

Annual Report of Highways and Planning activity in the Village during 2024 /2025

As a consequence of various accidents at the Ham corner on Yew tree Batch a new BEND warning triangle and SLOW sign have been added in advance of the corner. The Parish contributed towards the cost of the installation of these signs.

All the white lines at the various junctions have been refreshed through out the Village and a new Butcombe finger post sign has been installed at the junction of New Road and Yew Tree Batch

Discussions have taken place with North Somerset Council (NSC) regarding the drains and gullies that are blocked throughout the Village. A partial cleaning has taken place and the rest of the drains will be cleared out later in the year.

There are numerous road side drainage ditches that are currently blocked and the Parish will start to organise these to be cleared out in the Autumn subject to approval by NSC.

The Parish are employing a Contractor to clean and renovate all the Village finger post signs. This work is just about to commence. There are 6 old Somerset County Council (SCC) finger post signs to clean and repaint. The Parish will receive a grant from the Mendip trust to cover the cost.

There are on ongoing discussion with NSC about pot holes in the lanes and most are being repaired within a few weeks of notification. In some areas the lane surface is so bad it will be resurfaced completely and there are two areas where this has been agreed with NSC. The lower section of Hilltop and Sutton / Ruslin lane. These works should be carried out in this financial year. There are on going discussions with NSC about the road surface on Blagdon Lane.

There has been ongoing discussions about installing Horse warning signs on Yew Tree Batch. No further action is proposed at this stage.

The Parish have been holding discussions with NSC about introducing speed limits throughout the Village. The Parish are keen but NSC are concerned that there doesn't appear to be a need in their opinion. Discussions will continue.

An issue has been raised about the water running down The Batch in winter and the freezing. This resulted in a NSC refuse lorry skidding and hitting a gate post at the top of the hill which fortunately stopped it from sliding down the hill. The Parish are now in discussions with NSC about the installation of new drains at the top of The Batch. Hopefully this will catch the rain water run off before it can run down the hill and become dangerous.

There are ongoing discussions with NSC about the Parish undertaking more local works in the Village. The Parish need to resolve the issue of insurance with NSC to allow any significant works can be undertaken.

A Village litter pick was held and over 8 bags of litter were collected in 2 hours from the verges.

Several sand/gravel boxes were replaced last winter and some new ones added.

Planning

There have been many successful planning applications in the year in the Village. The Parish have ongoing discussion with NSC regarding Butcombe Farm , Linden Grove and Yew Tree Cottage. There are also discussions with local residents and the new land owner of the Old Barns behind Brook Farm.