

Good morning Mike

Thank you for your response to the issues I raised. I have now added the defects in front of my property to the Track it system but note that along this stretch of road there are another 14 sections of missing/damaged and misaligned kerbs and another 4 sections of extremely uneven/damaged paving which have not been logged. This may be because some of the older residents are not confident in using online systems for reporting. I was unaware of the Track it reporting system until Wendy brought this to my attention. This entire section of pavement and kerbs needs to be completely resurfaced and missing kerbs replaced. Some of the missing kerbs have just been patched up with tarmac which is sliding into the road.

On the issue of pothole repairs on the Main Road, the recent repair programme was extremely well organised with minimum disruption so thank you for facilitating that.

I hope that the new bypass encourages traffic to use an alternative route although I continue to be concerned by the safety aspect of cars flying up the Access Road at excessive speeds which are not safe or appropriate for a narrow, concrete surfaced residential road.

I look forward to any updates on either of the issues raised and thank you for taking the time to respond.

Kind Regards
Anne Brown

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Jul 2022, at 09:57, Cllr Mike STEEL <Mike.Steel@chelmsford.gov.uk> wrote:

I note that the Broomfield Parish Council Clerk address is wrong so he will not have received your previous mails. I have added the correct address.

Mike

Mike Steel | Chelmsford City Cllr & Great Waltham Parish Cllr & Essex County Cllr | [Tel:+44 \(0\)1245 360918](tel:+44101245360918) | E:Mail mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk

From: Cllr Mike STEEL

Sent: 28 July 2022 09:51

To: ANNE BROWN <aebrown35@gmail.com>; clerk@broomfield-pc.gov.uk; Cllr Barry KNIGHT <GBR.Knight@chelmsford.gov.uk>; Cllr Wendy DADEN <Wendy.Daden@chelmsford.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr Mike Steel - Member CC <Cllr.Mike.Steel@essex.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Speeding traffic and pavement disrepair

In terms of the pavement defects, I can see that these are already reported on Track It - <https://www.essexhighways.org/track-it>

There are several pavement defects on that road – 3642945, 3366901, 3366899, 3122460, 3383952. And an enquiry 2781357.

I note that Track It says - "Defect to be considered for repair as part of the planned maintenance programme". I have asked for more information. Usually, I don't get anything more than is already reported on Track It. I have also asked if these are bad enough to warrant urgent attention. This is normally determined by a combination of the seriousness of the defect, but also its location in terms of usage. I will let you know if I get a response worth passing on.

The Highways workforce have been prioritising pot holes on the roads, and there has been a "Member Led" scheme whereby each County Cllr gets to nominate 36 potholes for urgent repair. I have 10 parishes in my division and I have been liaising with each Parish Council to nominate 3. Actually, we are doing well with pot holes, as I had already escalated many and I pushed for a large section of Broomfield Road to be resurfaced. I (and a few other Cllrs) are pushing the Highways Cabinet member to have a similar scheme for pavements. If this does happen, I will be asking your Parish Council for nominations, so you need to lobby them.

In terms of the rat running (traffic finding alternative routes); the road past the houses is open to all traffic so it is not illegal for any motorist to use it. I share your frustration that some motorist cannot be patient enough to queue on the main road and queue jump by using the side road to gain just a few places. Rat running is very common and I get lots of complaints about it. Even people on Main Road who consider the "rat-runners" should be using Essex Regiment Way! When the NE Bypass has been completed, it is expected that a lot of traffic that use ERW, will use the NE Bypass, thus encouraging those using B1008 Main Road Bromfield, to use ERW and relieve Broomfield Road. Any schemes to address traffic issues, go to the Local Highways Panel (LHP) through the County Council Member (which in this case is me). I always let the Parish Council guide me as they have a better idea of the priorities in their area. The LHP has a limited annual budget and currently there are 6 years worth of schemes in the queue. There are 14 members of the LHP covering the whole of Chelmsford (including South Woodham Ferrers) so schemes are judged on safety (supported by recorded accidents), and population using the area – i.e., schemes need to have the max effect on safety.

In terms of what could be done for your road – it would need the PC to request a scheme. There aren't schemes that just prevent rat runners and allow other traffic – it is not legal to discriminate. I have only ever come across one "Access Only" road in Writtle which was done a long time ago, and such schemes don't currently appear to be in policy. And enforcement is difficult (which would become a police matter, not ECC). Turning the road into one way with a barrier is another possible option but all schemes are subject to public consultation which is quite wide ranging (i.e., not just the people down your road), and it doesn't take many objections to halt a scheme.

Mike

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From: ANNE BROWN <aebrown35@gmail.com>

Sent: 26 July 2022 17:46

To: clerk@broomfield-pc.gov.uk; Cllr Barry KNIGHT <GBR.Knight@chelmsford.gov.uk>; Cllr Wendy DADEN <Wendy.Daden@chelmsford.gov.uk>; Cllr Mike STEEL <Mike.Steel@chelmsford.gov.uk>

Subject: Speeding traffic and pavement disrepair

Good afternoon

I am writing in order to bring to your attention 2 matters which affect the residents of properties between 291 and 409 Main Road, Broomfield and all those using the pavements to walk to and from Chelmer Valley High School, Broomfield Primary, Sunrise Nursery and Jayne's Nursery along this route.

1. The Access Road in front of 291 to 409 Main Road is being used as a "rat-run" /short-cut by traffic heading to and from the hospital at peak times. It is particularly bad on weekday mornings between 7:30am and 8am. Private vehicles and taxis cut up the service road in front of the above properties to avoid the slow-moving traffic on the Main Road. The service road is concrete and not designed to withstand heavy use as a main road. More worrying are the excessive speeds at which the vehicles are being driven which I am sure are frequently in excess of 50mph. This is extremely dangerous for anyone walking along the pavements. Local residents use the pavements adjoining the Access Road to walk young children to and from Broomfield Primary School and Sunrise Nursery in School Lane and Jayne's Nursery on Main Road Broomfield. Pupils walking to and from Chelmer Valley High School also use this pavement. Residents walking here are often pushing prams and pushchairs which is extremely risky beside speeding traffic. Traffic also cuts down the Access Road in the opposite direction when people are finishing shifts at the hospital after 4:30pm. In addition to the safety aspect, this can make it very difficult for residents to get in and out of their own driveways and speeding traffic is causing additional pollution immediately in front of the houses.

2. The condition of the pavements and kerbs between 291 and 409 Main Road Broomfield is in a shocking and dangerous state of disrepair. Please see the attached photos. Kerbs are falling away and the tarmac has worn down to such an extent that the surface is extremely uneven with potholes. Even for able bodied residents this is a trip and slip hazard even in dry weather and absolutely treacherous in wet or icy conditions, especially for the several elderly residents of these houses.

I would very much appreciate if someone is able to advise on proposals or a timetable for repair works on this section of pavement as it is deteriorating rapidly.

Would it also be possible to make the Access Road no entry from the end beside 291 Main Road to prevent traffic driving at dangerous speeds towards the hospital or are there alternative proposals to solve this issue?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Mrs Anne Brown
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