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|  | **AG Notes for parish meeting. Great Bentley. January 2024** |
|  | A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generated  ***“I attend the meetings, & take calls on your behalf, - some that you may prefer to avoid!”*** |
| **Stop press** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Reference Number:** [2879060](https://www.essexhighways.org/track-it?enquiry=2879060) **Issue:** Highway Drainage Problems **Location:** Plough Road  **Current status: inspection outcome. [On map looks as if outside school]** We have investigated and risk-assessed this issue. Our recent inspection of this issue has prioritised it as not as serious as some of the other defects we are aware of, so we have recorded it and will consider it when we are planning future works in the area. This does not mean that this issue is not important to us; we will repair it just as soon as is humanly possible given the constraints explained. Every report we get is important to us and we aspire to repair all highway defects in good time. Essex is a large county and across a network covering more than 5000 miles of road, more than 1500 structures and 127,000 street lights, we need to prioritise how we spend your council tax money to best effect for all residents. At present we prioritise our principal road network, the repair of the worst pot holes and other safety critical work such as flooding and bridge repairs. It will be regularly monitored through future scheduled inspections to see if it has worsened. A future inspection may result in its current prioritisation being changed if there has been significant deterioration.Thanks for helping us to keep Essex roads in the best condition we can. Essex Highways | | |
| **1** | A mixture of staff breaks for Christmas, New Year, and personal COVID has created a challenging period. Not many face to face meetings. |
| **2** | **Jan 3 & 4.** Monthly parish meetings Thorrington, Alresford, Gt. Bentley. |
| **3** | **02 Jan.** Trying to trace source of Sec 106 funds for Great Bentley for bus shelter in Gt.Bentley division. Confusion to be resolved.  Jan 2 further report on site under 2797651 at Morella Close. To be investigated.  Site visit B’sea. Robinson Road surface water and drains to house. |
| **4** | **31 Dec.** Surface water reported. Great Bentley. |
| **5** | **30 Dec.** Thorrington drain cover escalated following request for bollards. Out of office/bank holiday weekend phoned . Request escalation. Engineer to visit site. 4 hour visit promised. Believe achievd. |
| **6** | **28 Dec.** Site visit Thorrington. Drain cover painted but no works. Also opportunity to look at hedge encroaching pavement Chapel Lane. |
| **7** | **Dec 20.** AG chairs scrutiny Ctte. Main item. Recycling centre booking system. Review of good and poor points. Keep telephone and blue badge systems. Now to be placed before Cabinet in January. Mainly popular and more efficient.  AG & St.Osyth Clerk & Chair judge Xmas shop display competition. |
| **8** | **Dec 19.** More details boundary changes.  Mud on road at Brightlingsea & Thorrington. Discussions with SRC company. Extra sweeping. System works suspended. Enforcement at TDC visited and involved. Resident from out of my area seeking compensation. Pointed towards claim department.  Road surface flooding Great Bentley. Request last time drains cleared. |
| **9** | **Dec 14.** AG advised parish meeting at Great Bromley mentions Station Road, Thorrington. Speed limits. Evidence provided was 8 serious accidents involving bodily injury and one death. Question asked at last Thorrington meeting.  AG attends Corperate scrutiny remotely. Boundary review discussed. Follow up to failing councils. Biggest Croydon, Liverpool, Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Thurrock, Slough, Birmingham, Woking plus others.  ECC Budget. 43% adult & social care, 12% children and early years,  Street light St. Osyth. |
| **10** | **Dec 12.** Full council. AG attends remotely. Budget plans due January.  Update bus shelter programme.. Details probably Feb 24. |
| **11** | **Dec 13.** Briefing. Failing Councils. Lessons to be learnt and mistakes to avoid. No single theme. Mostly lack of realistic scrutiny. Some delegated authority limits challenged. |
| **12** | **Dec 11.** Scrutiny board. Remote. Attendance at some meetings. Launch new scrutiny board bulletin. Circulate to Parish Clerks for all. |
| **13** | **Dec 6.** Discussion Councillor from Gt. Bentley re bus stop shelter for Flag Hill on B1027. Current strategy from ECC re estate explained. Unlikely in next 6/12 months.  Also later meeting re anti-social behaviour Point Clear St. Osyth involving residents and police and a complaint that might be submitted. Discussed Clerk.  Evening attended Thorrington & Alresford parish councils. My ECC slot is early at Thorrington, & late at Alresford allowing attendance at both plus travel between. Next evening [7th] at Great Bentley |
| **14** | **Dec 5,** Discussion local councillor from Colchester on behalf Alresford resident regarding option for Zebra Crossing on B1027. |
| **15** | |  | | --- | | **REPEAT FROM LAST FEW MONTHS. STILL RELEVENT.** The Local Government Association has confirmed that there is a staff shortage adding to service pressures. 8 in 10 councils were having difficulties recruiting children’s social workers and almost three-quarters were having problems retaining them. This also applied to adult social care workers, planning officers, HGV drivers, environmental health officers and building officers. ECC is not immune. Much of the workforce is unable to be as efficient as normal. Apologies if this leads to unexpected delays. I am having to exercise some patience in areas I would not  have expected. Sadly there has been a substantial series of resignations from key highways roles. | | **AG CONTACT POINTS:- 07860 519117 OR 01206 308023**  [**cllr.alan.goggin@essex.gov.UK**](mailto:cllr.alan.goggin@essex.gov.UK) **or** [**alan@agoggin.co.uk**](mailto:alan@agoggin.co.uk)  **FACEBOOK: - Alan Goggin Essex County Councillor - Established 1947.**  **“Report it” tool for road or highways issues.**  **https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us**  **You can tell us about maintenance issues online by using our highways reporting tool. If you think there’s a risk to**  **public safety, do not report it online, please call ECC immediately on**  **0345 603 7631** | |