

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Wendens Ambo Parish Council 6/6/22

1. Locality Fund:
 - a. We've had the update on the rules for this year – the Locality Fund for 2022/23 will be exactly the same as last year but with a reduction in the amount available to £5,000, so I'll probably be looking to make 10 grants of £500 each
2. Highways matters affecting the parish:
 - a. *[LHP speed reduction scheme still in the pipeline – the Local Highways Panel met at the start of April; however virtually none of the schemes proposed had been validated, so rather than approving schemes for funding the meeting skipped over most of them pending validation. The next meeting should be in June but I don't have a date for it yet. I hope that we will be informed of schemes being validated in the meantime rather than having to wait until the meeting. Obviously, I'll update you if I hear anything before then;]* – same as last month, although the LHP meeting has now been confirmed for 27/6, so hopefully I'll have an update for next month;
 - b. *[I've forwarded Kathryn Butterworth's request concerning Drayton Hill to the LHP officer but haven't yet heard back. She's going to check also on previous proposals and why they didn't go ahead.]* – same as last month; I've chased but not yet heard anything back;
 - c. *[I've chased Essex Highways on the stolen manhole covers on the Royston Rd and they should be replacing them as a priority]* – same as last month; I haven't driven down for a few weeks so don't know if this has been addressed?
3. Drainage issues:
 - a. *[B1383 – ECC Highways drains have partly done a jetting operation along the B1383 but didn't have time to do all of it; they should be returning in the next month to finish it.]* – same as last month – I'll chase my ECC drainage contact for an update
4. Ukraine:
 - a. I think ECC are increasingly devolving responsibility to UDC for the distribution of payments. I'm forwarding the weekly ECC updates to you.
5. ECC Full Council meeting 10 May 2022:
 - a. We proposed the motion regarding the mental health issues affecting young people particularly. Everyone expressed support but a Conservative amendment was passed removing any references to extra financial support or to calling on the Government for proper funding, so that removed much of the teeth – there will at least be a review of services.
6. Bus services and other sustainable transport:
 - a. ECC submitted bids for improved bus services to central Govt totalling £600m, and all of them have been rejected, so I think we will continue to have to rely on Cambridge CC for bus improvements. I am told that the Govt have put up some £1.2bn to improve bus services, and county councils submitted applications totalling £8.4bn so there is clearly a massive gap between demand and funding.