Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Wendens Ambo Parish Council 8/1/24

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

1. Highways matters affecting the parish:
	1. The pothole scheme has now closed but obviously I can keep chasing as usual, so let me know if there are significant potholes that have been reported and are not being fixed;
	2. *[On the LHP scheme to introduce a 40mph zone west of the village, as I reported last month, I have a note from the 28/9/23 LHP meeting that the Wendens Ambo scheme was submitted to the design team on 04/08/23 – I have no idea why only then – and that “there is the possibility that developer funding might be available for this scheme”; I’m sorry but I haven’t been able to get any further information, and the system has been ”closed for maintenance” for the last month so I can’t access the schemes updates.][4/12/23 - I’m sorry, but still no update]* [8/1/24 – I’m really sorry but I still can’t find out what is happening];
	3. I’m still waiting for the works at the Fighting Cocks junction to be completed. On the highways matters on the Matters Arising from December, please report them and let me know if you don’t see any progress.
2. Early years provision
	1. I’ve had another couple of meetings. There does seem to be some money, although not a huge amount, but ECC are still struggling to find a suitable site.
3. ECC Matters:
	1. We had a presentation from ECC Sustainable Transport officers at the end of November, and changes are proposed to move away from the existing “cars first” policy. However, it looks as though the DfT are being extremely slow in confirming their requirements for Essex Highways’ draft new policy, and Essex Highways are still woefully under-staffed in terms of sustainable transport resource, so I fear that it will be a long time until we see significant change. ECC did say that they are trying to change their approach to their existing highways policies, so I will keep pushing;