

1. Christmas Lights in The Broadway

The Christmas lights funded by BERA members are currently being installed in The Broadway, and the switch on date will be some time in November. The committee extend their thanks to Mike Stafford for all his hard work in arranging and organising the lights.

2. Footways

At Thursday's council meeting our Chairman once again raised the issue of the state of our footways. Please see below his email to the Director in charge of both planning and highways following the meeting. It clearly indicates a strategy going forward.

From: CllrWoodley
Sent: 20 October 2017 10:30
To: Peter Geraghty
Cc: Andrew Lewis; Alison Griffin
Subject: Footways

Dear Peter

Just a note, that I believe more can be done to protect our footways while developments are taking place. With reducing funds, we as a council cannot keep allowing people to keep damaging the footways and sit back and do nothing.

As stated last night there is no reason why an informative cannot be included when either granting permission through delegated authority or at DCC. Your responsibilities are for both the highway and planning and therefore should take the lead on solving this problem. I will keep highlighting this problem at every opportunity until the council comes up with a solution.

As stated, we could use an informative, be prepared to take legal action, develop a list of trusted builders, ask other councils and or the LGA for advice, but what we cannot do is keep ignoring the situation in the hope it goes away.

On the same issue but relevant to our footways, I believe that the highway department should possibly bid for funding in next year's budget to remove trees that are no longer fit for purpose in the footways, causing damage with raised pavements and kerb stones and reducing the width, making it impossible to pass these obstructions either with a pushchair/pram or the disabled in wheelchairs or their mobility scooters.

If we keep ignoring the fact that our footways are becoming dangerous or impassable then we risk the health and wellbeing of our residents, especially the young and elderly.

I am willing to meet to discuss this further, and I believe you are aware that having a decent street scene and open spaces is the key for the majority of residents to feel good about the council and the town, something that they are not currently experiencing.

Regards Ron