

CLERK'S REPORT TO FRESTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2024

- Please see the response from Highways re the restriction of heavy vehicles on the Freston Roads

***“Thank you for your enquiry. Unfortunately, there are no restrictions available limiting the size of agricultural vehicles using public roads, HGV restrictions would not be appropriate or effective as Agricultural vehicle are exempt from such restrictions. The best approach to a resolution is to discuss the directly with the farmer responsible for the vehicles that are believed to be causing the issues and request them to use an alternative route or travel via their own fields. If the public highway is damaged please report such defects via the customer reporting tool, any details/videos of the vehicles causing the damage would also be beneficial.*”**

- Apologies – I have spent some time trying to upload the photos of the Church Christmas Carol Service to the website, but haven't managed to complete it. Will keep trying!
- Defibrillator: we had notification that this had been deployed, but is now ready for use again. A report has to be filed on a regular basis, currently monthly, unless there has been activity. A request for training has been lodged and I am chasing this up, as I have heard nothing further.
- The training, when organised, was offered to the village hall committee. They are all trained, with the exception of one member who would like to join with the training offered.
- See attached copy letter re a request for local volunteers to support residents at home – request from St. Elizabeth Hospice
- Approval has been given re the location of the dog bins agreed at the last meeting.
- Following reporting flooding (for the third time) near the crossroads, and enlisting Cllr Harley's support, the following was the response received from Highways:

“Ownership

Although most watercourses in Suffolk are privately owned, we do own a small number of ditches and channels across the county. Often these are part of a roadside verge, for example. If we need to maintain a watercourse and have not already done so you can [report the issue to us](#).

However, the Highways Act (1980) gives us powers to drain roads into private ditches providing that we do not cause any damage to private land or property. This does not mean that we are responsible for the maintenance of the watercourse. This responsibility is still the landowner's. In the past we may have cleared some private watercourses as a gesture of goodwill, but we are no longer able to continue with this practice.

I have looked at the report submitted 00424558 and it was closed as CO1 – not at intervention level based on the fact that the flood water was shallow and did not extend across the whole of the carriageway and in time should subside. In this case as not further action was proposed the ownership of the ditch was not investigated. If the Highways Assessment Officer felt works to the ditch were required, they would determine ownership with our Highways Records Team. Depending on ownership we would undertake works or request the landowner did.

I hope that has helped with your enquiry

Kind Regards

Maryanne Reason Customer Co-ordinator, Councillor Highways Support
Customer Experience and Community Works Team

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The advice is to continue to send in the reports, preferably with photo evidence.

I also had a similar reply about trimming the hedges at Freston Crossroads. Highways have said they do not consider any action is required.

- Following an enquiry about the Cycle path proposed for Freston Hill, this is the response we had:

“Following the meeting this afternoon with the SPCC, it was agreed that SCC would scope a feasibility study for a cycle track on Freston Hill using background information provided by the SPCC and look into whether funding sources available would be appropriate for commissioning a feasibility study.

Please do let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Calum Poole

Principal Transport Planner

Transport Strategy

Growth, Highways & Infrastructure

Suffolk County Council | Endeavour House | 8 Russell Road | Ipswich | IP1 2BX”

My understanding is that a feasibility study had already taken place some years ago. I have followed this up with Callum Poole and will let Council know what response I receive.

- I have had debilitating IT issues since the last meeting. Before Christmas, my laptop which I use for work completely died. It has been sent off to HP to see if they can repair it, but in the meantime, I have been trying to juggle memory sticks, my Macbook Air and various IT challenges. Tony Gould managed to salvage the data from the work laptop, but it is proving challenging to work efficiently. I am waiting for news from HP.