



Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022  
7.30pm Committee Room, Millennium Hall, Egerton

## **Present**

Richard King (Chairman), Cllrs Tim Oliver, Jeff Hopkins, John Lawton, Lois Tilden, Pat Parr, Claire Foinette, Richard Wall, Sonia Young (Clerk)

Borough Councillor: Ken Mulholland

One member of the public present

## **1) Apologies**

Vice Chairman Peter Rawlinson

County Councillor Charlie Simkins

## **2) Declarations of Interest**

**Chairman Richard King:** declared no financial or business interest in any matters on this agenda nor in any land put forward for development in the Neighbourhood Plan or any land excluded from development in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

**Cllr Tim Oliver:** a relation of his owns Gale Field which is proposed for development in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Cllr John Lawton:** property owned in Harmers Way which is adjacent to land put forward for development.

**Cllr Lois Tilden:** declared no financial or business interest in any matters on this agenda nor in any land put forward for development in the Neighbourhood Plan or any land excluded from development in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

**Cllr Pat Parr:** neighbour to site proposed for the Older People's Accommodation at Orchard Nurseries.

## **3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

### **The minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.

**Proposed:** Chairman Richard King **Seconded:** Cllr Pat Parr. **All agreed. Abstained:** Lois Tilden as not present at the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 meeting.

## **4) Matters Arising from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

### **a) Sale of the Shop**

No further information available

### **b) Post Office**

Cllr Richard Wall is the EPC contact with PO to improve and support service levels.

### **c) Heathlands Garden Settlement**

Villagers are encouraged to make their views known on the development proposals by Maidstone Borough Council to build 5,000 houses on the border with Egerton, by attending the consultation at Lenham Community Centre on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm-8pm.

### **d) South-East Water replacement mains water works**

The first two phases of the replacement works have been completed ahead of targeted timings.

### **d) Village websites**

A second meeting will be held in April. The first meeting reviewed the current offers.

### **e) Village noticeboards**

Re-siting of the Forstal noticeboard. No update.

**Action:** Cllr Lois Tilden



The clerk reported severe storm damage to the Millennium Hall noticeboard. The quote of £150 to repair it was approved.

**e) Games Barn replacement roof and installation of solar panelling**

EPC thanked Cllrs Foinette and Oliver for their work and the Geoff Wickens Trust for grants. The solar panelling will switch on following approval by UK Power Networks. This should take a month.

**f) Bus stop marking outside the former Queen’s Arms Pub at The Forstal**

No update.

**g) The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Queens’ Canopy. No more trees are needed as there are 12-15 trees of varied species in Cllrs’ gardens awaiting planting in the village pending identification of suitable sites. None are oak and all are small saplings.

**Action:** sites to be found. The Clerk to talk to EPC tree warden Graham Howland.

The WI wish to plant an oak at Stonebridge Green.

**Action:** The Clerk to follow up with Aspire who are organising the ABC tree distribution to find out if larger oaks are available.

**5) Chairman closed the meeting for public discussion**

Closed: 20.23pm

Opened: 20.27pm

**6) Neighbourhood Plan**

Chairman Richard King thanked Egerton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (ENPSG) chair Jane Carr and the ENPSG members for the brilliant work undertaken over the past four years; Cllrs gave a standing ovation.

The Neighbourhood Plan was to be adopted by ABC at a meeting of the full ABC Council on 3 March and thereafter will become a statutory document as part of the Borough’s Local Development Plan. It will become a material consideration for the determination of all planning applications by ABC planning officers and the AC Planning Committee.

There was a record turnout of over 50% of 868 eligible villagers to vote in the Neighbourhood Plan referendum; 91.47% voted in favour of the plan.

EPC agreed it was important to provide all Egerton households with a copy of the plan. Costs will be researched, and funds applied for.

The Chairman brought forward Item 9) Planning.

Councillors agreed that Cllr Lois Tilden would submit further EPC objections to Application **21/00627 land behind 6-14 Harmers Way** bearing in mind the anticipated adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan and the rejection of that site from it. It was also agreed that Cllr Lois Tilden would draft a 400 word speech on behalf of EPC to present to ABC’s Planning Committee when this application was due for consideration on 16 March. .

