

**EWPC Meeting Date:** 29.04.2024

## Highways Issues Reports

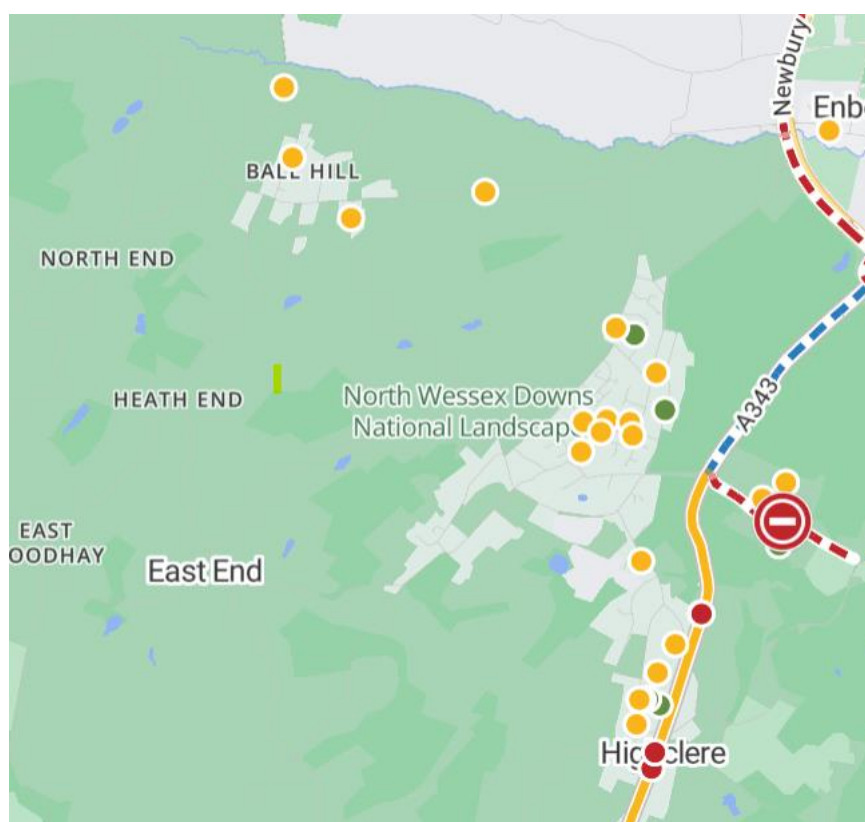
See Highways Issue log.

## Highways Maintenance Schedule

The [HCC list of major works for 2024 /2025](#) has been published on line as at April 2024. Examination shows there to be no anticipated major works for or near to the Parish within the anticipated timeframe.

At the time of this report pothole temporary repair crews are active in the Parish with a number of major reported hazardous being (re-) plugged. Parish concerns regarding the state of local roads especially regarding recurring potholes, erosion of road edges and surface flooding continue to be reported and logged to HCC highways and, where appropriate, escalated in whatever manner may likely prove helpful.

## Works Announced in next 3 months



## Gigaclear Works in Parish

The ongoing work by **Gigaclear** continues throughout Woolton Hill, especially in Greenways, Greenacres, Douglas Ride, Broadlayings and Tile Barn Row. The disruption has also now extended to Ball Hill and to the neighbouring Parish of Highclere including Penwood and appears to be running somewhat behind originally published schedules. More precise dates for individual locations may be found by opening the respective icons on the interactive map to be found at [one.network](#).

In the event of specific inconvenience caused by Gigaclear activities affected residents are advised to directly contact the Gigaclear “Community Engagement Officer” on 07471 966529.

## Additional to the Gigaclear work listed above the following may be expected:

**25April – 9 May**

### Foxes Lane Penwood

Road closure with diversion

Surface Treatment

**11- 12 May 2024**

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## A34 J B4640 To J A343 N

Overnight diversion for National Grid closure on A34.

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### HCC Highways Policies

In view of increasing numbers of complaints from parishioners on the overall quality of roads maintenance, and specifically that in the parish, guidance was sought from the County Council on its current highways policies.

In response attention was drawn by HCC Highways Management to the following linked documents:

[Highway Maintenance Management Plan](#)

[Highways Asset Management Policy](#)

[Highways Asset Management Strategy](#)

[Hampshire Highways Annual Review 2022-2023](#)

Additionally, "[Proposals relating to the planned maintenance budget for Highways](#)" have been published as part of [Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation](#). The closing deadline for consultation was 31 March 2024. A summary of the consultation reports is awaited.

To summarise the highways proposals, the Hampshire County Council (HCC) is considering reducing planned highways maintenance spending to save £7.5 million per year, contributing towards a £132 million budget deficit from April 2025, while still meeting legal obligations. If approved, £7.5 million will be withdrawn from the planned maintenance budget from April 2025. The planned programme for 2025/26 would be scaled down to reflect the reduction in funding available.

HCC acknowledges that the potential service changes could lead to a decrease in activities such as structural repairs and drainage improvements, resulting in an accelerated deterioration of Hampshire's roads. There may also be a reduction in staff, with efforts made to manage vacancies and explore voluntary redundancy.

### Water Flow on Abbey Wells Road

No further action from HCC Highways. Thames Water have visited to inspect but do not consider further action a priority. Parishioner Jim Dean has continued to clear accessible culverts as far as possible which has resulted in significant flows in the ditch network, but unfortunately some conduits remain inaccessible and some water continues to flow across the road surface, albeit lower down the hill than previously.

### Redundant Temporary Road Signage

Various elements of discarded redundant temporary road signage and attendant sandbags have increasingly been found abandoned at long completed road works sites and occasionally impacting adjacent drainage ditches. This was especially so at the top end of Stargrove Lane and on the East End to Heath End link. Following multiple communications with HCC including the suggestion that this may be considered a form of fly-tipping worthy of Fixed Penalty Notice, the various materials have now been collected and removed. Unfortunately, at time of reporting the two wholly redundant "uneven road ahead" signs on the A343 Penwood – A34 Junction remain unclaimed.



GCD

25.04.2024