**Update from Cllr Derrick Louis, Essex County Council Member for Witham Southern July 2021**

**1. Grant Funding**

There are two grant funding opportunities I previously made the PC aware of:

The 2021 Community Initiative Fund – deadline for that was 5/7 but if you have missed that but can have the submission with me by tomorrow, I can probably still get it in.

Member Locality Fund where very ECC member has £10k to spend this financial year.  If you have any ideas on ths, please speak to me outside of the meeting.

**2. Local Highways Panel**

* The moratorium on speed surveys has now been lifted although understandably there is a backlog.
* There has also been a moratorium on new bus shelters whilst as County-wide review was undertaken. This is due to report soon and include proposal for manging these requests going forward.
* I have received and submitted a request from the TWP for traffic calming on Station Road.
* I am due to receive a request from Cllr Dervish for a 20mph speed limit outside the schools.

**3. Highways Issues**

* I am liaising with the new Cabinet Member for Highways (Cllr Lee Scott) on a number of outstanding issues:
* Vegetation obscuring the 30 mph warning sign near Jenkins Lane
* The “sinkhole” on Maldon Road
* Sportsman’s Lane Flooding

I spoke to him again today and he has promised an early response and dates to get these sorted.

* I have also raised the A12 Overbridge “Temporary” Traffic Lights next to Latneys with the Highways Agency.

They confirmed they have no plans to repair the bridge or remove the lights at present. However, they have a similar situation at Severalls Lane Bridge in Colchester, and following detailed investigations, they are currently reviewing some new monitoring techniques, that have recently become available.

**4. A12 Junctions/Hatfield Peverel Bypass**

John Cockell raised a concern with me (following an A12 briefing meeting with the Highways Agency Project Team) that the bypass and connection to the new A12 junction was not being considered.

I have now followed up and been given sight of correspondence from Cllr Bentley (as the previous Cabinet Member for Highways and now as Leader) to both the Roads Minister as well as local MPs.

I think it is fair to say that this remains “work in progress” (and reflected in the Highways Agency’s (HA) position) although Cllr Bentley’s commitment remains steadfast.

**5. NHS Funding from Developers**

I recently met with the Head of Estates for the NHS in Mid Essex to talk through how the developer contribution for HP will be used.

They confirmed that they are expecting over £200k for capital investment to increase capacity at Sidney House Surgery.

However, there approach is to wait until all the houses are built and monies are received before they start looking at a specific scheme.

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**If any Cllr requires help or advice, please don’t hesitate to contact me on 07967 830277 or** [**cllr.Derrick.Louis@essex.gov.uk**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDerrick%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CV0CCF6ZA%5Ccllr.Derrick.Louis%40essex.gov.uk)