**9) Planning**

Planning applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council this month for Egerton Parish Council to consider, details of which may be accessed on line at: [http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online\\_planning/](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online_planning/) Individuals may also register with ABC to receive regular alerts of applications and decisions.

22/00174/AS	Egerton	1 Mouse Cottage, Newland Green Lane, Egerton TN27 9EP	
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EPC views



**22/00174/AS.** Object due to the oversized nature of the proposed barn and manege and its impact on a very rural location

<b>22/00177/AS</b>	Egerton	<b>5 Munday Bois Cottages, Green Hill Lane, Egerton TN27 9EY</b>
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**Proposed:** Cllr Lois Tilden. **Seconded:** Cllr Richard Wall. **All in agreement.**

**22/00177/AS. Comment only.**

Suggest added conditions covering the need for green energy provisions such as solar panels and/or heat pumps and electric charging points, as set out in Egerton Neighbourhood Plan Policy D8. Use of brownfield sites is a key factor in the Government’s sustainable development strategy as it can clean up environmental hazards and eyesores. While the proposal is modest it is unclear if the existing adjacent workshop would still be for commercial use and if so, it might be considered inappropriate for a dwelling to be created within the same site, even if cordoned off.

**Proposed:** Cllr Richard Wall. **Seconded:** Cllr Claire Foinette. **All in agreement.**

**7) Footpath Report No 143** (see Appendix i)

**8) Highways Report No 32** (See Appendix ii)

### **10) Orchard Nurseries**

Chairman Richard King said that the update was commercially sensitive and proposed to move discussion to closed session.

**Proposed:** Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Cllr Lois Tilden. **All in agreement.**

**11) Replacement of the playground equipment** – consideration of plans and estimates.

Quotes and plans were circulated in advance of the meeting.

EPC approved the proposed scheme put forward by Wicksteed; the expansion of outdoor play areas is identified as a priority in the Parish Plan.

**Proposed:** Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Cllr John Lawton. **All in agreement.**

EPC agreed that grants would be needed to allow the scheme, as proposed, to be built.

**Action:** Claire Foinette to investigate National Lottery funding as well as explore other sources to raise the capital needed.

**12) The Parish Assembly** - consideration of proposals

Proposal to be circulated after the meeting for comment ahead of the next meeting.

**Action:** The Clerk

**13) Approval of documents:** EPC Asset Register and EPC Statement of Internal Control

Documents circulated for review ahead of the meeting.

Approval of the Asset Register.

**Proposed:** Cllr Pat Parr. **Seconded:** Cllr Lois Tilden. **All in agreement.**

Approval of the Statement of Internal Control.

**Proposed:** Cllr Claire Foinette. **Seconded:** Cllr John Lawton. **All in agreement.**

**Action:** Chairman and Clerk to sign the Statement of Internal Control.

**Action:** Both documents to be posted on the EPC website.

### **14) ABC’s Environment and Land Mapping Consultation**

It was agreed a small group of Cllrs and members of the ENPSG would meet outside of the EPC meeting to discuss and agreed the EPC’s position.

**Action:** Cllr Lois Tilden to discuss this with Jane Carr and to submit answers and comments on behalf of EPC by the deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## 15) Correspondence

**Note:** All circulated by email in advance unless marked with a \*

Rural bulletin report of the investigation into rural/urban access to health and care. All. 2/2#

ABC successful prosecutions for fly tipping. All. 2/02

NALC bulletin – review of the local election process. All. 02/02

KALC march conferences. All. 02/02

KCC Kent Care Summit. All. 02/02

Village halls week links and resources. All. 04/02

KALC Jan newsletter. All. 04./02

Rural bulletin. All. 8/02

ABC mayor invitation to Sunday lunch charity fundraiser. All. 08/02

ABC litter picking training via Teams. All. 08/02

PCSO update on speeding through the village. All. 09/02

ABC platinum jubilee tree trail. All. 09/02

KCC Streetworks – speed restriction and road closures Crockenhill after March 8. All. 10/02

Kay Langridge – query on numbered marks made on oaks at Gale Field. All. 14/02

Hedgehog highways. All. 14/02

ABC taking part in Duty of Care with KCC on fly tipping. All. 14/02/2022

ABC launches Solar Together for residents. All. 14/02

NALC making communities safer Teams presentation. All. 15/02/2022

NALC bulletin incl council powers on speed cameras and vehicle recognition. All. 15/02

