Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Wendens Ambo Parish Council 10/1/22

1. Flooding and drainage issues:
	1. Station Road / B1383: the junction was cleared in October 2021 but I gather is flooding again so I’ve asked ECC to look again at a more permanent solution. As I reported in December 2021, I have also been contacted by Audley End Estates with a view to clearing the drains north from the junction so I’m taking both issues up with my drainage contact as well.
2. Healthcare:
	1. We had an ECC Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee briefing in December on the Government’s proposal to abolish Clinical Commissioning Groups and replace them with Integrated Care Systems; as far as I can see, in Essex the ICSs will largely replicate the areas covered by the CCGs, but there will be fewer of them with each covering much bigger areas. I asked whether there is any potential to impact on Saffron Walden Division access to Cambridge hospitals or any other direct implications for us, and they thought not, but I’ll keep it under review;
	2. The date for implementation of the new system has slipped from 1 April to 1 July 2022;
	3. The Government’s Social Care proposals will almost certainly put a large amount of extra costs onto county councils, both in administration and in extra funding, and it is expected that central Government will not cover all of the additional costs. ECC are waiting to see to what extent they will be hit, and how that will affect existing services.
3. Highways matters affecting the parish:
	1. I’ve submitted your request to have a 40mph zone before the 30mph limit coming from the west – the Local Highways Panel should validate (or not) and report back on requested schemes in time for them to be considered at the LHP meeting in March 2022;
	2. Issue of rusting and dangerous street furniture / lampposts in Wendens Ambo raised with me – ECC said they were deciding what to do but I gather nothing has yet been done so I’ve chased them again;
	3. Gail contacted me about changing the existing vehicle activated sign for a speed indicator sign. ECC are now putting the costs of VASs onto parish councils; I’ve forwarded the application process to you, but let me know if you need assistance.
4. ECC Climate change fund – ECC have just circulated details of a £500,000 fund for environmental initiatives in the county, with a maximum grant of £20,000. I’ve forwarded details to each parish