

SEPTEMBER 2022 UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Since my last report in August 2022, I have reported 9 further Highway issues to KCC and two blocked footpaths. This increases the grand total to date to 98.

The new reports were for: -

Maidstone Road footpath needed clearing

Chestnut Street pavements needed clearing of vegetation in two places

Chestnut Street speed awareness sign was blocked by tree vegetation.

Chestnut Street - 3 speed signs showing 30mph are either missing, turned around, or hidden by vegetation.

School Lane 30mph sign overgrown

The Street blocked drain

As a result of a complaint by a parishioner two blocked footpaths were also reported but are not included in the monthly statistics they were ZR128 and ZR125, these are in the area of Munsgore Farm

84 of the 98 have now been dealt with either in a satisfactory manner or with a satisfactory explanation. 14, including 7 above are still outstanding.

Of those reported this month the footpath at Maidstone Road has been cleared and vegetation around the 30mph sign in School Lane has been cut back.

The give way markings at the junction of Washley Hill and Hearts Delight have been provided and the stones and mud have been cleared.

The blocked footpath ZR121 remains overgrown with vegetation.

The school sign in School Lane has yet to be moved. No further work has been undertaken on the diseased tree in Wrens Road. Other works still to be completed include the white line renewals in Pond Farm Road, Wises Lane and Oad Street. No progress has been reported on flooding issues at Danaway or at the junction of Wises Lane and the A2.

Provision of Bench at junction of Mountview and The Street

The provision of a bench at this junction was agreed at the last Council meeting and KCC Highways have given permission for it to be located within their land. An estimate is being sought for the bench for Council to consider.

M2/Junction 5 Stockbury roundabout improvements

Councillors will be aware that the eastbound slip road from the M2 to the A249 is to be closed for some 18 weeks. Oad Street has also been shut since the 5th September for 5 weeks. Cllr Sims and I are meeting with representatives from Grahams on the 13th September to voice our concern about these proposals and I will report back to full Council on the outcome of this meeting. Information about road closures and diversions continued to be supplied by Grahams and are displayed by the Clerk on our various social media pages.

No further comments have been received from Grahams and National Highways and the local MP regarding our letter about the missing Oad Street link. The press release was sent out and it was mentioned in the local press but did not generate any further media interest.

KCC Highways Service

Council in August considered the exchanges of letter with regard to our complaint invoking Stage 2 Complaint Escalation between The Clerk and Simon Jones, Corporate Director responsible for Transportation. It was agreed that a reply is sent outlining our disagreement with his comments, particularly about promises made for help by KCC Highways, but proposing a positive way forward by accepting his offer of a meeting to progress the Parishes Highway Improvement Plan. I can report that a meeting between Cllr Sims and I with KCC Highways officers is arranged for the 12th September and I will report back on its progress.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

A meeting with Swale BC concerning the production of a LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) is scheduled for the 15th September I shall report back to Council on its outcome.

Speedwatch

Council decide in August that the Speedwatch scheme needed someone to organise the various aspects. I am still seeking a volunteer from the community is asked to supervise/co-ordinate the scheme. Overall responsibility will still rest with the Council.

John Fassenfelt September 2022.