

## Charlton Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT March 2022

### County Issues

**Highway Budget 22/23** Improvement to highways has been one of Worcestershire's residents' top priorities for many years now.

Worcestershire County Council has approved plans to invest additional funds into improving and maintaining the county highways as part of its annual budget setting. The increased spending forms part of the council's budget for 2022/23, which was approved on Thursday (February 17) at a Full Council meeting. The budget showcases the administration's commitment to keeping Worcestershire moving and ensuring our roads are safe for everyone to use.

Highways will see an increase in investment, with an additional £6 million per year for the next three years on top of the money already committed, totalling £36 million over the next three years set aside to fix potholes and make other improvements to Worcestershire's roads. This will enable improvements to continue from last year and will produce another 145 miles of new road surfaces. Plus there is an additional £4 million per year, for the next three years, has also been made available to improve and maintain the county's footways.

**Apologies for delayed responses from Highway liaison officers due to storm Eunice and Franklin** Life warnings issued in Bewdley, 130 trees to be cleared, main roads cut off due to floodwaters, gully's out extensive flooding on Hylton Road, the need to switch off permanent lights, the need to install the appropriate traffic management/diversion routes, the closure of Bridges, have all taken their toll and their available time.

Highways working with our contractors had to deal with a significant number of incidents on the network across the County and run the Highways Control Centre for extended hours to help residents report problems. The storms and now the impactful flooding along the River Severn similar to the last major floods in 2020 caused real disruption, in Bewdley, Worcester, Severn Stoke, Upton, and Powick

**Govt response to the landscape review concerning National Landscapes (AONB) whose primary purpose is to Preserve and Enhance:** A review was commissioned in 2018 and published in 2019, after a 12-week consultation there were 27 recommendations. We should see non-legislative changes in 2022 and legislative changes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> sessions. Clear messages are

- A more coherent network is needed not the two-tier approach we have now National Parks and AONBs. They need to get closer together. One strategy is needed,
- AONBs will be rebranded as national landscapes. The Cotswolds was a pioneer in this area,
- The Government will protect 30% of the land - nature recovery network,
- There will be an Agricultural transition,
- There will be more delivery in connection with the secondary purpose: enjoying and having regard to the people who live in the AONB/ There will be greater links to public health.

We will have to watch for any plan making changes, especially any permitted development rights. And any NPPF changes which could impact the area.

#### **Local Issues**

**Flooding resilience** – follow up with MP Community Flood resilience – Trailer - work of the Parish Council

**£600 for the notice board in the pipeline**

**New pedestrian and cycling bridge in Evesham:** Formal Response to Hampton Bridge Project and LCWIP, in particular the Evesham to Fladbury Cycleway, submitted and communicated in January awaiting the Fladbury land purchase update.

**Minerals Local Plan:** When the final report is received, it will be put to Cabinet (May 2022) and Full Council (July) for a decision as to whether to adopt the plan. () is now the latest dates. The Government appointed Inspectors are currently considering the responses to the main modification consultation generated following the Examination in Public (EIP) in November 2020. *Their review seems to be dragging on.* WCC progressing well towards the “Preferred Options” Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) but need Inspectors comments/

**Broadband** my understanding is

- the project is now formally in delivery – so FTTP is expected by 14 Dec 22 (subject to any issues of course).

- Robert awaiting funding summary from Chris has top-up funding but vouchers should be used first
- Asked - Enough signed up for fibre to premises – no more voucher needed ?, What is the timescale? Will those not signed up with vouchers still be included.
- Boston Lane and Haselor Lane scheme seems to be installed.

I add my rider, the state/age/updates of the equipment will still link to outcomes

### **Bight**

Water leaking on road after new house changes, in cold weather ice 20mm thick, Barry and Mark Morris resolution and timescale? BB 31/12/2021 I've attended the site and have not found any issues with water across the road. Could this be field run-off during heavy rain? Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2.15 pm

**Boston Lane (714)** The hedges along Boston Lane will be cut back in the winter cut JAN FEB 2022. BB 31/12 Dec:” As an interim report the private hedges on the east side of Boston Lane have all been cut back”. [Closed or Open?](#)

**Query Caravan park and a different route for the bridleway** – The ROW team needs more information to progress.

**Yessell Lane cut back hedges** [Closed after BB inspection](#)

### **On the Green**

**Yew Tree Cottage on the Green to Cemetery** why did WCC not claim for damage as across road and work needs doing. Advisory Aug 2018. Barry has found out that a request to try and claim damages was raised but abandoned through lack of information. Driver or vehicle details not supplied? RD has supplied information. WCC may be too late? If the claim cannot be pursued then the repair will have to be paid for by WCC. Can WCC follow up on the claim if not what is the timescale for repair – Chase when BB returns

**Canada Bank road bridge Clearing grit under the bridge** – **WCC 262** Nov following visit the engineer confirmed that there is little or no silt under the bridge but there is some bed gravel that appears to have been washed over from one side to the other, at the downstream end, leaving a small area of scouring on one side and a corresponding deposit on the other. This

will be reprofiled as soon as consent can be gained from the E.A. However, it is not a cause for concern in the meantime. The County is only responsible for removing silt from the section of the stream directly under the bridge, not the upstream approach of the downstream section.

