

## **July 2024 County Councillor Report**

### **POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

As some of you will be aware we have now received the report from the feasibility study on a possible new pedestrian crossing in Trimley St Mary. The preferred location is on the High Road, in the vicinity of the two Churches. This would maximise its benefit, being close to the village shop, pub, and allotments.

The report was very comprehensive and thorough. It contained a mass of data and calculations. However, the conclusion was that the traffic movements at that location do not meet the Department of Transport threshold for the justification of a pedestrian crossing. I cannot question the validity, methodology or calculations within the report, or would seek to. However I am extremely disappointed at the result, and I do dispute the conclusion of the report. My view is that "common sense" dictates that there is a need for a crossing there. One was constructed near the Primary School in 2018, and both traffic and the population have increased since then. The High Road is busy and will become busier. Residents, particularly those more vulnerable, need a safe point to cross.

You have my assurance that I will continue to lobby and negotiate, in whatever way I need to, to obtain a pedestrian crossing. The Parish Council wish the project to proceed and are potentially willing to fund it. I am here to support you.

### **LOCAL HIGHWAYS BUDGET**

As you know I have an annual budget of £7000 to fund Highways projects. Earlier this year I calculated that I had committed all my remaining funds. Fortunately, that is not now the case. This is due to lower costs than were first indicated to me for the clearing of the overgrown path in Howlett Way, and the pedestrian crossing feasibility study. I have funded both of these from this budget.

As a result I now have £8383.65 remaining to allocate. You will be aware that I have funded a number of schemes in the two Trimley villages. These were the Thurmans Lane pedestrian refuges, the 23 replacement or repaired road signs, clearing the overgrown path in Howlett Way, and the feasibility study. These were all worthwhile projects and I am pleased to have funded them. However, I have decided it would now be fair to spend my remaining funds in the Walton part of my Division. This is proving rather difficult for the following reasons :

- 1 The costs of these highways schemes is prohibitively high, and it is difficult to find a project which can be afforded, but is also still significant enough to justify the money spent.
- 2 Highways do not give up front prices for anything. Therefore I have to suggest a project, and only then be given the price for it. This is a frustrating way to work, to say the least.

I put forward a list of 6 broken and deteriorating pavements in Walton. I asked for them to be resurfaced. Unfortunately I was informed that my remaining budget would only cover one of the six, and that only to be patch repaired, not fully resurfaced. I did not consider this good value for money. I am currently exploring the option of some road repair instead. The money does have to be allocated by December 2024 latest.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD