

Joint Transportation Board  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

# Addendum Paper

## **Agenda Item 15 – Roadside Drainage – Grip Clearance – “KCC’s Inclement Weather Plan 2013/14”**

At the request of the KALC Representative Mr Ashby, the Chairman agreed to the addition of this item on the Agenda.

By way of background Mr Ashby has submitted the following: -

***With reference to the KCC Highways publication "Inclement Weather Plan 2013/14" titled managing the Highway network in response to bad weather, see <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/roads-and-transport/maintenance/Managing%20the%20highway%20network%20in%20response%20to%20bad%20weather.pdf>***

***Para 6.3 Grips, ponds and lagoons is particularly relevant, it states: -  
Grips will be cleared annually between September and November. Each area drainage engineer will be responsible for arranging a programme of grip clearance in their area.***

***We need an explanation as to why this has been ignored in this area.***

***I've had emails from several parishes with examples of neglected ditches, non-existent grips to feed them with floods or eroded road edges as a consequence. Would it be possible to print these, or excerpts from them, for circulation at the meeting?***

Accordingly these examples are attached.

## Smarden Parish Council

### Unresolved drain problem

I've been trying to get H/W's to repair a semi blocked drain in Snughorne Lane Smarden (reports 90069 & 96521) where a ditch runs into an underground pipe & 2 or 3 yds from the entrance H/Ws did a pipe repair last year but must have left debris in the pipe as water now backs up into ditch & overflows into road from entrance & also overflows from the 2 yd section of "repaired" pipe by flowing out of the ground!! I've tried to get the Drainage Team to come & jet rod the pipe but so far no sign of action.

Here are 4 photos; 1 & 2 show pipe entrance which overflows into lane in modest rain; just a few yards further you can see the verge area dug up to replace short length of pipe & 3 & 4 show this area & water comes OUT of the ground here when pipe is full (modest rain) & overflows down side of lane (adding to former flow); no doubt debris from work here in autumn 2013 is the main cause of the problem but the pipe was replaced as the blockage was thought to be there before work was begun so the pipe blockage may be further into the pipe. It runs for about 1/4 mile before coming out into ditch again.

Many thanks, Brian  
Brian Bristow Smarden Parish Council 01233  
770564



**Smarden Parish Council (cont.)**



**Bilsington**

Eroded verge due to no grips

Attached is a picture of Bonnington Road, Bilsington, initial damage may be due to vehicles but then running rain water over the winter has washed the hardcore / edge of road away. No grips in place despite there being a drainage ditch.

Regards  
Simon Hudson  
Mobile 07768560044



### **High Halden**

Ongoing problem due to refusal to dig grips

In case you didn't keep a note of the issue I raised some weeks ago, can I add to your list a problem we have had in High Halden for several years?

It concerns a flooding problem on the A2 which runs through our village. After heavy rain the road floods and we have made numerous requests for this to be tackled. We've even had a drainage expert from Highways to look at it. Alongside the road where the flooding occurs, there is a ditch leading after a few metres to a small stream which appears to run under the road.

I have suggested the digging of a short grip could easily solve the problem but I am advised this would necessitate a formal road closure and all the attendant legalities!

Because of the flooding, cars tend to drive into the centre of the road in the face of oncoming traffic, along a road where potholes are also an issue. This is an A road after all!

I hope your discussions prove fruitful.

John Audsley  
High Halden PC

### **Hastingleigh**

Problem due to blocked drains

This does seem to be a widespread problem! The last part of the road from Wye to Hastingleigh (from the crossroads on) is an example. I think the problem, in this instance may be that, whilst, the sumps under the drain grids are fairly regularly cleaned out, the pipework between is not jet cleaned when necessary, even though the lorries are so equipped. This negates the value of the sump cleaning!

I am told by the Operatives that they are tasked with sump cleaning ONLY, even though they can see that the water still does not run away. I have the impression that they take an interest in their work and are thus somewhat frustrated! and road users suffer!

Sincerely  
Bill Gardener (Chairman Hastingleigh PC)

### **Smeeth**

Flood due to blocked drain – no action for 5 weeks+

One that comes to mind is Church Road, Smeeth – a drain running from the pond under the farmland towards the A20 is blocked. Repeated requests for action were to no avail. Result – the road flooded and has now been closed for 5 weeks. One was suggested that we apply for change of use for a boating lake!

Best wishes  
Sue

### **Wye with Hinxhill**

Overflowing ditch

One that I know of is in Oxenturn road, by the bridge as you leave the village.

The grips were cut by volunteers, only for the water to run into the ditch towards the village then back onto the road from the ditch where it was full and overflowing,

Regards  
Linda Hedley  
Locum Clerk  
Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council  
SLCC Kent Branch Chairman

## Bethersden

Culverts blocked all winter

Perhaps you could mention the two culverts on Wissenden Lane Bethersden / Smarden Ashford Kent between the junction of Romden Road and Tuesnoad Lane.

We are just around the corner and our post code is TN26 3EJ.

The two road culverts have been blocked all winter and the water running over the road washing at the verges each side, as indeed it is tonight!

