**Local Highways Panel (LHP) refresh**

LHPs have suffered from over-demand, delayed delivery, and inappropriate requests, which have hindered their original goals. Consequently, a review of their purpose and operation has been launched with an outcome that refreshes the approach. The main change is that the 12 divisional LHPs will address lower cost schemes that have an immediate impact, and will refer larger long term schemes to a “Chairmans panel”. This will be enhanced by a commitment to undertake scheme validations within 4 weeks of submission. This validation process will prioritise schemes according to addressing known safety issues, improvements to safety, sustainable transport goals, local support, environmental improvements, affordability, and deliverability. It means that the limited LHP funds will be focussed on these priorities! Schemes currently in the funding queue will be re-assessed (validated and prioritised) according to these criteria.

Where PCs are able to fund schemes, they will still need to progress through the validation process first, but I hope that this will be quicker and enable PCs to fund such schemes in a shorter timeframe.

I am a member of the funding sub-group which recommend schemes for funding over the next year. We met on 3rd April and produced a number of recommendations which include some from my division. These need to be ratified at the full Chelmsford LHP meeting 10th April.

.

**Member Led Highway Defect Repairs**

I stated previously that there will be a new scheme staring April 2024, but this will be expanded and include pavements and other defects. It is being funded by an £8M grant from Central Govt which has to be spread over 75 ECC divisions. Effectively, I get to direct the extra Chelmsford team for 4 weeks over the year. Having been selected as a Cllr to initiate the scheme, I have been collecting defects from my PCs and residents and have submitted the following for the first batch. As this is a new scheme, I do not know if all of these can be done in the first batch! For future batches, I need location (What3words and Highways Track-It ref) and photo.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Carriageway Defects** |
| **1** | Writtle – junction of Lodge Road and St John’s Road |
| **2** | Writtle outside funeral directors, opposite Rose and Crown |
| **3** | Writtle St Johns Road |
| **4** | Writtle - Ongar Road (119) between Longmeads Close and Redwood Drive |
| **5** | Writtle – outside fish and chips shop – drain surround |
| **6** | Great Waltham Great Waltham Junction Bury Lane/Mashbury Road/Barrack Lane |
| **7** | Main Road, Broomfield - drain and island |
| **8** | Highwood The Street |
| **9** | RoxwellVicarage Road and The Street |
| **10** | Howe Street Mill Cottage, which is next door to Mill House |
| **11** | Little Waltham On Cranham Road Opposite Domsey Lane turning |
| **12** | Great Waltham road to Brook Mead |
| **13** | Pleshey Road The entire length of Pleshey Road, from the junction near Dropshots to Walthambury Farm, |
|  |  |
|  | **Pavements** |
| **1** | Broomfield Berwick Avenue in front of drive of 14 Berwick Avenue CM1 4AS |
| **2** | Great Waltham South Street |
| **3** | Great Waltham Chelmsford Road – on West side |
| **4** | Broomfield Erick Avenue, Chelmsford |
| **5** | Broomfield Erick Avenue, Chelmsford |