

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Highways Report October 2020

Speed Limiting through Woolston

Following my report last month I had a meeting with Gary Warren and Karen Harris in Woolston at the end of the month. This proved to be very fruitful and Gary agreed with the following proposals:-

- 1) To introduce road narrow signs with “oncoming vehicles in the middle of the road” supp. plate at each end of the pinch points on the Woolston road.
- 2) To provide junction warning signs either side of Church lane.
- 3) To paint Slow markings on the carriageway adjacent to each of the above signs.
- 4) To install new village nameplates at three locations a) near the entrance to Turstin Lodge b) at the top of the hill from Woolston Manor Farm c) along Dodinal House Road ie on the three entrances to the village. These village signs would have a ‘Please Drive Slowly’ message incorporated.

During the discussion it was felt that Woolston lacks identity and the addition of name signs at each end of the village would be most welcomed.

These proposals can be included in a programme to be completed by 31st March next year if an order is placed by the end of this month. The cost of the advisory signs would be met by the council but there would be a charge of £600 for the village nameplates.

I have discussed this with Karen and she has tentatively canvassed the Woolston residents who have indicated a willingness to contribute to the cost. I have also discussed the subject with both Malcolm and Becky who have both agreed that, subject to the PC’s sanction, we could contribute to the cost. My recommendation would be therefore that we support the residents on a 50/50 basis ie contribute £300 from the highways reserve.

Bridge on junction of Sandbrook Lane and the Corkscrew

Some three weeks ago an anonymous van/lorry driver hit the righthand side of this bridge badly damaging the parapet and resulting in a crack appearing on the wall of the adjacent Bridge Cottage. The owner of the cottage, Veronica Bunt, has reported it to the council as have I but to date no action has been taken to effect repairs. The damage to the parapet is not critical but the homeowner is concerned about rainwater seeping into the crack on the wall of her property so I am actively following this up with SSDC. Nobody has any idea who caused the accident.

Water/Debris on Parish Hill

I am sure you are all getting annoyed about the state of Parish Hill. The culvert here has been blocked all year and we were promised remedial action in January following a car overturning on ice. Lockdown prevented this happening and when I took up the matter with John Nicholson in September he told me that it was scheduled to be dealt with the week beginning 28th. Yet again nothing happened so I chased him again early this month and was told that the facility (jetting team) was a shared facility with Mendip and demand for its services was high. Apparently they are due back in South Somerset the week commencing 26th October and this site has been marked as high priority - we will watch this space. I will not let this go as I have towed my caravan down this hill twice this month and got it completely showered in mud so I am not a happy bunny!!

Potholes

Some work has been done recently, particularly Sandbrook Lane but there are many areas which need repairs and I notice the state of Hearn Lane, adjacent to the Manor is in a particularly poor state and was flooded this week - I will be reporting this again shortly.

As a general comment I am finding it increasingly difficult to get a response from the council on highways matters. I am told by Gary Warren and John Nicholson that they are all working from home and are likely to be doing so for the foreseeable future which makes contact even more difficult than it was before the pandemic. Priority is, quite rightly, given to road safety issues but in my view deteriorating potholes will eventually become a road safety issue so I intend to keep up the pressure.

John Rundle