

HIGHWAYS REPORT – BPC Meeting 12/03/2025

Although welcome, the Cackle St drainage works have caused great inconvenience, not least because the operation over-ran by two weeks. We are told this was due to a combination of factors: pipes being buried at greater depth than first thought; excess rain making digging very difficult; broken machinery impeding the removal of spoil, and working hours being restricted between 0900 and 1500 to allow the school buses through. Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and I are discussing whether it might be possible for children who use the bus (only 3, at last count), to be collected from the other side of the barrier when the next phase of drainage works take place between the junction with Brightling Road and the Twelve Oaks triangle.

The drain cover on Long Reach was replaced some weeks ago (how long before someone takes the barrier away?).

Some road markings at junctions have been renewed.

Temporary repairs have taken place to various reported potholes, but many others apparently do not meet the intervention levels - principally, those at the village end of the Long Reach, those approaching Perryman's Lane and those at the bottom of Rectory Hill.

Southern Water have confirmed that the water flowing from the bank on the left of Rectory Hill is not from any leaking pipe work.

There was a motorbike accident at the Darwell crossroads on Sunday 1 February. The driver having skidded on ice. ES Highways confirmed that gritting had taken place the evening before, but we will continue to stress how important it is that the drains at Darwell junction are kept clear to reduce the hazards caused by standing surface water and ice.