NALC newsletter – SECT 137 expenditure limit set for 2022-23. All. 17/02

ABC Teams meeting with Simon Cole Head of Planning 14 March. All. 17/02

A Brivio – trees at Elm Close. All. 20/02

KALC initiative on ‘Flushables’ with Southern Water. All. 20/02

NALC bulletin. All. 20/02

KLAC Ashford area meeting agenda 3 March meeting. All. 20/02

Rural network Feb bulletin. All. 22/02

ABC 16 Feb Planning Committee minutes: LT/ JC. 28/02

ABC/ Boundary Commission Proposals affecting the Ashford constituency. All. 28/02

Smarden Parish Clerk – proposed joint approach on mobile masts. All. 28/02

### - Hedgehog highway

Cllrs agreed it was not appropriate given the rural nature of the village and few close-boarded fences.

### - Litter picking

Cllr Richard Wall to plan, advertise and manage Egerton’s Spring Litter Pick. Date proposed Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** Cllr Richard Wall

### - Planning meeting/Q&A with ABC’s Simon Cole 14 March

Cllrs Lois Tilden and John Lawton to attend.

### - Trees Elm Close

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with EPC tree warden Graham Howland to review tree size.

### - 5G Mast

**Action:** Cllr Clair Foinette to liaise with Smarden Parish Council and raise the issue of planning for more masts in appropriate locations at the Ashford KALC meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed a centralised approach by KALC on planning and siting of mobile masts would be beneficial. Cllr Lois Tilden would provide Cllr Foinette with a briefing note on previous applications in Egerton.



## Egerton Parish Council

### Website

February minutes

April agenda

### **16) Accounts**

Expenditure		Cheque No	£
Buy a plan (1 Old School court)	Reimburse S Young	BACS	9.59
Rural Kent Action with Communities	Annual subscription	BACS	90.00
Salary	S Young February	BACS	1013.07
HMRC	NI and tax	BACS	49.01
<b>Total</b>			<b>£1161.67</b>

Income			
UK power networks	Rent		4.60
<b>Total</b>			<b>4.60</b>

**Bank Reconciliation Balance at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 £1,395.92 less un-presented cheques as follows:**

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**Actual balance = £1,395.92 at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### Accounts for Egerton update magazine

Expenditure		Cheque No	£
<b>Total</b>			

Income			
Advertising			2395.00
<b>Total</b>			

**Bank Reconciliation Balance at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 £4305.70 Less un-presented cheques as follows:**

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**Actual balance = £4305.70 at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### Accounts for Village Projects

Expenditure		Cheque No	£



## Egerton Parish Council

<b>Income</b>			
Interest			0.17
<b>Total</b>			<b>£0.17</b>

**Bank Reconciliation Balance at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 £20,906.57** Less un-presented cheques as follows:

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**Actual balance = £20,906.57 at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **Village Projects fund**

Pre-school move	£11,288.65
Village Hall	£ 9,617.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,906.57</b>

**The accounts were approved.**

**Proposed:** Cllr John Lawton. **Seconded:** Cllr Claire Foinette. **All in agreement.**

The council approved a temporary increase to 21 hours PW during March to enable The Clerk to prepare for the visit of the internal auditor and work needed for the annual AGAR.

**Proposed:** Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Cllr Lois Tilden. **All in agreement.**

### **17) Any other business**

- **1 Old School Court contract for rear access**

Cllrs discussed in depth the safety concerns of allowing a vehicle to cross the verge on the corner of Rock Hill Road and the road leading to the sewerage works. It was agreed safety had to take precedence and, given the growth in the size of the village and pedestrian and vehicular traffic, access would not be wise.

**Action:** Clerk to write to the residents of 1 Old School Court to advise the decision.

- **Lower recreation field tenancy agreement**

Cllrs agreed to renew the contract to lease the lower recreation field but to ask the tenant to review and repair any damaged fencing.

**Action:** The Clerk

- **Storm damage**

The Clerk advised BT had reviewed the large uprooted tree leaning over its phone line running along the hedge of the lower recreation field. The Clerk asked BT's team to remove the overhanging branches. Decision by BT pending.

- **KKC review of the 123 bus service**

All Cllrs agreed it would be a disaster if the bus serving villagers was axed in KCC cuts.

