

The Problem of Audlem's Highways

There is no doubt that highways are a major issue for the residents of Audlem. For Example:-

- dangerous potholes
- parking issues
- poor crossing provisions near schools
- the size of modern commercial vehicles being way beyond the design limits of the original major roads that cross at Audlem.

Then, of course, there are the moats that develop at Swanbach and Corbrook pretty much every time it rains.

Having been recently co-opted onto Audlem Parish Council (APC), Chris May took on the role of Chair for the Village Management Group and highways falls within the auspices of this group.

So, on behalf of APC, Chris attended a Microsoft Teams meeting delivered by Mike Barnett, Head of Cheshire East Highways on 11th January. The meeting was well attended by representatives from Town and Parish Councils throughout Cheshire East.

Many voiced similar concerns to those experienced in Audlem about poor maintenance of their highways. There is clearly a lot of pressure on Cheshire Easy Highways and Audlem is just one of many voices competing for attention. What was really telling however was that the significant detail of factual data presented that evening showed an alarming shortfall in the budgets that CE are putting in place for highways maintenance.

Chris's full and detailed report can be read here:-

<https://www.audlempc.co.uk/doc/D730439.pdf>

So, what can Audlem Parish Council and the Residents of Audlem do?

The matter of highways around Audlem is not a simple one and there will be no magical overnight solution. The problem is even recorded in Hansard as being discussed in Parliament as long ago as the 1980s!! Whilst this is likely to be akin to the proverbial problem of pushing an elephant up the stairs - and if you keep pushing hard enough you might not get the elephant up the whole flight, but you will certainly get the blighter to budge up a few steps!

APC intends to push and push as hard as they can. However, the more people that make noise, the greater the chances are that some notice might be taken.

We can certainly take CE to task over knowingly underfunding a budget for maintenance for which it also knows it has a statutory responsibility. Please would you consider writing to your Local Ward Councillor, Rachel Bailey at

Cllr.Rachel.Bailey@cheshireeast.gov.uk or even your MP Edward Timpson at edward.timpson.mp@parliament.uk with this question? If you do write to your Local Ward Councillor or MP, please feel free to copy Chris May in to your letter and the response you get at chris.may@audlempc.co.uk