

Lifton Parish Council Meeting – 28th March 2024
Agenda item 6.4 – Highways Update

The following notices/issues have been reported to or from Devon Highways since the last meeting, as follows:

ENQ231679438 - Highway Comments, Enquiry. Location: North Road, Lifton. Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 15-November-2023. The record was completed on the 20-March-2024. The following information is now available: The problem has been repaired.

W241727911 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Broken Manhole Cover. Location: Duntz Hill, Lifton. Date Reported: 15/03/2024. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 12/04/2024.

W241727910 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Fore Street, Lifton. Date Reported: 15/03/2024. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 20/03/2024.

Update: Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 15-March-2024. The record was completed on the 25-March-2024. The following information is now available; A repair has already been undertaken, or is due to be undertaken, at the location you provided. No further action is necessary.

W241727555 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Road from Leat Farm to Gatherley Farm, Lifton. Date Reported: 15/03/2024. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 22/03/2024.

Update: Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 15-March-2024. The record was completed on the 25-March-2024. The following information is now available; A repair has already been undertaken, or is due to be undertaken, at the location you provided. No further action is necessary.

Enquiry reference W241697562 relating to Pothole (Pothole (Single or multiple) Top of Darkey Lane, Fore Street, Lifton was reported on 05 Jan 2024. An assessment for this report was completed on 08 Jan 2024. The officer entered the following comments: Thank you for your report. We recognise that the wider highway condition at this location is not as we would hope, however, the area is too extensive for our reactive teams to repair as a defect (as identified in our <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/maintaining-roads/highways-safety-inspections/> Highway Safety Policy).

As a result, we will be using this information to help plan our future works programmes and determine our priorities across the network.

Please note that in the short term any actionable safety defects will have been identified and passed for repair separately.

If the situation gets worse, or if you would like to provide us with additional information, please do not respond to this message, but visit our report a problem page here:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

A further response regarding the above was provided by DCC Highways Officer on 29th February 2023: The response would have come from our Network Response Team. In this case, I would consider this section of a road a lower priority, for the following reasons.

For pedestrians, there is already a footway just a few metres away from this road, in front of the tree and rubbish bin, which after crossing the road by the give way sign, links up to the short footway to the grit bin, and also the main footway into the village centre.

As Darkey Lane is signed as unsuitable for HGVs, only smaller vehicles should be using the deteriorating one-way section of Darkey Lane. If they wish to avoid the deteriorating section, these vehicles could choose to turn off the main road at the next junction which is just 30m further on the other side of the triangular grass verge, before joining Darkey Lane. Having driven this short, deteriorated section yesterday, I would unfortunately not consider it to be a funding priority for longer term patching at present, and therefore would not be able to suggest a timescale for repairs.

Whilst I understand this is not the desired outcome for the parish, the prioritisation of funding is a difficult decision and does unfortunately mean that we are not in a position to complete all desired sites at present.

DCC Street Lighting:

The following response has been received to the Clerks email chasing the repair to a faulty street light in Oak Ridge which was reported on 29th January 2024:

27 February 2024 - Thank you for your enquiry. Apologies, we are currently experiencing an unusually high work volume and may not be able to respond to your enquiry within the normal 14 days, although we will prioritise emergencies, such as exposed wires or hanging lanterns. Please be assured that we are working hard to resolve the matter.

A further response was received on 29th February 2024 - Thank you for your streetlighting enquiry. This fault report has been passed to our maintenance contractor to attend. Our maintenance contractor is currently experiencing some resourcing difficulties, and we are seeing delays in some areas. We apologise for the inconvenience caused by any delays; our contractor will attend as soon as resources are available.

Further faulty street lights have been reported on Park Road (3 in total), Leat Road and North Road. DCC have confirmed that the reports have been recorded and the items will be scheduled for repair. They state that 'We endeavour to repair normal lighting faults in a timely manner, however, if a fault is identified on the underground power cable, then we have to refer this to the distribution network operator which could delay the repair time further.'

Lifton Community Speedwatch Group – A hard copy of the latest speed data report will be made available at the meeting along with a verbal update.

Lifton Road Safety Plan – As agreed at February's PC meeting, an amended application has been submitted to Devon County Council to reduce the speed limit (at various village locations) to 20mph along with another request for 'wig-wag' signs outside the school.

The road safety plan was also submitted to Devon & Cornwall Police and the D&C Police & Crime Commissioner. To-date, no acknowledgement or response has been received from either of them.