

LHP:

I note the letter to the Highways Cabinet Member seeking more clarification on several items.

However, in my opinion, ECC's position is clear on the 2 issues:

1. Previously, LHP committed 50% on the basis that GWPC raise the other 50%. That lapsed after GWPC failed to find their 50%. Cllr Lee Scott is clear that should GWPC now achieve it's 50%, he will consider whether to reinstate the LHP 50%. i.e., this will not progress unless GWPC raise its half first
2. DfT control the "back up" status of the B1008, and have been asked if they will consider downgrading. They stated that they would not consider such downgrading until the NE Bypass is built.

Coronation

The Street Party application date has been extended to 23rd March and can be done at <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/parking-and-travel/temporary-road-closures/>

There are 2 types of events – A Street Party or a Special Event. The latter has more onerous conditions. The difference is that a Street Party is meant to be a local event, probably a cul-de-sac, which is not widely publicised. A Special Event may be for the whole village and requires PLI and Traffic Management. I am helping a local organisation which fell foul of the difference, to get them classified as a Street Party.

Ukraine

The hosting scheme is now a year old. I have received correspondence that says that Govt continues to support Ukraine refugees with £150 million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help support Ukrainian guests move into their own homes and reduce the risk of homelessness. There is a launch of a £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund, which will provide capital funding directly to English councils in areas that are facing the most significant housing pressures as a result of recent Ukrainian arrivals.

However, the reality is slightly different.. Many District Councils, including Chelmsford City Council, have a long waiting list for social accommodation. Private rental requires Guarantors which District Councils are unwilling to provide because of the onerous and open ended commitment(although they setting up rent deposit guarantee funds). In my opinion, continuation of hosting is the easiest option, but some hosts, having provided accommodation for a year, are limited in what they can continue to do. I am aware of some hosting coming to an end, and difficulties in obtaining their own homes, and would ask anyone to contact me if they can commit to being a host.

Member Led Pothole Scheme

I have now entered in all my 36 pothole allowance – actually entered 51 locations:

- 39 completed
- 2 works issued
- 1 referred to water company
- 9 accepted but awaiting response

This includes 12 holes on the A131 between Sheepscote roundabout and Gt Notley (entered as 1 submission – a series of holes). I haven't received a repair date on this yet, but the objective is to have all repairs done before end April.

You might like to view a Highways video about Make Safe repairs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCHfmBgTGZs>

I have thanked the Cabinet Member, Cllr Lee Scott, for the scheme and expressed how successful it has been. On several occasions I have suggested a similar scheme for footpaths. I am pleased to say that Cllr Scott has announced a further £4M for a similar scheme in the new FY which will also include pavement defects.

SID Poles

LHP requests for additional SID poles require a speed survey to show speeds in excess of the speed limit by 10mph. Alternatively, the Parish Council can fund these. I previously reported that a cheaper option will soon be available whereby the Parish Council can request existing lampposts to be audited to assess if they can be used to mount a SID. I was hoping the process would be in place by March, but it is delayed and I do not have a date yet.

2023 RideLondon-Essex

RideLondon will return Sunday 28th May along the same route as last year. This route goes through 3 of the Parish's in my division, but also effects all the others. Because of the issues last year, I insisted on being on the Steering Group and particularly wanted to make sure that the businesses that were badly affected last year, do not suffer the same issues. More info at ridelondon.co.uk/community-info including info on how local access will operate.

There will be two Public Meeting/Consultations in my division:

- 13th March at Writtle College
- 6th April in Great Waltham Pavilion 5pm to 7.30pm

Chelmsford City Council issues

Highway Rangers Service:

The Chelmsford Highway Rangers service is administered by Chelmsford City Council but funded by ECC. ECC have given notice that they intend to cease funding the service as part of budget savings. Given that the service addresses County Council, City Council and Parish Council tasks, the Conservative group proposed an amendment to the City Council budget for City Council to continue the service and to be funded by freezing members allowances and better projections on the refurbished theatre income. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated at the City Council budget meeting. All parties accept that the Highway Rangers offer a valuable service that address those tasks that generate pride in our environment that otherwise can only get done by a more elongated enforcement process.

Gas Gun Scarers

Report from ECC and CCC for March 2023 meeting

A member of the public raised this with me via my City Council email address. However, I think that in the first instance, this is a matter for the Parish Council – to see if an acceptable outcome can be achieved.

If not, the next step would be to raise it with City Council Public Health dept, which the complainant, or GWPC can do, or via me.

I would recommend that the complainant's agreement be sought if this is to go as a formal complaint to the Public Health dept.