

Drinkstone Parish Council, Highways

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Dated 5 Feb 2024. Agenda Item; Councillor portfolios

General

At the time of writing there are surprisingly few Highway's issues on Suffolk County Councils reporting tool for Drinkstone.

The most significant being the broken manhole cover on Park Road (to which the comment says works ordered – 8 weeks) and the uprooted tree from land adjoining Drinkstone Hall onto Gedding Hall (to which the comment reads works complete)

My understand of the uprooted tree is that Suffolk CC Highways came and removed a few branches and have contacted the land owner, although this is hearsay.

Suffolk CC contractors have recently repaired a number of potholes, notably on Park Road.

The reporting tool can be found here <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>

SIDs

SIDs continue to operate well.

Road Signs

Phill Graves of Chapel Lane has volunteered to straighten up the Chapel Lane road sign.

20's Plenty Campaign

I have written to the organisers of 20s Plenty campaign and advised that we will not support their campaign.

A14 Traffic

A meeting has been arranged for 2pm Friday 9th Feb. We expect to meet Jo Churchill MP, Samuel Guiver SCC Network Assurance Manager, Paul West SCC Councillor and Portfolio Holder for Highways, Ben Cook SCC Highways Head of Contracts and Simon Amor National Highways Head of Scheme Delivery.

So far only one resident has advised that they will attend, however others may just turn up.

We have hired the Village Hall to host the meeting (at a cost of £10) and also plan on a short road trip to view some of the damage.

I shall chair the meeting and have offered the agenda as below.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Comments and concerns that have been brought to our attention by residents and for this I would like to use the points raised in our letter, and the various party's responses as the basis of the discussion.
3. Remedies and rectification
4. Open questions/comments
5. Inspection of damage and disruption.

By way of preparation Michael Walton and I have driven around the area and noted locations of the worst damage.

Floods

Chapel Lane flooded during the heavy rain experienced before Christmas, and one property was flooded (Belrod). I assisted the owner by putting him in contact with the adjoining landowners so they could discuss any improvements that they could agree upon, and also engaged with Suffolk County Council as they own the culvert where the river crosses Gedding Road. The culvert is approx 600mm diameter and it would appear that it might be too narrow to carry the volume of water required. Suffolk CC have agreed to place the culvert on their list of drainage works to attend to, but without any indication of timescales. SCC describe this list as "lengthy".

At Blacksmiths Corner a resident has suggested erecting a depth sign (typically seen at fords). I and Michael Walton have inspected the area and feel erecting a sign is not feasible but spray painting numbers and lines using a stencil on the existing concrete posts may serve the same purpose. I don't imagine it will provide sufficient warning to motorists who driving towards it oblivious of the flood, but it may provide some with a method by which to gauge the depth against previous years. I would not

suggest marking a safe/unsafe indicator as this would inevitably lead to a liability. Further, we noted a drain which in theory may assist in removing the water but a local resident advises that it is frequently blocked. Therefore I shall contact Suffolk CC Highways and ask that this drain be added to their routine preventative maintenance program.

The surface water problem by All Saints Church has been reported to Suffolk CC Highways. The issue has been removed from their reporting tool and I do not recall them advising the outcome so I shall follow this up in due course.

Prepared by Cllr Paul Selvey