

Cradley Parish Council : Lengthman & Parish Path Partnership [P3] Schemes

Monthly Report : December 2015 – January 2016

Dear Councillors ,

Apologies for the absence of a Dec report . Unfortunately my office pc system failed which resulted in the need to purchase a new pc , recover most of my working files and resurrect the rest . In addition , I remain with a virtually inoperable broadband from BT for the last 10 weeks . This is still unresolved .

However , here is my report for the last two months of appalling wet weather .

Your lengthman suffered a debilitating viral attack which precluded work for a 3 week period over Xmas and New Year .

Over the period the main emphasis has been on dealing with potholes in the parish and dealing with a myriad number of drainage problems . Grip cutting , drain rodding , gulley clearance and emptying and flood debris clearances have predominated .

Councillors will be pleased to learn that we have been able to make substantial repairs to the Rectory Lane BOAT section , from the War Memorial to St James's Lych-gate .

As the winter has progressed , the excessive rains have played havoc with our lanes and roads .

Potholes have sprung up everywhere and we have had to prioritise the dangerous ones , including several failed B-B ones . This is an on-going issue !

We have a considerable backlog of holes to repair which we will endeavour to mend over the next couple of months . I would ask for patience from those who are a little irate at these matters .

Several sections of our lanes , particularly to the west of the A4103 are in poor drainage health due to years of neglect . Again it will take time to bring matters back to a satisfactory level .

Cutbacks from HCC continue to bite and an increasing number of their repair works are being put back indefinitely ! They are having to prioritise their highway work programme .

Administration of the scheme by B-Beatty remains absolutely the height of frustration .

I am continuously mired in beurocracy both with regard to financial management and also to the practical operation of the Lengthman / P3 scheme .

What madness now dictates that Rob & I are required to travel some 40 miles round-trip to Rotherwas [other side of Hereford] just to collect a few nails or a gallon of creosote or any other bits and pieces we need from week to week ... Utterly ridiculous and a waste of our money .

Our acting Chairman [Ken Nason] and I are attending a B-B PC Annual Briefing on 4th Feb at Rotherwas . We hope to get some clarity on various matters and hope to report to Council in due course .

Offers of help from fellow councillors is appreciated and will be considered as and when appropriate . However , life is never simple and there are a whole pile of legal and health and safety issues to consider , in particular , public liability Insurance issues and required certificates of competence to carry out certain tasks .[eg Road Working , Chainsaw operation] .

Our first year of operation finishes on 31/03/2016 . There is much to review / sort out before a new Annual Maintenance Plan can be prepared . The logistics and accountancy issues with B-B must be sorted ASAP .

- Dec and Jan has seen us in the following areas :

Vinesend Lane	Potholes , Drainage , debris clearances
Kingsbridge Area	Potholes , Crash-barrier repair , drainage and storm detritus clearance work
St Katherine Area	Pathway clearance , drainage work
Brookside / Poundbridge Area	Detritus clearance , culvert and drainage work

Finchers Corner	Essential pothole repairs
Chockbury Lane	Essential pothole repairs
Cradley School section of C1162	Essential pothole repairs
Rectory Lane BOAT	Complete surface repair work [proper job !]

nb We also have to go to B-B depot at Bromyard for material as we need it !

Currently , Rob and I work a minimum of a full day every Friday but there is always work to be done .

Geoff Fielding – Scheme Administrator