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Report to Parish Councils – April 2024

This report is written is for Parish Councils meeting in April.

Some of the items here are from information circulated by ESCC but which may not have been drawn to the attention of parish councillors and others.

This report is shorter than last month's, in part because have been away on holiday but also less seems to be happening!

Queensway Gateway

A long-standing issue has been the completion of this road between Queensway and the A21. This has been held up by various issues including budgets and the supplier. It has just been announced that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has awarded £2.5M of funding to enable this to be completed. I also welcome the fact that the project will also be run by the County Council directly.

The road will alleviate the bottleneck most of us have encountered when driving down the A21 into Hastings. This will not only help travel times but indirectly support the local economy by improving travel for local businesses and perhaps indirectly encouraging businesses to move into or grow in Sussex.

Potholes and Highway Maintenance

Nothing much to add to my extensive writings on this last month, except to say that Highways are working flat out and there are some small signs of improvement. We still need to work to

make sure that Highways flag temporary repairs with a T and later do the full 'cut and fill' as per their contract. I am hoping that if the weather remains reasonable (unlike February) we can break the back of the repair backlog.

I track a large number of highways issues, but this month would highlight the following:

- Junction Road, Cripps Corner landslip. Looks finally to be fixed in April!
- Junction Road repairs. There are many issues along this road between Sedlescombe and Merriments Lane. Some are 'just' potholes but there are some more fundamental issues with the foundations which have been known for many years. Quite a few potholes have been temporarily or finally fixed but there are more to do.
- Station Road/Brightling Road, Robertsbridge. I expect to have more news on the resurfacing of this soon.
- East end of Main Street, Beckley. This saga involving poor quality resurfacing, which was fixed following my intervention, but this raised the surface such that it caused flooding to some properties. There were also wrongly sited road markings. I believe these are all now fixed.

Please keep reporting any potholes, drainage issues etc and let me know the case numbers.

I should add that in this season of Annual Parish Meetings which I will be attending and typically speaking, I expect most questions to be on road maintenance!