

Chairman's Report – February 2024

Public Transport

The Chairman contacted Konectbus and NCC Public Transport regarding the disappearance of the bus timetable from the bus shelter and bus stop post. As no action has resulted, despite a positive response, a chaser was sent to Konectbus and NCC 27/02.

Any issues around punctuality; failure to stop and safety on the No82 school bus should be reported to Konectbus (www.konectbus.co.uk/customer-support) but if an issue is not resolved, they should contact Tim Betts.

Speedwatch

I am delighted to report that we have had a new volunteer apply to join the group. More are still needed.

The weather has not been kind to us this month but we'll persevere.

Pond in Church Street

The Chairman has had meetings with the landowner and close neighbours, with a view to finding a solution. cf. Item 16.

Planting of the Roundabout (see Item 18 on agenda)

Mark Hadley volunteered to obtain quotes for the grass seed and bark mulch needed. Despite his resignation from the council, he has promised to arrange the quotes. Cllr. Ewin has recently offered to assist.

Flooding in Long Street

The issue of the storm-drain at 35; 37; 39 Long Street remains unresolved. It seems clear that the storm-drain pipes, under some or all of these properties are of an inadequate gauge to carry the water currently being thrown at them. This is causing the flow to slow, which results in silt falling and blocking the manhole at No37, which causes a blockage to occur and water to overflow onto the road as a consequence. The residents have been informed of their responsibilities under Riparian Law. It seems the issue will remain until the pipes are replaced with larger gauge pipes by the residents.

Kerosene in ditch in Long Street

Thank you to Daniel Howe Li-Rocchi for reporting this issue to the chairman and the Environment Agency. Officers identified the likely cause and the leak was stopped on 10th February. Oil absorbents were deployed and remain in place. The agency is awaiting a remediation report from their technical team, which will inform the next steps to be taken.

Foul-water pollution in Long Street

The excess rain has caused the sewerage system on the west side of Long Street and the pumping station near Shruggs Lane to fail. Residents affected have suffered flooding and sewer back-flow into their shower trays; lavatories and gardens. The Chairman wrote to the MP; County & District Councillors and the Chair of the NSFA, Henry Cator, to ask for their

help in getting Anglian Water to do whatever was necessary to resolve the issue. Mr Cator met with Peter Simpson, CEO of Anglian Water to discuss this and other issues on Friday 23rd February. Feedback from the meeting is awaited.

Highway Safety Proposals

The two proposals made to NCC Highways are yet to be judged. We remain hopeful but impatient.

Open Space – Long Street / Town Green Triangle

I took the Director of Planning to see the mess left by the developer of Melton Meadow. He agreed to follow up my email outlining the case and what the village requires. Our District Councillor is also pushing for a resolution to this issue, which dates back to 2016.

New Village Hall (see Item 15 on agenda)

A record of discussions will be found in the minutes of the meeting.

TPB

February 2024