

# **North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council**

## **Highways Report November 2020**

### **Road Signage**

#### **Woolston**

You will be aware from my report last month that we have come to an agreement with SSDC to install a series of road safety signs including reinstating the SLOW road markers through Woolston.

At the same time it was proposed that three village name signs were also to be installed, these latter items would need to be paid for and it was agreed that the PC would meet half the cost and the residents would be asked to contribute the remainder.

Karen Harris did a great job in circulating all 51 households in this respect. Unfortunately we have had an adverse response from several villagers saying that they definitely do not want any name signs. This was not a unanimous view and several were quite happy to contribute however in view of the fact that the villagers did not request these particular signs in the first place and we do not want to alienate some of the longstanding members of the community we have decided to cancel this part of the order.

I have advised Gary Warren and asked him to confirm that the road safety signs will be installed as soon as possible.

#### **Galhampton**

You will recall that we agreed that two village name signs should be installed on the A359 back at the beginning of the year - nothing has happened. I spoke to Janet Livsey this week and she told me that this is partly the result of the pandemic but also they were expecting a contribution towards the cost from the Orchard Quiz nights which, of course, have not taken place. She is now working on alternative funding which will enable them to proceed in due course.

#### **Three Ashes**

The demolished SLOW/BEND sign near the Three Ashes junction has been reported and I have been advised this week that an order has been placed for this to be reinstated shortly.

### **Flooding**

I continue to badger SSDC about the situation on Parish Hill but am not getting any positive response.

Recent heavy rain has highlighted several areas where some sort of drain blockage is evident, these include the main Woolston Road, just past Manor Farm. The junction near Rose Cottage, Woolston. Frog Lane Galhampton and the bottom of the hill near Eastwood Farm Yarlington. In addition many of the drains in and around North Cadbury are blocked.

Many thanks to Archie who has this week uncovered all the drains along Woolston Road and with the help of a JCB cut back the encroaching verges to help alleviate the flooding in this area.

Peter Wells recently wrote direct to John Nicholson re the North Cadbury drains and the response was “ a jetting order has been raised and will be dealt with when resources permit”

This, unfortunately, is the response I am getting all the time. It would appear that there is only one jetting team covering the whole of South Somerset and Mendip but I will keep up the pressure as some areas, particularly Parish Hill, have been outstanding for well over a year.

### **Road Surfaces**

We still await work to be carried out on a series of potholes across the parish and to give you an idea of the problem I am facing I reported four particularly bad areas at the end of May, received acknowledgement on 2nd June saying they would be inspected within three days, on the 5th June another set of emails advised that they had been inspected and were now included in a programme of repair.

Out of the blue last week I received another email quoting one of the reference numbers advising that this particular pothole had been inspected again and was not now considered a safety defect!!

As a point of reference potholes are prioritised depending on their size and where they are, taking into account the amount and speed of traffic using the road and where the pothole is on the road.

In my view the worst area in our Parish is Frog Lane Galhampton which is littered with potholes, flooded in several areas and is plastered in mud.

On another matter I have received several complaints about the road surface on the A303 slip road near Teals Orchard. I have spoken with Nick Sinfeld (Teals) as there seems to be some confusion as to who is responsible. Apparently the road is owned by Highways England but resurfacing is the responsibility of Somerset County Council. Nick is sending me a contact he has at SCC which he thinks might produce some action. I will be taking this forward even though it is not in our parish.

### **Hedge trimming**

A lot of hedge of hedge trimming has taken place over recent weeks and many of the lanes are looking good but I have received some complaints about hedges that appear to abut private land ie not farm land. This is particularly the case in Woolston and on the bend in the Cary Road North Cadbury. I have already spoken with the owner of the property on Cary Road but have yet to establish who is responsible for the Woolston hedge.

In summary it is difficult to achieve much at the present time and the Covid situation only exacerbates the problem but I will keep on trying.

John Rundle