

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Highways Report February 2024

Potholes

The constant rainfall is now affecting the road surfaces and there are signs that the tarmac is breaking up in numerous places. I have reported several potholes over the course of the past weeks and others have done the same and where it is a simple pothole repairs have been carried out quite quickly. However I am more concerned about the deterioration of the edges of some lanes, Sandbrook Lane in particular is crumbling in several places and getting a cars wheels stuck in one of these would be a real problem.

I have reported these to Somerset Council but as repair is a more complicated issue it is obvious that there are no funds available to deal with these situations for the remainder of the current financial year. Sandbrook Lane is quite a busy road and I would urge drivers to keep to the centre of the road and avoid the verges where possible. Clearing the ditches would help enormously and I will be speaking to the landowners where appropriate.

Stoke Lane, Ferngrove Lane and the Woolston Road are all affected in a similar way although not as serious but Frog Lane is almost impassible - this morning it was completely flooded for most of its length. I have had a discussion with Ed White (Emily Estate) to see if there is anything they can do but I do not hold out much hope for an early resolution here.

Whilst in discussion with John Nicholson and Henry Hobhouse at the end of last month the question of repairs to Pound Lane and the road surface in the centre of Yarlington was mentioned and as there are no funds available from the County Council it was suggested that the Emily Estate might be prepared to fund the repairs if the council could provide an estimate of the costs. This matter has obviously progressed as Ed White tells that they are actively considering it.

Flooding in Long Street Galhampton

Following my report to the Parish Council last month I had a meeting with John Nicholson and Henry Hobhouse on site. John was quite aware of the situation here and was surprised to discover that an order to jet the drainage pipes last year had, for some unknown reason, been cancelled. He promised to resurrect the order but made it quite clear that should a major blockage be discovered there would be no funds available to carry out the work until the new financial year.

Part of the reason for water flowing across the road at the junction with frog Lane was the state of the pond on the corner. We subsequently contacted James Buxton (the owner of the pond) and he promised to have the silt removed from the pond quickly and this week he confirmed that this has been done but I notice today that where the pond overflows into a drain pipe under the road it is backing up because the drainage pipes under the driveways to properties on the other side of the road appear to be blocked. I will have to speak with the owners of these two properties as they will be responsible for keeping these pipes clear.

Sewage Leak in Brookhampton

I mentioned last month that I had reported this to Wessex Water and that they had inspected and confirmed that it was sewage and not surface water. Shortly after our meeting I had a message from the owner of Brookhampton Manor telling me that Wessex had been on site and repaired the road so I checked and the manhole cover where the leak occurred had in fact been repaired.

Yesterday I received another message from a concerned neighbour to say that following heavy rain at the weekend raw sewage was again escaping from the road in the same area. On examination this morning there is a rupture in the road near the manhole and I suspect that repairs were made to the road but not the underlying pipe!!

Wessex Water are obviously aware of the situation as there were engineers on site this morning but, as yet, no work has been done. I will be following this up today.

Road Closure

Just a reminder of the arrangements to close the A359 on various dates over the next few weeks to facilitate the installation of the bridge above Avalon Farm. The dates quoted are 6th,8th,13th,15th and 20th March for phase one (Bridge installation) and 22nd 29th March & 5th 12 th April (Laying concrete Road Surface)

Ed White tells me that they have requested a permit to close the road on these numerous dates to allow for weather restrictions but in fact the road should only be closed on one of the dates for each phase.

Diversion signs will be in place at both Sparkford and Castle Cary directing traffic along the A303 and the A371. Access to Castle Cary will still be open via the B3152.

John Rundle

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