**Action:** Chairman Richard King and Clerk to plan EPC response to KCC by the deadline of April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr Pat Parr left the meeting due to a conflict of interest

### **18) Closed Session**

The Clerk read the confidential minute of the 1<sup>st</sup> February closed session that related to an update from the Working Group for Older People's Accommodation.

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.

**Proposed:** Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Cllr Tim Oliver **All in agreement.** Cllr Lois Tilden abstained as not present at the 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting.

Confidential minutes were taken on this closed session, for approval in due course.

**Meeting closed at 10.50pm**

**Next meeting: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

## Appendix (i)

### Report no. 143 of the Egerton footpaths representative – March 2022

4 Outstanding Issues remain from the February 2022 report.

4 Closed Issues

0 New Issues

*The outstanding issues below are listed with the KCC Reference, the date reported, the footpath number, the location, the difficulty experienced and the status of action.*

1. **PROW 210554009.** 24/05/21. AW76 opposite Kingsland Lane, Mundy Bois Road. Broken stile. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation
2. **PROW 210561834.** 24/05/21. AW79 Mundy Bois Road to Rockhill Road (opposite The Laurels). Broken stile (bottom plank flicks up when you step on it as both ends have come loose from the supporting posts). Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.
3. **PROW 210834144.** 15/08/21. AW90 Green Wickets Animal Sanctuary, Rockhill Road end. A resident reported that the wooden fingerpost is lying on the ground at the entrance of the property. The Clerk lives nearby and will check that it has been re-erected. Status: Resolved – Work Complete. CLOSED.
4. **PROW 210959063.** 10/09/21. AW75 at Heronsdale, Wanden Lane. Egerton resident complaint of overgrowth (brambles) and fence panel leaning towards the footpath. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.
5. **PROW210998966.** 20/09/21. AW76 opposite Kingsland Lane, Mundy Bois Road, broken stile. Status: Work Complete. CLOSED.
6. **PROW211126930.** 09/11/21. Part of AW87 to the west of the church behind the Glebeland houses where the path is quite narrow. Badgers have again been active and collapsed the side of the path about halfway along. Status: Still Work Scheduled but it is accessible with rubber matting in place until a more permanent solution is found.
7. **PROW211117086.** 21/11/21. AW64 Footpath opposite Egerton House on Greensand Way in a small wooded area towards the byway up to Coach Road. Two planks missing/broken on the bridge over a small stream.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 a resident reported the same problem so I re-reported it under PROW22025022. Status: Resolved – Officer Action. CLOSED.

## Appendix (ii)

### Report no. 32 of the Egerton Highways Representative – March 2022



## Egerton Parish Council

### Summary

<b>Closed Items</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Open Items</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>New Items</b>	<b>5</b>

### Closed Issues

Reference	Description & Status
589164	Mundy Bois Road nr Newland Green – Ditch Problems
Logged	July 2021
Status	Works being programmed
Update	Works Completed
<b>616124</b>	<b>Multiple Potholes Coldbridge lane</b>
Logged	January 2022
Status	Works Completed
<b>616875 &amp; 616121</b>	<b>Multiple Potholes – Crocken Hill Road</b>
Logged	January 2022
Status	Works Completed
589164	Drainage & Flooding, Ditch Problems – Mundy Bois Road
Logged	January 2022
Status	Works Completed
60000949	Carriageway Flooded – Mundy Bois Road
Logged	January 2022
Status	Works Completed
618119	Road Damaged By 3rd Party – Green Hill Lane
Logged	January 2022
Status	Enquiry investigated and customer updated
615554	Blocked Drain/Gully – Newland Green Lane
Logged	January 2022
Status	Enquiry investigated and customer updated
<b>618624</b>	<b>Multiple Potholes - Coldbridge lane</b>
Logged	January 2022
Status	Works Completed



## Egerton Parish Council

619448	Resurfacing request Egerton House Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Enquiry investigated and customer updated – not considered bad enough to need resurfacing
619112	Potholes – New Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Works completed

### Outstanding Issues

Reference	Description & Status
42003307	Rock Hill Road – Retaining Wall vegetation damage to grouting
Logged	May 2021
Status	Enquiry under investigation
Update	Site meeting held in November and issues explained. Engineer needs to attend to determine works required. No further developments since.
589193	Stonebridge Green Road - Blocked drain/gully
Logged	July 2021
Status	Enquiry under investigation
Update	No change

