

FERRING ROADS SCHEME ASSOCIATION AGM ~ ROADS REPORT ~ JANUARY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2023

I am pleased to report that during 2023 the roads and drains in the village once again remain in very good condition and in the main vastly better than the adjoining roads under local authority control. During the year there appears to have been unprecedented building work that has resulted in large volumes of heavy lorry movements – taking a toll on our roads. Additionally there has been major works undertaken by the Gas Company and frequent visits by 'Open Reach'. However, as in previous years the FRSA continually monitor the state of the roads and drains and only undertake significant work where deemed essential.

ROAD SWEEPING

The annual road sweeping took place over two days in January 2023. Once again a huge amount of 'debris' was collected and disposed of. The contractor did advise us that in some areas the work was hampered by the large number of parked trades vehicles and the ongoing works of the Utility Companies.

ROADS

Following the completion in 2022 of two significant, and costly projects in Beehive Lane and West Drive / Upper West Drive the in 2023 the FRSA undertook additional resurfacing of a large length of Florida Road, areas of Clover Lane and Annisters Road. The contractor also undertook repair work to a number of pot holes and road edging throughout the village. The extent and timing of the road works was hampered by the ongoing utility works. The Contractor also undertook work on lifting and levelling gully grids along Beehive Lane. The FRSA are of the opinion that no further *major* resurfacing work is likely to be required for a few years - only localised repair work as and when necessary.

DRAINS/GULLIES/SOAKAWAYS

During 2023 we had extreme weather conditions with high levels of rainfall that overwhelmed many of the road drains ~ the majority of the road drainage throughout the village relies on 'soakaways' which are designed to release water over a period of time. Whilst substantial investment has been made in recent years in ensuring that the drains, gullies, and soakaways are fully functional clearly the extreme nature of the rainfall is showing that more investment is still required. The 2022 extensive gully cleaning identified specific problem areas and localised maintenance work was undertaken throughout the year as and when required.

ONGOING AND FUTURE WORK

At the end of 2023 the FRSA identified several key areas that should be prioritised during **2024** namely ~

- **White Lining** ~ the FRSA will seek to appoint a contractor to refresh white lines at all junctions on FRSA roads;
- **Road Sweep** ~ to organise annual road sweep early in year and keep under review;
- **Drainage Matters** ~ once again to appoint a contractor to undertake gully pot clearance at 300 + locations. The FRSA will undertake an inventory of gully pot locations and record on a bespoke mapping/database and to prioritise problem areas including GEM garage site and Malcolm Close;
- **Potholes** to repair as quickly as possible.