

September 2024 County Councillor Report

LOCAL HIGHWAYS BUDGET

County Councillors are required to commit all of our funds to projects by December 2024. I have £8363 remaining, and as previously indicated, I have allocated this to road repair in Treetops and Ascot Drive. All potholes and other road surface defects in these two roads will be repaired. This includes those that do not meet the HMOP (Highways Maintenance Operational Plan) criteria. This work was ordered on 02 August and will be completed by 08 November.

POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

As you will be aware, I have been negotiating with County Council Highways to create a new pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the two Churches in Trimley St Mary. I was continuing to lobby for this, despite a statistical modelling carried out which concluded that there was not a justifiable need for a crossing. I have received a response that a new pedestrian crossing in that location could be constructed as part of the development of new housing at Howlett Way. Furthermore, Highways have stated that they would require such a crossing as a condition of granting any planning consent. In this situation, this would be signed into a section 278 agreement. These cover Highways related enhancements which are a condition of planning permission.

This represents a change of position from Highways. Previously their argument was that the Department of Transport criteria for a new crossing were not met. Now they will insist on a crossing at our preferred location as a condition for the new housing. I appreciate that this puts a delay on a crossing being built, but I believe this is a successful outcome. If the developer is to pay for construction, this removes the need to fund it from Parish Council funds. I understand that with potential diverting of underground utilities, the construction cost could be in excess of the original estimate of £100,000.

TRIMLEY ST MARY QUIZ

Trimley St Mary are holding a fund raising quiz on 26 October. I have agreed to be a marker, and also to compose some of the questions. My thanks go to Councillor Lynn Beal for organizing this event. I am looking forward to an enjoyable evening, and I would encourage anyone to enter a team.

LOVE FELIXSTOWE WEEKEND

Again this year, the “Love Felixstowe” event is taking place to coincide with the Tour of Britain cycling tournament. This takes place on 07 and 08 September. I will be on duty at the Felixstowe Town Council stand on both days. Please come along for an enjoyable weekend.

COUNCILLOR STUART BIRD B.A.(HONS)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE NORTH AND TRIMLEY DIVISION

TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR FELIXSTOWE PORT WARD