

HIGHWAYS REPORT MAY 2024

SLR MEETING – 4 April

An unsatisfactory meeting since the only representative present from East Sussex Highways Dept was Liz Humphreys, Customer Services Manager. Liz was unable to provide any updates on the agenda items.

Consequently, Sam and I drew the meeting to an early close. Thanks to Eleanor's intervention, I have subsequently had a conversation with Mat Jarman, Senior Communications Manager, who assures me he will attend the next meeting planned for 31 May, along with the Mark Stapley, Head of Drainage and Ruby Brittle, Engagement Manager. Meanwhile we hear Liz Humphreys is leaving her post...

SITE MEETING, CACKLE ST – 5 April

I met Longhouses resident Freddie Pooke and a substitute steward from the Rye area to survey the drains down Cackle St. ES Highways had been insistent that the drains had been cleared. They had not. Information fed back to Ruby Brittle/Mark Stapley. I have since had a conversation with Mark Stapley who informed me of the following:

DRAIN SURVEYS PLANNED

- The entire length of Cackle St from Robertsbridge Rd Junction to Darwell Hole
- B2096 all the way from Rookery Lane to Netherfield Hill
- The Street – across the road from the stable yard to Garden Cottage:

DRAIN CLEARANCE

- Rectory Hill – a long-buried drain has now been re-located (thanks to Chris French), unearthed and cleared. This appears to have solved the problem of the running water (monitoring required).
- Work is ongoing to optimise the drain cleaning cycle throughout the area.

ROAD SWEEPING REQUEST

apparently road sweeping vehicles don't work efficiently on rural lanes where there is no kerb edge to sweep against. However, Mark is investigating the possibility of one sweep around the time of leaf fall.

NEXT SLR 31 MAY

It is hoped that a replacement Liz Humphreys will be in place. I will press for dates for the above surveys, more pothole/carriageway erosion repairs and the renewing of painted road marking.

RESPONSE TO SAM'S LETTER TO CLLR DOWLING

Councillors will have seen the response from Ruby Brittle. Many questions are left unanswered. Not least the invitation to attend a meeting – to be discussed: next steps.

HUW MERRIMAN'S ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE 24 APRIL

I referred to the points made in Sam's letter at the Parish Conference and have copied the letter to Huw and his office manager, Frances. Frances has replied:

Thanks for sharing your correspondence with Highways with us. There is some really useful information in there due to some excellent questions. You appeared to have extracted more information about drainage than we have managed to achieve, despite us going to the top.

We have plenty of questions to now put to ESCC regarding highways that came out of our meeting and your email will help us focus on the key points.

*Best wishes,
Frances.*

Hopefully, Frances will keep us informed as to any response.

Cllr Judy Petty