

SERVICES AND HIGHWAY PROBLEMS AND THEIR LOCATIONS

DRAINS & OVERHANGS TO PATHWAYS

Following Parish Council meeting of 21st May 2014 various problems regarding drains, overhanging branches on walkways and street lighting faults were highlighted. Some aspects of these had been discussed for many months, even years. It was requested by the Chairman and Councillor Turner that a definitive list be made to assist the necessary remedies. Initial details are listed below.

DRAINS

We were fortunate that on 22nd May there was moderate rainfall and the flow situation on the roadways could be studied. One obvious problem emanated from the high number of blocked drains. Blockages were either from totally impervious gratings where water could not penetrate to the sumps below. It could only bypass on its way further down the road. On those drains that did have top grating access many still had a dense crust of dead leaves surmounted by grass from cutting activity this year. The council had been informed that gully and drain cleaning takes place regularly. As the leaves would have been from last autumn some 7 – 8 months back could it be suggested that in future that the times for 'drain gulping' could be linked more closely to the seasons which would not only be a cheaper option but also allow the results to be more effective. Some photographs are provided from the date referred to.

Associated with the above concern is with the actual gully sweeping itself. The contractor's cleaning/sweeping vehicle has been recently witnessed in Blunham Road. However due to the quantity of parked cars it was almost totally unable to do the work. Co-operation, timing and communication are required. With road sweeping operation announced, say a couple of days in advance, the Parish Council would have the opportunity to inform residents to park their cars elsewhere for a few hours allowing the work to be done properly and possibly, on fewer occasions. In Blunham Road, the accumulation of mud in many areas also adds to the drain problems allowing seedlings to actually grow.

The PC has been informed that gully cleaning only takes place where there is a defined kerb. Understanding this restriction, we ask that why was entire length of The Ridgeway swept for ½ mile where there is no kerb and only one property.

As a final point on drainage, it has long been accepted by observation and by Anglian Water that the drainage along the entire length of the road is inadequate and incorrect for the job. Sewerage and surface water are apparently combined leading to effluent rising in buildings when conditions are adverse (heavy rain). On occasions very strong smells can be detected along the roadway, - presumably from badly sealed covers. Fortunately, Tricia Turned was able to witness this on a recent occasion.



One of several manhole covers showing rain water and sewerage combines. Anglia Water have confirmed a small single pipe system that is insufficient for the application. They have been seen the flush one area adjacent to the Village Hall for long periods on two occasions during the last year. They have not been witnessed elsewhere in Blunham Road



Adjacent to No 13 Blunham Rd.
Drain totally blocked with mud and stones



There's are drains in there somewhere



Typical of many other drains along
this road choked with grass, leaves
and soil



Combinations of ineffective drain clearance, ineffective capacity showing surface water continuing in roadway. With only a 6" pipe the system is never able to cope with water under moderate/heavy rain conditions. This has given rise to sewerage problems on several occasions further along Blunham Road.



Bedford Road pavement westbound as path changes to public right of way. (near gas control box). This is lethal in dark conditions as it is classed as 'sink hole' at around 6" deep.



Sample of combination of both raised and dropped kerbing as West Road junction. This area is predominantly used by elderly folk and mothers with prams. Problem with poorly sites drain ironwork and ineffective and dangerous levels.

Conclusion and further drainage problems that exist higher up road near Guinea Pub. The adjacent field has always been known for poor drainage. Much of the outflow from the field is often unable to utilise natural soak-away and regularly compounds troubles further along the road and even to flooding garden in listed property opposite.

OVERHANGS & DIFFICULT PATHWAYS



Sample of roadside hacking
— Blunham Rd



Overhang at Chalton



Overhang and restrictive width at
Chalton lower end of Blunham Rd



Restrictive view for road users at triangle junction



Overhang St John's Rd near Hall's Farm



Hedges near bend in Park Rd. Forces
perambulators into roadway.



OVERHANGS (continued)



Extensive overhang Park Rd 100 yds
from A603



Bedford Road pavement to pathway
West side