There is an amount of silt and debris deposited in the river channel downstream the Parish are arranging silt removal from the open section of the stream. My comments about flood risk have been added as a note to the bridge file.

### **Merry fields Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March**

BB attended the site in December and inspected the gullies at Merryfields. They were all clear apart from one at the junction with Brook Lane which was full of silt. He raised a work order to clean/jet it. There are five gullies at the location in total. I note that properties 1 to 3 is lower than the other properties and the road slopes towards them. They each have dropped curbs so I wonder if when there is a heavy downpour the water is crossing over the dropped curbs rather than the gullies not working. **It would be useful if anyone has any video of photos of water entering garages to see if this is the issue?** I will monitor in the future. If it is the issue then I can raise an advisory to raise the curb level to the maximum allowed for dropped curbs to try and prevent water ingress. I've attached a plan showing the position of the blocked gully. **Plan sent to Parish Chairman and clerk**

### **New Footway discussion – Dovecote to the Church – member enquiry #107 and 474**

Dovecote Footway joining up with the footway outside the Church some years ago was not acceptable to WCC as they could only fit full-width footways and to do so would leave the road too narrow. Cars parking, car doors hitting the wall, the narrowness of the road are all issues. KH visited the site 7/10 listed wall between the Dovecote and the Church. There appears to be a missing old verge, now worn away. Parish Chairman and residents discussed with KH. Chasing Monday.

### **Request to Highways**

- Who does verge belong to?
- Can there be a betterment of the verge either as a footway to the same width as the existing verge or with grass and appropriate reflective posts?

BB 31/12/2021 I've spoken with Kieran Hemstock who informs me that consideration was being given to parking restrictions at this location. These were not fully supported or desired. A suggestion of bollards was also not supported. I've raised a service request with the TIC Team to survey the possibility of a short section of a new footway from The Dovecote to the church. They will survey MARCH 2022 Service request number 1175296

**Footway and road Maintenance** - Tree roots also causing damage to the road and footway in 3 areas

- **The Dovecote**
- **Footway between Ryden Lane and The Dovecote** WCC 259 incl. the crescent shape.
- **Footway from Yew Tree Cottage, on The Green to Cemetery**

BB has been in contact with the WCC Footway Team who are beginning to list footway and siding out works for the future.

Given these areas are in the vicinity of the areas where the tree root work needs to be undertaken in Ryden Lane it would make sense if it was done at the same time.

The footway team has prepared a plan for footway resurfacing at The Green which will include the section near Ryden Lane that has been affected by tree roots. As soon as he has a quote he will let us know.

**Footway, B4084, siding out Hampton to Brook Lane about 2700 metres.** Member enquiry # 49

WCC is also looking at the best way to approach /include in their program.

Grass cut back. 24/6/2021 advised machine for siding out work was not suitable, footway needs to be in quite a good condition for siding out work. B4084 is not suitable for siding out due to its condition and would benefit from some reconstruction. and there will inevitably be some sections that will require resurfacing and thus increase the cost.

There are five advisories raised at various points Engineers have not allocated resources so far.

Note **RB - 24/6** Siding out budget whole county circa £200k per annum, work is usually carried out during the warmer summer months. Before committing to this work, we need to assess the area and carry out trial holes to understand the

footway condition. There are also the traffic management costs and tipping charges to bear in mind, significantly increasing the cost of work. When costs are obtained parish may need to prioritise and perhaps add funds to the project?

**Haselor Lane Weight limit request not supported:** Based on the data, Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) accounted for 1.29% of total traffic. (HGVs are those vehicles over 7.5 tonnes). County Council policy for the consideration of weight limits is that HGV traffic must make up at least 5%+ of total traffic as this figure potentially indicates a significant 'rat running' issue. The average daily volume of vehicles using Haselor Lane was 1858. As a comparison, the average daily volume on 'C' classified roads in Worcestershire is 2829. **Based on the results a weight limit would not be considered appropriate.**

**Accidents, safety on the A46 - Hinton Cross to the Worcestershire border** – meeting with NH and CM WCC planned