitoring the situation and keeping in close contact with the council maintenance team.

John Rundle