

6 March, 2024

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your email dated 1st March updating us with the current situation. Whilst your email gives us some comfort that progress is now being made it also indicates that despite your previous assurances that work was being undertaken, critical areas of that work have not actually been commenced. The fact that you are only now undertaking the topographical and soil surveys speaks volumes. I hope you will have seen the email from one of our parishioners to Leigh Jameson that Robert Lindsay forwarded to you, I have copied it below, in italics, just in case you didn't get it.

*Good evening Leigh*

*I am sure you will have this latest update from Paul West. I find it somewhat incredulous that Suffolk Highways have not yet started their ground investigations. Let's not forget the landslip happened in November.*

*I suspect most of the Aldham and Elmsett residents severely impacted by this closure will be somewhat underwhelmed that the plan will be completed in a couple of weeks. What is required is a timescale to re-opening of the road.*

*What can be done by the Council to speed this process. As villagers we seem to have little influence though not paying some of our Council tax might focus minds!*

*I would appreciate your views on what can be done to ease the frustration and additional costs incurred by the residents.*

*Many thanks in advance*

*Best regards*

That sentiment has been voiced to me by a number of residents who would like more communication and importantly a projected end date of the works. I would remind you that on 15 January you said

*The Communications Officer can confirm Suffolk County Council's (SCC) Design team is still working on the designs for this scheme and a meeting is taking place shortly between SCC and Milestone to discuss a way forward and timescales for the repair works.*

When this subject was discussed last night at our Parish Council meeting a motion from the floor was supported to ask you and John Clements to attend our Annual Parish Public Meeting on 9th April so that you can properly explain to our residents why, after in excess of three months the Highway Authority is only now undertaking the very surveys that the final design will depend upon. In that 3 months we have had to endure poor temporary road signage, lengthy diversions or the use of unsuitable roads both of which have suffered deep potholes and chronic verge overrunning. By the time of the meeting in April no doubt you will be able to share the likely opening date of the works. As the local resident says we have been severely impacted by this collapse.

I would be grateful if you could both confirm your attendance on the 9th April at 7:30 pm but if that date is not convenient would you please suggest some alternatives either side of the date. I look forward to your early reply.

Very best regards

Alan Newman  
Chairman, Elmsett PC