

Update 16/12/23



The Parish Council sent through two additional photos and concerns in relation to further land fall off the side of the slip. (see images above)

Response from Cllr Charlotte Cupit (DCC) to our concerns:

To start with the further deterioration of the roadside, the structures team will re-look at it this week, as part of their continued monitoring anyway, but on the surface of it, it has been noted that some movement of a saturated slope on the edge as is presented in the pictures isn't unexpected – it would be helpful if the rain would stop at some point soon.

In relation to the independent Road Safety Audit, we're awaiting the final report still, which is due imminently. We have however had the draft headlines of the road safety audit, which has highlighted some issues in relation to the need to ensure pedestrian safety because of the narrow width of road left in terms of a one carriageway width reopening. So, we'll await the final report over the next couple of days (we're told this will be before the end of this week, in line with my comments last week that it was expected within a week) and then we'll need to do some work on what measures we may need to add to ensure pedestrian passage and safe access.

In terms of your query about the longer term solution and funding for a permanent Leashaw repair, as I noted in my last update we are still at the design stage so don't have a cost of the works but, alongside any Council funding that would be put towards this, we continue to work to try to attract additional funding, for highways in general. Around the time of the Autumn Statement, we received some extra funding for reactive maintenance (potholes), but also a commitment to a wider additional funding package for our highways over the coming years – this is money reallocated from HS2 project. We're still waiting for clarity on this, but I am working with our local political representatives and other Council representatives to make the case for that funding as soon as possible, and I am citing Leashaw and other landslips as specific examples (alongside wider resurfacing schemes) for what this investment could be put towards. So, I hope this reassures you there does seem to be positive and additional funding coming from Government, albeit we await the details, but alongside this there remains the Council capital investment pots we could utilise when we get to the 'shovel-ready' stage.

So, whilst not the 'go' positive news we were hoping to share this week, hopefully this is at least still progress, and I'll update you again as promised next week particularly in relation to the Road Safety Audit, by the end of the 20th Dec.

DCC also told the Parish Council that they are still trying to pursue sharing the potential solutions for a permanent repair with Severn Trent.