**Highways and Streetscene, Portfolio**

Highways

Wiltshire have announced that they will only be undertaking the statutory minimum level of works with regards to highways and streetscene.

The effects will be that verges will only be cut once a year and gulleys will also only be emptied once per year, unless there is a safety issue.

The parish stewards will be concentrating on safety critical work, such as pothole filling, and will generally no longer be available for routine tasks.

The old concepts of community days and regular visits by the Parish Steward are in effect dead.Thus we will have to consider using village working parties foe some areas of work.

Stephen Mathews, our area Streetscene and Highways Officer has left Wiltshire, and we are still awaiting news of a replacement.

Detritus from the badger setts has been causing problems in Ram Alley. Wiltshire have cleared the road, but cannot take any action about the setts as they are protected. This is an ongoing issue

The broken drain outside of Appledore is still waiting for the masonry team. As there is only one team in the County, it could still be a while before any repairs are undertaken

The gulley outside the Church wall has been cleared by a villager.

Street Scene

As far as I am aware all street lights are working, if not please advise me.

Speed Watch

The volunteers continue to be active, and the issue of speeding along the B3087 is acknowledged by the Police. Two more volunteers have come forward, and will be trained by the Police in the next few months.

Speeds in excess of 50 m.p.h. have been recorded by the Speed Watch volunteers, and speeds well above 40m.p.h. are common place, despite the high visibility of the monitors.

Many of the vehicles recording the highest speeds are registered outside Wiltshire, and therefore do not receive any visits from the Police.

Signs advising that Easton is a Community Speed Watch area have been placed on the B3087, and new yellow backed 30mph signs have been installed at the East of the village .

Village Street 20mph limit

Easton has passed through to the next stageIn the Pewsey Board Area there are two applications, and Easton is seen as being straightforward, and thus hopefully will be approved, when Cat G next meet on April 15th.

I have received no further news, but hopefully our County Councillor will be able to update us at our meeting.

Drainage ditches

Wiltshire undertook some clearance work in the ditches below Manor Farm, as some localised flooding had occurred.

Following very heavy rains a few days ago, flash flooding occurred and an enormous quantity of debris was washed down the Village Street, much of it ending up in the same ditches.

There are still numerous areas of the Street covered by detritus, and Wiltshire have been asked to remove it.

However they still maintain that they will take no action with regards to ditches, as they argue that the landowner is responsible for maintaining them, an argument that does not seem logical , when flash flooding causes problems.

This issue will also be raised with our County Councillor.