



WARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Shaw

Email: clerk@warnham.org.uk

Website: www.warnham.org.uk

Facebook: @WarnhamParishCouncil

14th April 2023

Dear Cabinet Minister Joy Dennis

Following a Planning & Highways Meeting at the Parish Council on the 11th April, it was resolved that the council would write an open letter to yourself, as cabinet member for Highways & Transport for West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to discuss the effects of the condition of the roads in and around the parish.

While we do agree and to some extent sympathise, the weather conditions over the winter months have added to the acceleration of the worsening road conditions. However, what we do find hard to understand, is the mechanics of how potholes are approached, and to some extent could be considered a misuse of public funding and misuse of resources.

The Parish of Warnham, like every other Parish within the County, has suffered an extortionate amount of potholes, some of which have become incredibly dangerous. Both the Parish Council and numerous residents have spent months navigating one website, then another website, both of which are convoluted, reporting these potholes, only to sit there week on week watching the potholes deteriorate resulting in damaged vehicles and dangerous situations unfold in an attempt to avoid the pending doom of landing in one.

The residents approach the Parish Council on a weekly basis, venting their distain at the lack of progress in addressing this, which leads to a bad reputation for the Parish Council. We are powerless to address this issue and we are desperate to address it.

Could you please explain to ourselves and the residents why, when a single pothole gets marked and tentatively repaired, do the contractors not repair others that aren't marked yet clearly visible and within the same road? Could you please explain how this is a good use of funding and resources, when the materials used then go wasted and resources are not used to their full capacity, resulting in more contractors and material being used at a later date, when it could be addressed in one attendance. Could you also explain to ourselves and the residents why the potholes are done in the way that they are? Surely it would be more cost effective if the potholes were addressed correctly the first time and sealed instead of being left unsealed, leading to the hole becoming exposed again within a matter of days.

If WSCC Highways, were to transfer the power to the smaller authorities, not only would it reduce Highways work load, but it would release vital funding for WSCC to place elsewhere and it would allow the small authorities to address these parish specific issues in a timely manner, reducing the waiting list and stopping the issues from escalating.

We do appreciate your time in reading this letter and do look forward to receiving a response from yourself. We would urge WSCC to consider passing over all of some limited responsibilities in relation to addressing potholes. Maybe some consideration could be put in place relating to depth and size of potholes WSCC would consider acceptable for the Parish Council to attend too. Surely this would be a more pragmatic approach for both authorities?

Thank you in advance

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Shaw

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For and on behalf of Warnham Parish Council