***Points discussed at Highways meeting on 30th November 2023***

***Present:*** Andrew Middlecote, GCC Highways manager (AM)

Gordon Jones, GCC Highways Technician

Cllr Martin Brocklehurst

Cllr Rob Howson

Tim Dain – clerk to Kempley Parish Council

***Road Repairs - Queens Wood and Lower House Farm***

Potholes have been marked in preparation for repair, these have to be 40mm deep to meet the criterion for repair. KPC requested surface dressing/a tarmac veneer be added in these two areas. This may not be affordable under the countywide programme of repairs.

AM agreed to discuss this with the Programme Team.

***Road deterioration***

There are evolving farming practices locally, e.g. three large dairy farms with computerised milking, which have increased traffic into the village.

HGV animal feed and bedding deliveries, slurry removal and milk tanker collections are causing increased wear and tear on the road infrastructure with road haunches deteriorating because vehicles are wider than the roads themselves.

KPC requested consideration be given to upgrading of the road haunches due to the nature of traffic using the roads. An area of particular concern is the corner by Hillfields Farm, where there is significant erosion due to the volume of heavy traffic.

It was acknowledged that GCC Highways have no enforcement powers. Agricultural use would be exempt of any weight limits imposed on the roads. Some success in adapting practice has been achieved elsewhere by involving the NFU.

The speed at which the heavy vehicles travel was raised as a road safety concern.

Attendees discussed the role of GCC Highways and KPC in discussion with local farmers. KPC is concerned that road haunches will fail completely and there won’t be sufficient funds available for repairs.

AM agreed to discuss with the road maintenance team.

***Drainage & Flooding:***

* Kempley Road to Dymock - Near Matthews Farm a stream crossing regularly floods due to water coming off the field and being unable to flow off the road, leading to erosion. The culvert may be inadequate. AM agreed to get the culvert assessed.
* Kempley Road to Dymock - Ditch roadside drainage regularly floods at Camomile Cottage when the culvert under the road gets blocked. Recently, the maize crop in the adjacent field caused soil to contribute to blocking of the culvert. The house floods because it is lower than the road. AM agreed to get the culvert assessed.
* Brickyard Cottage - Surface water flooding occurs as the house is lower than the road. Water runs off the adjacent fields, the brook floods, the road directs water into the property which has flooded badly twice in the last 5 years. Request for more to be done to prevent water running off the road. AM agreed to get the drainage assessed.
* Court Farm - Water runs across the highway as culverts became blocked after the maize silage harvest. Most ditches are on the property/highway boundary and therefore the responsibility of the adjacent landowner and are not adopted by GCC Highways. AM agreed to investigate if anything can be done.

***Signage:***

* Many of the road signs in Kempley are old, in poor repair, faded or damaged e.g. speed limit signs. GCC Highways has a budget to replace dilapidated signs.

Clerk to send photo, location and size of signs for consideration for replacement.

* The historical sign to St Mary's Church - To replace this with a new brown ‘Tourism’ sign requires approval via an application process which incurs a fee. The criteria for brown tourism signs have changed and it is unlikely to be approved. AM agreed to the sign being replaced by KPC in black and white with the English Heritage logo included.
* Kempley Parish boundary signage. The old sign on the Dymock road will be replaced by volunteers. Two further locations were proposed: at the Parish boundary near the T junction turning to Much Marcle and near Seycells Farm. These will both need a services check.

Clerk to send locations to GCC Highways and request a service check.

* Collection of the old ‘Welcome to Kempley’ road signs currently at the rear of the Village Hall- AM will arrange for these to be collected.

***Road edge timber fencing along the brook in Fishpool*** (by Hillbrook Farm)

There is a retaining wall to support the road with a dilapidated timber fence on top. Kempley brook flash floods and when in flood it is impossible to see the edge of the road. The fence and reflective signage need replacing. GCC Highways are unlikely to be responsible for the watercourse. AM agreed to investigate who owns the land. This is a possible project for funding by GCC Councillor Gill Moseley, or a joint funded approach between KPC, GCC and Highways.

***No Overnight Parking signage near Village Hall***

There is an issue with camper van parking, especially with agricultural contractors working locally. KPC has a preference for specific “No Campervan parking” as this parking is intended for regular use. AM gave approval for KPC to put up some small signs.

***Sensor lighting in Village Hall parking areas***

Grants are available for safety initiatives including lighting. Permission needs to be sought through the Street Lighting team. Kempley is generally against street lighting but temporary, low intensity, sensor-controlled lighting that can be switched on when there are events in the Hall might be a good compromise. AM will send clerk a contact within the Street Lighting Team.