

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Wendens Ambo Parish Council 15/5/23

[Note, items in italics are repeats from last month, still unresolved]

1. Locality Fund:

- a. You have put me in touch with the cricket club. Unfortunately it's now not clear whether the Locality Fund will be running this year – I've heard nothing so far about it and haven't been able to access the usual application form site, but will keep chasing and will let you know either way once I hear

2. Highways matters affecting the parish:

- a. On potholes, as ever, let me know. As you'll have seen though potholes are getting worse, and Essex Highways seem to be slowing down – there are a number of large and dangerous potholes that I've been chasing for weeks now in the division, particularly in Saffron Walden without success
- b. *[On the LHP scheme to introduce a 40mph zone west of the village, we're still no further forward – we had a LHP panel meeting on 24/10, and the scheme still hasn't even progressed to the validation stage, in common with many others. There are many complaints at the way the LHPs are failing to produce results, and apologies that there is still no progress.] [Sorry, still no change; I have chased again and been told that they have more resource to do validations, but most of the validations for the schemes I submitted more than a year ago still haven't been done. The LHP officer is back on 9/1/23, and the next LHP meeting is on 16/1/23, so I hope I will have some more news soon.] [Sorry, still no change – I had a separate meeting with the LHP officer and the validations have still not progressed – I keep chasing] [3/4/23- Sorry but still the same] [15/5/23- Sorry but still the same]*
- c. *[As the validations for last year are going so slowly, we haven't even been asked to put forward any schemes for this year's LHP. We're also still waiting to hear what the funding allocation will be for the forthcoming year.] [3/4/23- Sorry but still the same] [15/5/23- Sorry but still the same]*
- d. On the LHP generally, the March meeting was postponed; we are still waiting to hear when it will be held, and what the budget for the current year will be. The majority of schemes funded for last year weren't completed by the year end, and I have had none of my schemes validated for submission as and when we are finally told. The whole LHP system seems to have ground to a complete halt; I am chasing!

3. Drainage issues:

- a. Duck St defective manhole cover. I've been in touch with Gail and Essex Highways say it will be done when the team are "next in the area". I'll keep chasing

4. Planning issues:

- a. At your request, I've passed on your concerns to the relevant Essex Highways officers regarding the potential traffic impacts of the Audley End Estates proposed grain store planning application. Essex Highways have confirmed that they hadn't previously seen the concerns and will include them as part of their consideration of the application.