

## **APPENDIX A, FEBRUARY 2023**

Report from Cllr Williams, Highways Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Present:

Thurlestone Parish Council: Cllrs Gunning, Lewis, Ryan-Carter, Williams & the Clerk.  
Devon County Council: Cllr Gilbert & Highways Officer, Adam Keay

Overview as follows:

It's no surprise that some of the parish's roads have suffered a battering over the winter with large numbers of potholes and defects appearing as well as the perennial problem of flooding in the usual areas. Parish councillors recently met with our Devon County member, Rufus Gilbert and our Highway Locality Officer for this area, Adam to talk over some of the problems. Whilst there are no quick fixes, the meeting was a positive one and our concerns were taken seriously. That said, Devon County is facing budget pressures along with all public sector services and needs to be prudent with its spending. The resurfacing of the main road through Thurlestone last year was welcomed but if you are a West Buckland resident, you will know the state of the road particularly between the Chapel and Bantham village is particularly terrible. There have been some temporary repairs as well as some patching work recently but a re-surface is scheduled for some time in 2024 all things being well.

Rufus re-iterated the importance of residents being the eyes and ears of the road network and to report any problems on line. This is something many of us do regularly with various degrees of success but a top tip is even if a pothole has already been reported online (and you can usually see this on the interactive map) you can add your name to it which seems to bump it up the list. To be considered for repair, a pothole has to be at least 4cm deep, 30cm wide and have a vertical edge. A photo helps if you can manage it and a precise location. You can also report other things like flooding, blocked drains, debris and broken signs. Here is the website address, [www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem](http://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem). If you don't have access to the internet, you could ask a friend, neighbour or your local councillor.

The flooding at the bottom of the hill between Thurlestone and West Buckland is an on-going problem and again is scheduled in their 'works calendar' to clear the culverts and hopefully bring a longer term solution. We also brought to their attention the smaller but often occurring pool of water around the corner on the lower lane towards Grove Cottages. Rufus and Adam pointed out that landowners also have a responsibility to make sure that any debris or mud on their land which is blocking a watercourse naturally draining should be cleared by the landowner. Councillor Gilbert is also very aware of the continual flooding at the top of the Thurlestone Road on the way out to the A379. (*check location*) Again, we heard re-assuring messages from our county officials about this and we'll continue to lobby for a longer term solution.

Finally, we spoke about the serious issue of speeding vehicles through our three villages. We made a bid last year to have a 20mph speed limit introduced but were unsuccessful, likely due to the sheer volume of bids received. We also asked about a VAS (vehicle activated speed) sign like the ones you have probably seen in Churchstow and Marlborough. This is a possibility but hard evidence is needed to show there is a speeding issue. To this end, Adam has given us an assurance to carry out assessments in all 3 villages to determine whether or not we would be eligible. We will continue to work with highways to determine times and locations for these to take place.