

Good morning Mary, 9 February 2025

I have now had chance to review the Parish Council's report and discuss it with my highway engineers. I have also discussed this with Councillor Glazier who has been alerting me to the Parish Council's concerns for a while now.

I am aware of the condition of the roads in and around Iden, and I have visited the area with Cllr Glazier. I can see there are a small number of pothole repairs outstanding and I know the Steward is due in the area this week, so no doubt he will pick up those potholes that meet the Council's intervention criteria.

As the report correctly highlights, not all sections of road will trigger our repair intervention criteria, and others won't be of sufficient priority for our 2025/26 (financial year) patching or resurfacing programmes. Regrettably I can only work with the resources I have available, and no doubt Councillor Glazier will have described the scale of the demands on the Council's budgets from adult social care and children's services. As a consequence the Council is having to scale back its budgets elsewhere, including highway maintenance.

I have asked my engineers to draw up plans for the roads mentioned in the report, both longer term maintenance as well as short term emergency interventions and I will see what we can do, but I can't make any promises at this stage.

I know this is not what the Parish Council or local residents will want to hear, but it is better that they are aware of the financial constraints that the Council faces.

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,