District Councillor report

I can report that we have made some progress towards the transport strategy that Four Marks residents called for.

Within HCC 2026/27 Area Strategies and Scheme Development Programme there is provision for an A31 Four Marks Corridor Movement and Place Framework.

The official aim of this is to stablish a robust, evidence-led framework for the A31 Four Marks corridor to coordinate development, embed Healthy Streets principles, and guide phased, multi-modal investment and delivery - although I have passed on residents' deep-seated scepticism about LTP4.

The following capital project is also at the preliminary design phase, as I mentioned:

A31 Winchester Road, Four Marks - East and West Gateways | Transport and roads | Hampshire County Council

The Framework is currently being developed and officers hope to complete it by the end of the financial year. As part of this work, they have undertaken to engage with East Hampshire District Council officers and me as local county councillor. This will be targeted stakeholder engagement to inform on the Framework rather than wider public engagement, though that would be considered separately as part of any subsequent Action Plan work.

The Framework will not identify specific schemes or projects for implementation but instead is intended to act as a strategic guide to help inform future decision-making, prioritisation and investment.

With this as an evidence base, officers will seek to allocate funding through the next financial year's Area Strategies and Scheme Development Programme to develop an Action Plan that supports the Framework and helps identify future transport priorities for the area.

This Action Plan work would potentially include workshop and wider stakeholder engagement to help identify and prioritise potential initiatives, interventions and schemes, in a similar way to a transport strategy.

A future Action Plan work would be a chance to consider broader issues in Medstead and Four Marks alongside the findings of the Framework. I would hope that formally recognising the challenges facing pedestrians and other road users on the corridor would provide evidence of the need for Highways objections to developments that would make those problems worse. I would be interested in your comments on this.

Road safety head Steve Woodward has also been notified of the need to reduce the 60mph limit on Gradwell Lane.

Also, FYI on another matter raised by Cllr Reg Pullen at the 30th Sept meeting, this is the response from the relevant engineer:

"To reduce pressure on the new soakaways in terms of both effective water disposal and future maintenance, it is important to intercept water upstream on Alton Lane and Lymington Bottom, attenuate it close to source, and slow its flow down to the junction. The roadside ditches are an important feature in this regard.

Under standard highway legal process, landowners on Alton Lane within approximately 500m of the junction have been contacted regarding their riparian ditch maintenance responsibilities. This is routine activity for HCC Highways, so it is being managed by the highways team rather than the project team involved in the delivery of the capital works at the junction. The process involves sending reminder letters initially, and if no action is evident then enforcement action can then follow after. This process is also ongoing in respect to one of the properties on Alton Lane from which significant volumes of sediment is often washed out onto the highway.

Highways are also planning to arrange *grip* cutting along Alton Lane. This is to re-cut the channels between the road surface and the ditches, to allow water to leave the carriageway. For much of Alton Lane and Lymington Bottom, the ditches are present to some extent, however the problem is that water cannot find its way off the road as these channels become ineffective if flattened by verge overrun. A works order is in the system for this to be completed shortly."

I have passed on the concerns about the verges that are Road Verges of Ecological Importance, particularly outside Pooks Hill.

Best regards

Antonia Cox