

**Local Government News. March 2020.**

**Roads,Potholes and Drains.**

Everyone is understandably frustrated by the weather and the state of our roads.

We all have our ‘favourite’ pothole which is not filled or washes out within days of being filled.

I thought it may be helpful to put this into context whilst accepting that the position is pretty difficult for us all.

We have had the wettest winter in 20 years and the wettest February on record.

Highways crews have fixed more than 11000 potholes, three times the number last year.

Crews have dealt with more than 500 flooding incidents, more than double last year’s figure.

Highways chiefs have increased the number of pothole gangs from 10 to 16.

Please help by reporting potholes. If you see one, report it because it may be no one else has. If it has a white line round it, this means the Highway Steward has inspected it and it will be filled. The length of time taken to fill it will depend on how deep and wide it is and what the priorities are. The teams are working flat out.

This year we have invested £23million in our roads with an extra £1m committed for next year. During the year, 26,000 potholes have been repaired.

The challenge will be finding more money in future. Climate change, whatever the varied causes,is here to stay and we have to review fundamentally how we are going to cope in future. The ferocity of this year’s rain may be a one off but wet and warmer weather will certainly continue. I’m campaigning with other councillors for a full scale review of our drainage systems and a close look at how effective our patching and repairing processes are.

Roy Galley

March 5th, 2020.

Your local Councillors.

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