Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Wendens Ambo Parish Council 5/2/24

**[*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][5/2/24 – still nothing];
   3. Drayton Hill priority signage – I’ve put in the LHP application, and copied you in with their suggestion;
   4. On the works at the Fighting Cocks junction Essex Highways are saying that they don’t do road marking at this time of year, but I’ll keep chasing;
   5. James Reid has asked me to help with the issue of the wall near the church; if nothing has been done by the meeting, let me know and I’ll chase.
2. ECC Matters:
   1. ECC have now published their 10 year forecast for future school provision. Essentially it says that there is no need for any school place expansion in this part of Uttlesford, either at secondary or primary school level (although a new primary school may be required to the south-east of Saffron Walden if the draft Local Plan allocation goes ahead, and presumably also some expansion of SWCHS would also be necessary. The forecast is clearly very dependent on birthrate assumptions, and birthrates have been relatively low, counter-balancing the housing increases;
   2. On finances, ECC are proposing to increase council tax by the maximum permitted 5.99%, which is above the current rate of inflation, but behind inflation for the last 12 months, and their own inflationary costs and increased service demands, so there will be further reductions in service in the forthcoming year.