

# **North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council**

## **Highways Report November 2023**

**There is very little to report this month as there has not been much activity other than some sporadic drain clearance.**

**Hedge trimming, leaf drop and the continual rainfall is resulting in mud on some of our lanes becoming a real problem.**

### **Potholes**

**We are fortunate that there are not too many potholes in need of repair although continued promises to eradicate the problems in Yarlington ( particularly Pound Lane ) have come to nothing. However where there is a danger to motorists/cyclists we do get an immediate response. I reported a collapsed ditch on Sandbrook Lane a couple of weeks ago, on a Monday morning, it was surveyed the next day and the repair was carried out on the Wednesday morning.**

**With the amount of water resting on the road surfaces at the moment I am sure that when we get some frost we will see a resurgence of potholes appearing.**

**I have chased again the question of the slip road onto the A303 as I was promised a temporary repair two months ago albeit a full resurfacing would have to wait until the construction work at Sparkford is complete. We now know that this whole new A303 improvement scheme has been delayed a year so we will have to press for repairs to the slip road in the short term.**

### **Drains**

**The current level of rainfall is causing concern amongst those residents who were badly flooded in May - quite understandably. There are some drainage systems that regularly overflow during heavy rain, particularly in Woolston and Brookhampton. Woolston had a visit from a jetting team a fortnight ago and they were able to clear the underground culverts so that water is now flowing freely into a nearby stream.**

**As far as Brookhampton is concerned the problem is more difficult. It is the lowest point in North Cadbury and heavy rainfall has caused surface flooding here for many years. I discussed this with John Nicholson recently and he told me that any major drainage scheme here would not happen until late 2025 at the earliest.**

**With the gradual reduction in assistance from Somerset Council we will be discussing over the next few months what we can do locally to solve some of these problems and encouraging everyone to help keep drain covers clear of debris is a start. Regular liaison with landowners re the clearance of ditches - this is essential in some areas particularly Frog Lane which, in part, is continually under water.**

**I had an interesting conversation with a resident of Woolston recently who told me that a small group had become so disenchanted with the lack of response from Somerset Council that they are now taking matters into their own hands. There is one particular drain on the junction of Woolston Road and Ferngrove Lane that always floods and I notice that they have now cut a hole through the adjacent hedge and inserted some plastic drain pipes which now has the effect of draining any overflow into the orchard behind which is at a much lower level. A simple solution and perhaps we will need to encourage more of this creative thinking in the future.**

**John Rundle**