

## Parish Chairman Jim Donahue reports on the deteriorating road conditions in Eastfield Lane and on what is being done about it (UPDATED)

Hi everyone, I have been following up with the situation on Eastfield Lane. I am trying to get the road surface repaired, but my overriding concern is about safety for local residents and the risks to traffic and pedestrian safety, especially for parents and children using the lane.

At Thursday night's Parish Council meeting we heard that there may be 8 or 9 different construction projects going on. The one I am most concerned with is the new large home at the end of the lane by the school as I have seen a number of HGVs and other large construction equipment coming and going. A situation like this with so much work happening in one street is unprecedented in the village and unlikely to happen again. Unfortunately, no one is really able to control when individual projects start - it is just bad timing that so many are happening at the same time, although it also shows a vibrant and changing community that many will benefit from once completed. In the short term, we all just need to be aware of the safety risks that the situation is causing and adapt to it accordingly.

With this in mind, I have been taking the following actions:

- Alerting OCC Highways to the urgent need to address the road surface improvements, especially along the south verge of the street for safety before they get much worse.
- Asking Zephyr X if they can look at options to reduce the number of cars on the street. They confirmed that they will do so over the next couple of weeks - they will ask contractors to share vehicles, park in other areas of the village where possible, and there will be more opportunities to park on site in the next couple of weeks once the scaffolding comes down and some of the cabins are removed. Please note that the road will be torn up to connect to the SSE and Thames Water mains in the next week or two so it may get worse before it gets better.
- Alerting the school to the generally dangerous situation and asking them to reinforce the message to parents to avoid driving on Eastfield Lane and taking extra care as pedestrians on the road for the next several months.

Kind regards,  
Cllr Jim Donahue  
Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council  
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16th November 2024

### UPDATE, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024:

Hi everyone,

A quick update that OCC Highways have put in for the 'ditches' (*edge potholes*) along the south side of Eastfield Lane to be repaired within 28 days.

They will revisit the road after all work is completed, hopefully by the end of March.

Zephyr X has promised me that they will take efforts to reduce the number of vehicles parked on the road over the next couple of weeks going forward, although it may get worse in the short term when they dig up the road for utility connections.

Kind regards,  
Jim Donahue

21<sup>st</sup> November 2024