

## **Transport and Highways Report**

**September 2024**

You may or may not have been aware, but when a portion of the High Road in Trimley St Mary was closed for two days, the effect on the buses was not good, to say the least as the buses were unable to serve their regular stops in Walton or Trimley St Mary as buses had to go along Garrison Lane on to the A14 then on to Howlett Way, and vice versa coming from Ipswich.

The only notice making the public aware of the road closure was in the immediate area in St Mary where the works due to be carried out.

On contacting the bus company Ipswich depot, it seems the information was not cascaded down to Ipswich after their head office in Norwich were informed of the closure. But having said that, SCC didn't feel it necessary to ensure notices at each stop affected were put in place or inform each Parish Council and Felixstowe Town Council. If they had done so, as the Mayor of Felixstowe said, we could have acted accordingly and potential bus users wouldn't be standing at a stop not being served over the two days.

Stuart Bird has since said he will try to ensure communication between SCC PCs and Town Council improve.

It is also interesting to note the following -

Simon Barnett, Bus Strategy Transport Manager at SCC recognises the lack of cooperation from utility companies and the impact on bus services was a hot topic at the EP Chairs and Managers conference (!) and the new Government are being lobbied to reform the system so road closures requested by utility companies do not impact public transport.

Bus shelters.

The brick bus shelter on Howlett Way is in dire need of cleaning due to some bright spark having a go at graffiti, and other 'mess' within.

It has also been pointed out that our glass bus shelters are not being cleaned as regular as they should be, something Trimley St Mary were aware of and employ a private company to clean the SCC owned bus shelters in their parish on a regular basis, plus notice boards and new sign up at Reeves Lodge.

Our parish clerk is looking into doing likewise with our bus shelters and hopes to have an idea on cost ready for our September meeting.

Liz D'arville

Trimley St Martin Parish Councillor