

BOYLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

DITCH MAINTENANCE WORKING GROUP

Selwyn Adams – Leader;

Pete Hollins;

For the Parish Council: Matt Moore; George Upson & Helen Walker

Dear Resident,

UPDATE 7th November 2024

Dear Parishioner,

Although the Ditch Maintenance Working Group hasn't met since the summer, Selwyn Adams and others have been continuing to pursue Derbyshire County Council for action. Also, in addition to generally monitoring the situation, the group has been trying to keep road gullies in the area clear, as well as carrying out other works.

We advised in our letter of 14th August that Derbyshire County Council had, in principle, accepted responsibility for the majority of the ditch problems in the village, the exception being those that are on private land or those not considered to be having any detrimental effect to the highway.

Whilst on that basis Derbyshire County Council undertook to carry out necessary remedial works to the qualifying areas, it was made clear that this would be subject to budget constraints which in turn would be likely to affect timescales.

The current situation is that Derbyshire County Council will, for the time being, now only be carrying out remedial works to the ditch at the bottom of New Road, which is planned for 16th – 18th December and will necessitate a road closure and diversion. Details of this are on the Parish Council's new website and we will also send out a reminder nearer the time.

As Derbyshire County Council are unable to carry out any further works for the foreseeable future, the Parish Council have agreed to increase this year's ditch maintenance budget and have issued an order with a certified contractor to carry out additional ditch clearing work. This will also include the provision of a number of new verge grips (channels which run laterally across highway verges from the road to a ditch).

It is anticipated that this work will commence mid November and in the event that this causes any disruption on the local roads, we would ask for your patience and understanding regarding this. We will keep you advised of the dates and roads that may be affected.

As individuals, everyone can help with what we all know is a difficult situation by, provided you are able and it is safe to do so, clearing away leaves and debris that you may see on road gullies in the area. This alone would go some way to helping to get water away off the highway.

We also ask that you continue to report any flooding/drainage issues and any other highway problems such as potholes etc. on the Derbyshire County Council website – “Report a road fault or ask about a road issue”. This can now also be easily accessed through the Parish Council’s website following A-Z of Local Authority Services/Highways/Report a road fault. The more reports that Derbyshire County Council receives about a fault the more priority that fault is given.

Helen Walker
Chair Boylestone Parish Council