

MINUTES SLR MEETING

28TH OCTOBER – 10am – Bodle Street Green Village Hall

Attendees: Darren Bass (Highway steward), Ruby Brittle (Stakeholder & Engagement Manager), Corinne Black (Customer Services Manager), Cllr Long (arrived 10.55), Cllr Smythe, Cllr Williamson, Cllr Graham and the Clerk

Apologies for absence: Ian Johnson (Traffic & Safety) - illness

It was noted Bob Bowdler could be invited to future meetings.

ITEM 1

- **How often are roads inspected by ES Highways and repairs considered?**
- **What are the criteria for repair?**
- **How long is the repair expected to last?**

Ruby Brittle stated although it was only possible to arrange 2 SLR meetings a year, it would be possible to arrange meetings in between if there were significant concerns.

Ruby Brittle informed the meeting that she is part of the team who were responsible for managing the Highway Delivery Contract which includes drainage, trees and grass cutting as well as maintaining the highway. She also clarified this did not usually include NEW projects such as road crossings etc although other teams can assist with this work.

If there were concerns that could not be addressed by the attendees then Ruby would ensure a relevant member of staff would attend the next meeting, she also reassured Councillors the PC would receive proactive updates from the SLR meeting going forward.

If the PC were unhappy with the progress of any of their concerns, Ruby urged the Clerk to contact her directly.

All Highway's criteria are available on their website but it was noted it wasn't easy to find. Corinne to send the link to the Clerk. **Action Corinne Black.**

Ruby confirmed ESCC were legally bound to inspect all the roads at least once a year. Darren added that the parish roads were not inspected at the same time once a year and all roads are graded. If potholes etc had been reported they would attend a road more frequently than this. Reported issues were assessed before being added to the maintenance plan. Darren assured Councillors he is regularly in the area and keeps an eye out for any areas of concern.

Ruby advised councillors of the importance of reporting highway issues and all reports are considered by ESCC when looking at problem areas etc. If they do not receive the information they would not be aware of the problems.

A Councillor questioned the time-frame that Highways took to repair potholes which have been there for a considerable period of time.

Ruby assured Councillors that ESH were working hard to improve relaying information to PC's. Regarding the large pothole at Marklye Lane she admitted ESH had not assessed it correctly as immediate safety measures were needed and confirmed action will be taken to remedy this. **Action Ruby Brittle.**

The Clerk to add a standing item to the environment agenda so highways issues will be reported regularly to improve the communication lines. **Action Clerk.**

A pothole repair should last 2 years.

ESCC are currently working on a procurement project with the aim of devising a new Highway Maintenance Contract.

Any remedial works due to failed repairs are at a cost to Costain.

Highways are not responsible for road sweeping, that falls to WDC.

ITEM 2

The junction of Flitterbrook Lane with Marklye Lane

A Councillor summarised the concerns expressed to Highways.

Darren confirmed the road markings were sufficient and not faded enough for action.

Ruby confirmed drainage works were being completed to clear the blocked drain within 28 days from the 25th October. Corinne Black will update the PC. A broader investigation will be carried out. **Action Corinne Black.**

Ruby will liaise with Ian Johnson (traffic & safety) regarding moving the existing 30mph signage. Ruby to organise a site visit with Councillors and Ian to visit areas of concern. **Action Ruby Brittle.**

ITEM 3

The junction of South Lane and Herring's Road near Dallington.

A Councillor summarised the concerns regarding the poor pothole repair work. The photos clearly displayed the same potholes re-opened after only 3 weeks of being filled in. The Councillor who had reported this had still not been contacted by Highways.

Ruby and Darren agreed the repair work was not acceptable. The remedial repairs are now booked in and the ditches will be jetted. The drainage team will also be investigating. Ruby to investigate why the Councillor had not been contacted by Highways regarding this matter. Ruby assured Councillors she will update the Clerk as a matter of urgency with progress made. **Action Ruby Brittle.**

ITEM 4 & 5

Prinkle Lane

Darren has visited the site and remedial works will be completed within 28 days. Patch works are being investigated. Ruby confirmed the investigative work will not be a priority as their budget has halved.