### New Issues

Reference	Description & Status
619446	Repair of Blue 'Unsuitable for HGV and Long vehicles signs at the junctions of Green Hill Lane and replacement at junction of New Road and Green Hill Lane and Mundy Bois Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Works being programmed – 90 day order
619117	Multiple Potholes - Hazeldene Farm Road from junction with Egerton House Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Works being programmed
619114	Multiple Potholes – Barhams Mill Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Works being programmed
619115	Dip/Depression in carriageway – Barhams Mill Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Works being programmed
624425	Pothole – Mundy Bois Road
Logged	February 2020
Status	Reported



**Other matters**

**Green Hill Lane**

Following Council's agreement at the February meeting the following letter of complaint to KCC has been sent via County Councillor Simkins.



Clerk: Sonia Young  
Squirrel's Oak  
Rock Hill Road  
Egerton  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN27 9ED

**01233 756501 /756192**  
**clerkegertonpc@hotmail.co.uk**

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24th February 2022

**Letter sent via email 24 February 2022 to: [Charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk)**

Dear Charlie

At the meeting of Egerton Parish Council on 1<sup>st</sup> February the impact of the water main replacement work in Pluckley on the roads and the traffic in and around Egerton was discussed at some length. It is well understood and accepted that the works are essential and that there are always going to be consequences of closing such a major and heavily used road as Charing Road/Forge Hill/Smarden Road. Through the collaboration with South East Water and Clancy Docwra we were relieved a significantly more sensible diversion was set out than originally proposed.

The diversions worked in the first phase of the project once people got used to the alternative routes. After Christmas and with the reopening of the junction of Swan Lane, Egerton Road, Forge Hill, and Charing Road the volume of traffic coming through Egerton itself increased substantially. This was to be expected but a consequence of this was greater use of Green Hill Lane from New Road to Mundy Bois and vice versa, probably being guided by navigation systems. This was wholly unnecessary as a far better and safer route was available through Egerton itself.

Green Hill Lane is very narrow. Narrower than the width of many modern goods and agricultural vehicles. It has several very sharp and blind bends in its 1-mile length and is wholly unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles or diverted traffic of any nature. Whilst Green Hill Lane was signed as 'unsuitable for HGVs' no further warning/discouragement was given to other traffic. The situation is not helped by the removal of the blue "Unsuitable for Long and Heavy Goods vehicles" sign at the



junction of Green Hill Lane and Mundy Bois Road. This sign has been relocated to the junction of Green Hill Lane and Smarden Bell Lane.

The consequences of the substantial increase in volume of traffic and type of vehicles were:

- Green Hill Lane became dangerous for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders
- Placed an unacceptable loading on the road structure, for which it was not designed, leading to a rapid deterioration in the road itself with consequent effects on safety for vehicles and road users. An emergency repair of the road became necessary.
- Destruction of the road edges and verges.
- Frequent total blocking of the road by vehicles unable to pass each other.
- Vehicles becoming stuck in the deepening mud in the destroyed soft verges, on occasion requiring extraction by another vehicle.
- Damage to vehicles, including we understand a KCC vehicle.
- Significant disturbance and disruption to the residents of Green Hill Lane

Substantial damage has occurred, and an emergency road repair was necessary as the road started to fall apart in one location.

Contact was made with Streetworks by both Councillor Lawton, (EPC with responsibility for Highways) and a local resident to point out the issues and to ask that the road be additionally signed 'Access Only' – in the same way that Lambden Road in Pluckley had been signed. It was with some relief that this was agreed around the 10<sup>th</sup> of January and it is my understanding that Streetworks instructed SEW to sign the road. Barbara Westmacott later confirmed to me in a telephone call that the signage was agreed and was on its way.

The signage has never appeared.

Egerton Parish Council wish to raise a formal complaint with KCC about this matter.

The substance of our complaint is as follows:

1. Insufficient thought is given to the consequences of a diversion route on roads that are not part of the signed diversion and unsuitable for diverted traffic. This is a real and constant issue in the rural environment with many single track and winding roads without passing places and with soft verges. The issue with Green Hill could and should have been anticipated and action taken before it became an issue
2. Once the issue had been raised with Streetworks and the need for action recognised, the agreed signage should have been put in place. It is not acceptable to blame SEW as it is Streetworks responsibility to ensure their instructions are followed.
3. Despite your own instructions to Streetworks to expect contact from myself as you departed on holiday, I was unable to get through to Barbara Westmacott and my voice mail message went unanswered.

