

HIGHWAYS REPORT 2026

The condition of our local road network seems to worsen year by year. Not helped by continuous, heavy winter rainfall, the competition for the limited resources of East Sussex Highways has meant it has taken even longer to get potholes fixed. There are problems laying tarmac in wet weather but even so, as we all know, the repairs themselves are all too often just 'quick fixes' that don't last. The Parish Council continues to report potholes because the more often a problem is reported, the more likely it is to be fixed. You can easily do this yourself by logging onto <https://live.www.eastsussexhighways.com>, clicking on the 'Report a Problem' tab and following the on-line procedure where you can add a What3Words location reference and upload photographs.

Many potholes and eroded carriageway edges would not occur in the first place if the drains were frequently emptied and kept clear of surface debris. Unfortunately, Brightling's gulleys have to wait their turn with thousands of others across the region. Gulleys are cleared on a cyclical basis – once every 12, 24 or 36 months, depending on risk base, traffic pressure and historical evidence. The Highways Department has just three suction lorries to cover the whole county. Two of those lorries are out working 24 hours a day. Residents may remember the major works two years ago to remove tree roots and repair drains down the lower section of Cackle Street. It has been quite a battle to get the lorries to return in order to continue the job on the upper section of Cackle St along with Hollingrove Lane and Kent Lane. We have to thank County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green for her persistence with the Drainage Department in making this happen. The same goes for the planned works to the drains on the B2096 near Giffords Farm where flooding presents a considerable safety hazard each winter.

We are on the waiting list for renewed road markings at junctions and await a new cover for the deep and dangerous open drain on the verge at Long Reach, currently marked by a traffic cone – Riders and walkers beware!

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noted the new fingerpost at Twelve Oaks. Finger posts are a valued feature of our district, but they don't come cheap. The Parish Council is responsible for their maintenance, and although we get match-funding from East Sussex Highways, the remainder is paid by you from the Brightling precept element of your council tax. Last year, Cllr Caroline Croft initiated an 'adopt-a-fingerpost' scheme. If you can offer to cast an eye over your local fingerpost and give it an occasional wash down, Caroline would be pleased to hear from you! Cllr.caroline.croft@brightling-pc.gov.uk.

Caroline has also been working with our local PCSO and Community Speedwatch Officer to organise a meeting with the British Horse Society to discuss road safety for

the riding community. This will take place on Saturday, 16 May, 2:00pm at Brightling Village Hall. Please spread the word and let Caroline know if you are able to attend.

Cllr Jane Oxenford recently arranged a very successful annual Litter Clear-up. Thank you to all who turned out. Fly-tipping continues to be a problem. Whether the new mandatory booking system at the local tips will make this worse remains to be seen. The Parish Council will report fly-tipping when aware, but you can do this yourself by logging on to <https://www.rother.gov.uk> and clicking on the tab 'Report it'.

Finally, whilst road closures can be very frustrating, we do our best to post advance notice on the village website. Sign up for alerts if you have not already done so on <https://www.brightling.community>. You can also find out information yourself by subscribing to <https://one.network> where all manner of roadworks and transport notifications are available for both the current day/week and into the future.