

NEEN SAVAGE HIGHWAYS REPORT 2022

Those of us who live on the small roads of the Parish may think that not a lot of repairs have been done this last year. That may be true, however there has been considerable improvements made to a number of stretches along the Bridgnorth Rd, the Newbridge Junction has been re-surfaced, the 6 Ashes Mawley rd has been repaired and also some repairs to the Stottesdon Rd. All these repairs were long overdue.

That is all well and good, but meanwhile the smaller roads have been woefully neglected. Baveney Lane, The Catherton Rd and Shunesley Detton stretch are all Potholed and deteriorating. 6 Ashes down the Church has received some attention recently but the Pot hole Repairer Machine does not do a very good job, as depositing tar and grit into a wet, gravel filled hole with graduated boundaries is like sticking a plaster on to wet skin.

The Parish Council has reported numerous problems multiple times, but very little communication if any comes back, often not even an acknowledgement. We are now encouraged to report problems using the "Fix my Street" Portal. I have produced a Summary of all the current reports open in the Parish. Some Parishoners and Councillors have posted reports, however many were removed last December, so currently there are at my estimate, 32 remaining. I have put them on a spread sheet in date order, which will make it easier to observe and monitor any progress. There are a few inaccuracies that need correcting, but at least it should provide a recordable means of reporting to Shropshire Highways.

I appeal to all Parishoners to post more reports and to keep updating them on a monthly basis. If you look at this area on the Fix my Street Map, we have very few reports compared to Cleobury, for instance. If our complaints about highways are to be taken seriously, then we need more reporters and more reports. With a Smart Phone you can make a report and download a photo. You can also do it with a digital camera and a laptop. If there are reports from a much higher proportion of local residents, then we are more likely to attract a response. Some one at Highways may also realise that reports that are not rectified for long periods are more likely to result in claims for damage to vehicles. Each report has a brief title, so it is a good idea to put something that identifies this Pothole from the next one. When posting an update, describe how the problem is getting worse or dangerous.

My award for the most memorable report goes to Luke Phillips who lives in Oretton. Of the Shunesley Rd he says:- "Shropshire Highways should be ashamed of this road, the surface of the Moon would be smoother"

He clearly has not travelled the Detton, Nethercott, Nash road recently. Simon Harris showed it to Highways many months ago and they were worried about damaging their vehicles. I talked to a Surveyor a month ago who said he "hadn't seen one that bad for many years" I believe Highways have an obligation to inspect all roads on an annual basis but in this case, either that is not happening, or if it is, someone in the supervisory management is deliberately suppressing or ignoring the reports. Those of us who have no option but to travel the road are wondering how bad does it have to get before some action is taken?

In desperation some Parishoners have been filling in Potholes with gravel. While I can sympathise that this seems like a helpful thing to do, in fact it will only last a few days and will also make the job of doing a proper repair more difficult as all the wet loose material will need to be removed before the repair can be made. Also if such action is reported to Fix my Street, then Highways are even less likely to come and mend the road, as in their opinion it will no longer be a priority.

On the Lengthmen's scheme we have cleared out ditches and culverts on the Shunesley Detton Rd. More material has been removed from the Picklebatch ditch and a much better ditch has been re-established by the passing place on the Stonehouse stepple Rd. The Ford Culvert by the old Schoolhouse has been cleared out again and the material removed from the previous clearout.

I would like to thank Arthur & Antony Harmon for their help and work on the highways.

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