

## **Chairman's Report – February**

### **Village Gateways**

The much awaited village gateways are presently being installed. Upon inspection, a few issues were identified and reported to the Highways Engineer for the area. He has kindly agreed to resolve the issues from his own budget, for which we are grateful.

The 30mph roundels to be painted on the road surface, in front of the gateways, will be painted in the Spring, as the warmer weather will assist the adherence of the paint to the surface.

### **Waiting Area for Bus Users**

I have written to NCC Public Transport to request the creation of a waiting area at the new bus stop in the Attleborough Road.

### **Speedwatch**

Due to a variety of health issues within the tea, we will only be able to undertake three sessions in February. I think this proves we really do need more volunteers.

### **Riparian Law**

This is the law which requires householders to maintain the flow of any watercourse, which flows past their properties. It matters not whether the water is in an open ditch or an underground pipe.

Norfolk County Council Highways have, on numerous occasions, stated that they have not, and will not, adopt or accept responsibility for any 'surface water drains' in Great Ellingham. There has recently been a case in Long Street, where the blockage of a pipe caused water to flow out of a manhole into the street, where it promptly froze, causing dangerous conditions for pedestrians and drivers. When the weather turned warmer, the flow caused erosion of the verge outside No.37, creating a large pothole, which is still to be repaired by Highways – they are aware.

Residents are asked to take their responsibilities seriously, if not for their sake, then for their neighbours, who often bear the consequences of poor watercourse maintenance.

### **Great Ellingham - Primary School & Pre-school**

I chaired a meeting between members of the management groups of both schools, earlier in the month. The purpose was for both parties to discuss the future provision of education in the village and the issues coming from the sudden influx of children to the village, from the housing developments. A further meeting will take place in March, after which I will report back.

### **Recreation Ground Committee – AGM & management meeting**

I attended these meetings in order to represent the Parish Council and inform the Trustees on the detail of the project to build a new village hall. A couple of items have been placed on tonight's agenda to further the discussion.