

Lackford AGM

Highways

As usual highways accounts for the largest amount of queries I receive.

Flooding

Flooding still continues to be a problem, a useful meeting was convened with myself, reps from the environment agency, the parish council, SCC highways, Susan, residents, Suffolk wildlife trust and the trout club to look at what can be done collectively to solve the problem. It appears that the initial problem comes from further up the River Lark and where some work needs to be carried out, Phil from the Environment Agency was going to look at what work is planned and when and then carry out an inspection, we've asked for a plan and a timeline. Highways will carry out some work making sure that all the drains are fully flushed through and then will wait to do some work on the ditches once the work has been carried out on the River Lark. Phil was also going to look into how to progress some work on the where the river breaches the Trout Club side. We are hoping that if a proper timeline and action plan is drawn up we will see some progress on this issue.

Potholes

Potholes are the bane of people's lives and it does appear again due to the weather to have been particularly bad this year 105% increase in reports, and SCC response is not always as quick or as good as we expect, there has been a commitment by highways to improve their service not least by introducing the dragon patcher which fixes potholes quicker and better quality, secondly the Road Mender Elastomac which patches larger areas of the road at the same time.

I encourage anyone to report highway defects online on the highway reporting tool and if you do not think there is any action being taken you can report it to clerk with the report number and she can escalate it with me or contact me directly for emergencies you should contact **0345 606 6171**.

I've embedded here a quick guide to what intervention measures are used for potholes which I hope you will find useful [Reactive Service v1 \(002\) \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

Bus Stop

The parish council are looking to install a bus stop in Bury Road as at the moment passengers have to step off the bus onto a high verge which causes some accessibility issues. Work is hoping to be carried out by independent company to save on cost and at present we are investigating on how this can work and the costs involved.

Verge Cutting and Weed Treatment

Verge cutting has been subject to discussions and Lackford are due to have verges cut on the w/c Monday June 17th please allow +or- 5 days due to weather, I've attached a quick guide to verge cutting for your perusal which may be helpful in understanding frequency etc [Grass Cutting - updated 3 April 2023 \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

Weeds have been a subject which again has caused some concern I can confirm that Lackford will be receiving weed treatment the w/c Monday July 8th weed, please allow +or- five working days due to weather, I've embedded a guide to weed treatment for you to peruse - [Weed Treatment - updated 7 June 2023 \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#), this has not been updated with the potential re-introduction of Glyphosate

a decision made in February 2024 regular weed treatment on our highway network will continue using a variety of methods, with plans for glyphosate being considered only when appropriate – the ambition still remains to reduce the use of glyphosate as far as possible.

Signage

I reported the marker posts that are missing to see if I can pay for the replacement out of the extra money I have from my highways budget.

Breckland Edge

This hedge in this area continues to cause concern, Highways feel as though they have cut back as far as they can go any further cuts back need to be carried out by the landowner. The parish council have agreed to contact the landowner, if no action is taken SCC can look to enforce.

Speeding

I've asked for Safe Cam to make some visits, and the police have said that the A1101 is an area where they will do checks, but it still appears that rural areas do suffer from neglect when it comes to enforcement as the criteria for enforcement is set so high. I've taken this up with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Suffolk Road Safe Board to state that there should be campaigns for rural areas.