

Councillor Jackson report – January 2025

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

I was disappointed that the highways department was not able (before Christmas) to sort the accumulation of mud down Kiddington Road, especially at the junction of Fox Lane. I have been in touch again with Chris Grain the highways engagement officer, and he has given me a date of Thursday January 23rd for it to be done. I will put a notice on the railings by Fox Lane a couple of days in advance to prevent cars being parked by the dog/litter bin.

I also asked again for an update on the white lining on the B4030 at the bend down from The Holt, and the collapsed drain on Enstone Road down towards the bridge in Westcot Barton.

My thanks to the SBPC clerk, Annette, for "chasing up" a timescale for the work to repair the footpath by the footbridge in The Dock. The response is for "Mid February" which is somewhat disappointing.

FLOODING

I have been in touch with the chairs of three local parish councils (Steeple, Westcot, Sandford) about the feasibility of meeting together to discuss future possible measures to help alleviate flooding. This followed the Sandford St Martin P.C. meeting before Christmas where there were useful contributions from a number of residents, including the Estate Manager at Sandford Park.

I was copied into an e mail from Laurence King the "Flood Risk Manager " at WODC, which he sent to the chair and clerk of Steeple Barton PC. He was suggesting a meeting in "early January". As yet I do not know the date of such a meeting, whether it would be face-to-face or online, and whether the other P.C s might find it beneficial. I have spoken to Andy Graham and between us we will try to get some update before next Monday's meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION

There is a meeting planned for councillors on January 23rd to update us about possible changes, as outlined by the new government. We have had initial discussions in our Liberal Democrat Group with fellow county councillors, and it seems that eventually all the services will be under the control of a Unitary Authority, and that West Oxfordshire District Council will disappear. As yet we do not know for sure the area of the Unitary Authority, or when these changes will come into effect.

As soon as we get more definite details, I will ensure the Parish Council is kept up to date.