

Highways Report – June 1st 2012

Understandably to a great extent priority is being given to repairs to those roads involved in the Olympic Cycle Race route. I was pleased to learn that a request to remove a tree which obstructive the view of TV cameras, was refused by the Highways department, who advised that the camera concerned should be relocated.

A number of concerns, such as flooding on roads where gulleys are blocked, have led to frustrated solutions due to the responsibility of the Water authority who need to clear the sewers which are blocked and lead to a build up of undrained water. Further inspection is to be made into the problem of flooding in Barnett Close. SCC currently have 100 problems of blocked gulleys needing attention. Unfortunately the back log of Highways work is further hampered in other areas by the situation of 50 staff vacancies county wide and many applicants (100+) have insufficient training or experience. So reported problems are listed for attention but caught up in a backlog of work waiting to be undertaken.

Our County Councillors are continuing to press their concerns over traffic congestion and the hope to increase traffic flow through the one way system round the Red House Grounds by widening the exit into Randalls Road has not been totally rejected. Not only does this present with enormous cost in the region of a million pounds, but also requires the complete closure of the road., necessitating a restitution of two way traffic on the remaining 3 sides of the one way system round the Red House Grounds. A major stumbling block to progress is the reluctance of industries owning the high ground above the retaining wall to accept any change to the situation. But the retaining wall is to be repaired.

Concerns over the 4 accidents that have occurred recently at the road junction at the top of St. John's Road and Poplar Road have led to a decision to provide additional signage and a sign indicating the presence of a hospital. It is not possible to have a Stop sign installed as this requires not only permission from the Secretary of State but a guarantee that there is an adequate clear view in either direction at the road junction.

Concerns which are sent through to the Highways Department using the internet receive a registered number. This facility does not allow attachment of photos, but if these are sent to our County Councillor Tim Hall he will make sure that they reach the correct officer in the Highways Department.

Cut back of hedgerows in Epsom Road and Leret Way, will receive attention but this is limited to action twice a year.

Hilary Porter