Unfortunately, this is not the extent of our complaints with Streetworks as this issue was followed by a more egregious one.

Whilst the matter discussed above had still not been resolved on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of January Mundy Bois Road was closed at the bottom of Rock Hill Road by SEW for apparent emergency works. This



prevented traffic from using the alternative route through Egerton. The obvious consequence of this was that traffic trying to get around the closure of Forge Hill would now use Green Hill Lane as a diversionary route and in defiance of common sense that is how the route was in fact signed on the ground.

The consequences were an escalation of the above problems in Green Hill Lane. There was however a further and much more concerning consequence.

We understand that the bus companies, both Public Buses and School buses had not been given any prior notice of the closure of Mundy Bois Road. This resulted in 10 school children being left at Pluckley Farm Shop in the cold and dark as the bus could not get to its normal stop in Egerton. The potential consequences for safety of children do not need any elaboration.

It is our understanding that Streetworks are responsible for deciding on diversionary routes and that contractors are expected to follow their instructions in positioning the signs. Streetworks did publish a notice of road closure dated 20<sup>th</sup> January. You will note that this was the day after SEW had closed the road and dug it up. The Road was to be closed for 6 days!

The Streetworks notice shows a different and more sensible diversionary route through the Forstal, Bedlam Lane, Headcorn Road, Bell Lane and Smarden Bell Lane, contrary to how it had been signed on the ground.

With various parties making or attempting to contact SEW, KCC and Clancy Docwra the works in Mundy Bois Road were accelerated and the road opened in the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Egerton Parish Council wish to raise a second complaint in relation to this incident. Our complaint is as follows:

1. The notice of closure of Mundy Bois Road was not sent until after the road had been closed. It is in fact dated the following day.
2. The bus companies were not informed of the road closure
3. The diversion was incorrectly signed with serious consequences for the safety of children and the exacerbation of the issues in Green Hill Lane.
4. The closure of Mundy Bois Road was allowed by Streetworks without considering it in the context of the road closures and diversion routes already extant as a part of the Forge Hill water main replacement works and without consideration of the concerns that were already expressed for Green Hill Lane. This is a consistent point with our first complaint.
5. It is far from clear that the works in Mundy Bois Road were sufficiently of an urgent nature to require the road to be closed at that time. Residents proximate to the problem report that there has been a leak for some time, which raises the question of whether these works could not have waited until the works in Pluckley moved below the junction with The Street allowing traffic to use Station Road.

It is relevant to note that when Green Hill Lane was finally inspected on 27<sup>th</sup> January it was immediately closed for a period of 21 days "to prevent deterioration of the carriageway". This action vindicates the concerns that have been expressed by EPC and residents but failed to be acted on by KCC.



There are clearly lessons to be learned from the above not least in a dramatic improvement in communications between Streetworks and Contractors, but also Streetworks need to pay more attention to what is being said by locals who understand the nature of the rural roads far better than those making decisions about traffic routing. Wherever possible some form of consultation with Parish Councils would be a help.

It also appears that contractors are not adequately supervised in how they sign diversions. This is not the first time a diversionary route has been signed along Green Hill Lane contrary to the instructions of Streetworks.

Streetworks MUST consider each road closure and diversion in the context of other restrictions present in the wider area. It is not sufficient to simply say that 'you are not on a diversionary route' as a reason for not considering the impact of further road closures.

Apart from KCC holding an investigation to find out what has happened here and what changes are needed to avoid a repetition we feel a public apology from a senior person is due to the residents of Egerton which we can publish in Egerton Update and on the PC website.

A similar written apology should be sent to every resident in Green Hill Lane with an assurance that it will never again be signposted as a diversionary route.

Finally, an apology should be issued to parents of the children who were left at Pluckley Farm Shop in the cold and dark and probably at least a mile from home.

We look forward to receiving a response from KCC to our complaints as above as soon as possible.

Kind regards

*Sonia Young*

Sonia Young

**Clerk to Egerton Parish Council**