Ruby to email the Clerk the following year's work programme when available early next year. **Action Ruby.**

Ruby requested to be copied in to all correspondence between the Clerk and Highways. **Action Clerk and Corinne.**

ITEM 6

Chilsham Lane

A Councillor summarised the issue.

Ruby confirmed that Highways considered the resurfacing of the road as works completed. There is no available budget to edge roads or add laybys. She will flag up the Issue to Ian but was not optimistic. **Action Ruby.**

Darren confirmed there is a drainage investigation under way. Corinne to update the PC. **Action Corinne.**

ITEM 7

Highway's case 00593172 Marklye Lane

The Clerk summarised the item.

Ruby confirmed this item would be considered further on the site visit with Ian. **Action Ruby.**

Corinne to chase Ian regarding his update to the PC and Ruby to investigate the reasons for the delay. Ruby to update the Clerk next week. **Action Corinne and Ruby.**

ITEM 8

Speeding traffic through Rushlake Green & Bodle Street Green

A Councillor summarised the concerns of the PC highlighting the frustrations of being shunted backwards and forwards between the police and Highways resulting in a complete lack of progress. He highlighted the PC needs advice on what is achievable and what is not.

Ruby reiterated this can be discussed with Ian from Traffic & Safety when the site visit is arranged. Ruby will also contact Brian Banks, Ian's manager to ensure the matter is progressed with urgency. Ruby to ensure Ian makes contact with the PC. **Action Ruby and Ian.**

Cllr Long entered the meeting at 10.55am

Ruby to investigate why the speed signs change from 30mph to 40mph in the middle of Bodle Street Green village. A Councillor added he believed the school was opened after the signage had been put in place. **Action Ruby.**

ITEM 9 & ITEM 11

Overgrown trees and hedgerows in the parish

Signage from companies completing roadworks on the highway

A councillor reiterated that signage is left up after the work has been completed, the diversions which are set up are not always appropriate which results in damage to verges and vehicles. Information of works to be completed is not always available on the website and there is no prior warning issued to residents and businesses.

Ruby confirmed Highways issue a permit for works to be completed. Any issues with signage and diversion routes need to be taken up with the companies directly who are completing the works. Highways has no power over them.

Ruby has taken away the details provided and will confirm which utility company was responsible but the PC must take their concerns to the company involved. **Action Ruby and the Clerk.**

A Councillor complained Trevor Merchant does not respond to correspondence. Ruby will begin the process of a formal complaint against this person. **Action Ruby.**

A Councillor presented Highways with a detailed report of all the overgrown trees and hedges in the parish and highlighted a general malaise from landowners and ESCC is maintaining these.

Ruby reported thousands of letters are sent out to landowners every year regarding overgrown trees and hedges. **ESCC have a statutory obligation to check trees and hedges once a year and will not re-visit an area unless a complaint is received.**

Ruby will study the report submitted and encouraged the PC to report any overgrown trees and hedges to Highways. The Clerk to add a standing item on the environment agenda. **Action Clerk.**

ITEM 10

ESCC grass cutting in the parish and an update on the five proposed routes.

Corinne confirmed the five routes are now officially classed as wild flower verges and would be maintained as such going forward.

The Clerk to contact James Newmarch for more information. **Action Clerk.**

ITEM 12 & 13

Positioning of 30mph signs in Rushlake Green

Consider the need for graduated reduction in speed signs

Ruby confirmed these items should be discussed at the future site visit.

ITEM 14

Consider the option of restricting HGV movement in small villages

Ruby stated ESCC were very limited in what they could achieve regarding this item but she would flag it up to Ian. **Action Ruby.**

Corinne will send a report to the Clerk of the reactive repairs that have taken place in the parish. **Action Corinne.**

Ruby to ensure a representative from Traffic & Safety attends future SLR meetings. **Action Ruby.**

Ruby to attain some deer crossing signs to replace the five that have been removed near Marklye Lane. **Action Ruby.**

NEXT MEETING

26th April 2022 – Bodle Street Green Village Hall – 10am

25th October 2022 – Bodle Street Green Village Hall – 10am

The meeting closed at 11.40am

