

Highways sub-committee Report.

I should be reporting on the Highways Forum meeting. However the email giving the venue and time arrive with such little notice that not only did I miss it until after the meeting, but being in the daytime I already had work commitments that afternoon. I have asked for a report of the meeting, but so far nothing has come. The official minutes are usually some months after the meeting. However I can report that none of our list of items have been attended to. The full list included the hospital signs, replacement for the plastic refuge in Leret Way promised by the end of last October; attention to the bent signpost in North Street, or the explanatory plates as to who has right of way; the twisted sign outside Lidl; the No Cycling plates to Church Path; the replacement to the finger post outside the Institute; and I am reminded about the overgrowing vegetation in Highlands Road – but there has been a lot of tree attention recently, so is that still a problem?

The main items of concern have been the apparent indiscriminate issue by MVDC of long term parking permits which seem to permit the users to leave their cars in short term car parks. Cllr David Sharland has promised to take this up in the imminent parking review. Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr had enquired about the issue of permits, and has been told by the Parking Officer in MVDC that he would respond on the situation by the end of January. She is following this up on Monday – I may be able to report further at Committee.

Parking is also causing problems in Garlands Road, where vehicles are often parked on both sides of the road close to the junction with Linden Gardens and its continuation of Linden Pit Path. Many of these cars belong to parents of youngsters attending St. John's School. The cars create sight line problems for people trying to exit Linden Road. Cllr Tim Hall has agreed to meet Cllr Lewis-Carr, and Hilary Porter and see what can be done. Similarly with regard to the manhole frame and chamber wall opposite Hutchinson's in Church Street.

For some time now, one of our members, who is a cyclist has been asking for a ramp to replace the steps on the west side of the footbridge over the Motorway and the Bypass. This is an issue which has dragged on for at least fifteen years. Without repeating the older history, this was raised at the Highways Forum of last September and I was told that the parapets would have to be raised where the bridge crossed the Motorway. However I have since learnt that that has already been done, but not so for the Bypass section of the bridge. Cllr Tim Hall had been quoted costs for the ramp of 'hundreds of thousands of pounds'. This appears to be grossly excessive - rebuilding of the Knoll roundabout cost about £450,000. MV Cycling Forum is also lobbying for a ramp, and have pointed out that this was their recommendation before the verges along Epsom Road were asphalted and signed as a cycleway. Cllr Tim Hall has promised an on-site meeting to resolve matters.

End of report.