If the highways dept. look at the ordinance map, the Parish boundary between Bethersden and Smarden passes over one of the culverts

I have not reported it – in the past I have just got stuck in and done it myself only I have not been too fit this winter and with the water so deep I have been banned by the “management” from taking the risk

It will be debris twigs and wood from overhanging trees that has blocked it.

Up to now - I have tried to do these things as small contribution to keep our own road functioning but slightly further up opposite side of the road towards the Tuesnoad junction from this incident the ditch edge is vertical through erosion and I can see the whole road landing in it. It needs sorting but how I do not know

Kind regards

Alastair

## Kenardington

Ongoing problem unresolved for four years

**From:** [Adam.Murdin@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Murdin@kent.gov.uk) [<mailto:Adam.Murdin@kent.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 10 January 2014 09:59

**To:** [emily.neighbour@ntlworld.com](mailto:emily.neighbour@ntlworld.com)

**Subject:** Highway enquiry 87691

Dear Mrs Neighbour

Thank you for your enquiry ( Ref 87691) regarding drainage problems on Warehorne Road, Kenardington. As you stated we did recently carry out repairs to the drainage line as it was discovered there was a break, the works were to replace the broken section. However, as you have said there is still problems with this gully we will arrange for a jetting vehicle to attend to jet the line as there may be debris further in the system from the previous break and hopefully this will clear it to allow it to flow better, otherwise the crew will be able to report back if there is further works required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information

Kind Regards

Adam Murdin

Adam Murdin | Drainage Engineer | KCC Highways & Transportation

## Kenardington (cont)

On 6 Feb 2014, at 09:36, "Emily Neighbour" <[emily.neighbour@ntlworld.com](mailto:emily.neighbour@ntlworld.com)> wrote:

Dear Adam,

I have been asked to enquire where you have got to with your enquiries into this long-standing issue. As you can imagine, the weather is making this problem worse than ever and the road surface is becoming badly damaged as a result.

Regards,

Emily Neighbour



13/2/14

I drove to Kenardington yesterday evening and the area around the junction of Warehorne Road and Appledore Road is in a very poor condition. The road is flooding and there is a very large pothole in the middle of the carriageway by Holly Bush which is very difficult to see because there is so much water on the road. This area is now in a very dangerous condition.

I have also just reported two other potholes in The Wish and the one halfway down the hill on Appledore Road which has opened up again.

I hope urgent action can be taken on these matters.

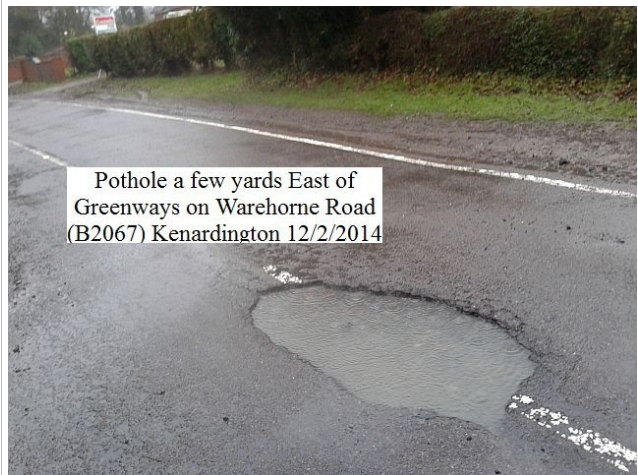
Regards,

Emily Neighbour Clerk, Kenardington Parish Council

We now have the result of neglecting this drain

Kind regards

Keith



**Sent:** 13 February 2014 10:04

**To:** Burr, John - EE KH

**Subject:** Fw: Potholes and drainage issues in Kenardington

**Importance:** High

*Good morning John,*

*I forward this email to you in the hope that you might be able to assist Ron Swan in some urgent action. The road in question is the Hamstreet to Woodchurch road near its junction with Appledore Road at Kenardington. The situation here has become very dangerous and is continually worsening.*

*Naturally I appreciate the current conditions, but I feel sure that Ron Swan will support the danger of this particular road disintegration.*

*I would appreciate if you could organise some urgent action.*

*Best regards*

*Mick*

*Cllr Michael Burgess*

*Isle of Oxney Ward Lead Member for Romney Marsh Ashford Borough Council*

**Kenardington (cont)**

19/2/14

I apologise for the delay in responding as I have been on leave. However, in my absence, I believe that Ron Swan has contacted Councillor Burgess and Mr Ashby to confirm that drainage works are due to take place this week, potholes repair. Substantial carriageway works will be carried out in May/June 2014 when weather conditions have improved.

Kind regards

**Lisa Holder**

District Manager – Ashford

19/2/14 to Ron Swan Highway Steward

I have just been to check on progress with this job. What do I find? Two men who have been told to replace a section of pipe acting on the camera survey that was done in **2012**. The section of drain which they had been instructed to replace is the same one that **was replaced in November 2013**, acting on the camera survey that was done in **November 2012**. If this is damaged again it is not the cause of drains further down the road not working when there is a heavy rainfall. The camera survey in 2012 only went as far as the section that was replaced last November. Is a full camera survey going to be done now?

Until all the causes of blockages along this drain are found the problem will recur and damage to the road will continually recur. We are talking about a length of 570 metres, along at least part of that distance there is probably a drain each side of the road

Kind regards

Keith Ashby

Chairman Kenardington Parish Council