

1. Staffordshire County Council – Highways Report

2. Yarnfield Parkway

Reference Number 4406102

SCC Log Date:13/09/24

We continue to complain about the growth of weeds along Yarnfield Parkway associated with the combined Kerb and Drainage Systems along the entire length of the Parkway as far as the junction with Yarnfield Lane.

The last complaint was made on the 13 September 2024 after the SBC Streetscene road sweeper unsuccessfully swept Yarnfield Parkway on Friday 6 September.

The draining kerbs are now so blocked that they are no longer capable of carrying away surface water which now runs down to Yarnfield Lane.

Photographs taken on 11 July, 2025 show the weed and tree saplings to be well established and rooted inside the drainage kerbs.



While taking the photographs another broken kerb drain was found. This was reported on 12 July 2025. Reference: **4447018**



This is the third broken kerb reported.

The parish council is concerned that the estate roads have been adopted before obvious defects and construction that does not meet the county council's standard were dealt with by the developer.

Action: we now need to be confident that the problems arising from the adoption of the estate roads is resolved; that an explanation is provided as to how this problem arose, what will be done to rectify the problem, and a timeline is provided to resolve the problems created by the adoption of the estate roads.

3. Yarnfield Parkway, Brookvale Drive and the other estate roads - Speed limit 20mph

I have submitted an FOI application asking to receive a copy of any Traffic Regulation Orders relating to Yarnfield Park.

On the 23 April 2021 I was at an MS Teams meeting with Jeremy Pert, Richard Rayson, Sharon Daniels and Tim Buxton that had been arranged to discuss the speed limit on Yarnfield Parkway. There was no doubt during this meeting that the speed limit was 20 mph.

The parish council has approved a budget to improve the 20mph speed signage on the estate and met Kayleigh [19 February 2025] to ask for advice on what is required. The parish council's preference will be to paint 20mph markings on the road at agreed locations. The outcome of this discussion is outstanding.

Action: we now need to be confident that:

- The speed limit on the estate is 20 mph
- What signage/ road marking will be permitted and how will we arrange for the work.

4. Cold Meece: Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

The parish council has set aside a budget to buy two SIDs that will be located on Swynnerton Road and Meece Road in Cold Meece and met Kayleigh [19 February 2025] to ask for advice on what is required

Action: we need to know what the parish council needs to do to secure permission to install the SID devices and a list of contractors that could install the mounting poles for the two devices.

5. Swynnerton Road, Cold Meece

The pothole repair work carried out on the Swynnerton Road has been done to a very poor standard and has not dealt with all the problems and further work will be required. This road has a significant volume of heavy goods vehicles using the road to access local business. The parish council is concerned that other roads in the area that do not have the volume of HGV traffic and that have weight restrictions on them have been repaired to a far higher standard.

Action: the parish council wishes to understand the approach taken by the county council and their contractor to the prioritisation of repairs on Swynnerton Road and to receive an assurance that the pothole repairs will be completed.

6. Yarnfield Lane HSE site compound

Some of the parish councillors had a meeting with HS2 Ltd staff and their contractor Balfour Beatty in February 2025 about the flooding of Yarnfield Lane because of water coming from the HS2 Site compound.

Staffordshire County Council was represented by Mike Webb.

The following actions were identified:

SCC will conduct a camera survey of the drainage along the lane and culvert running under Yarnfield Lane and jet any found to be blocked.

2. BB will monitor flow of water on the site following heavy rainfall
3. BB will check with ecology team to see if the gully that takes the run off from the neighbouring farmers field into the culvert can be cleared where this is on SoS land .
4. HS2 will look at further potential solutions should these be required within a reasonable cost envelope

HS2 Ltd seem to be in denial over their riparian responsibilities in relation to the site and impact it is having on Yarnfield Lane. They believe that “The issues with flooding at Yarnfield Lane are a result of the road drainage system not operating, which is the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council”.

Mike has confirmed that:

- the survey works were undertaken on 11th March and that it identified a series of problems on the system.
- Some works in the immediate vicinity of the HS2 access will be actioned in due course.
- Other problems need a rather more holistic approach as they are interconnected with what Mike believes were ditches which have been lost for many years. Mike has identified this location for consideration for a capital scheme which would be a larger job than can be deliver with the general maintenance teams.

Action: the parish council is concerned that the problem of flooding has yet to be resolved and want to understand:

- The design of the road drainage system.
- What immediate works have, or will be, carried out.
- What is the work proposed for a capital scheme

These issues would be best resolve by meeting you and Mike.

7. Yarnfield Lane - Blue Iris Development

1. The complaint about the placing of 30mph signs on Yarnfield Lane on either side of the Blue Iris development has been resolved and the signs removed. However, the poles still remain and need to be removed.

Action: arrange for the poles to be removed.

2. Planning permission for the Blue Iris development was granted on the basis that the development would be for agricultural use only. Staffordshire County Council highways accepted a reduced standard for the visibility splay of the junction as it was to be used for agricultural vehicles and that use would be minimal.

The development does not conform to the planning permission and is in fact office accommodation. As such there is a greater use of the entrance by those working at, or visiting, the site.

We appear to have arrived at a position in which the access junction to the site has been accepted based on a use that does not reflect what is happening on the site. The question yet to be resolved is whether this is a matter for SCC Highways or SBC planning to resolve.

The initial discussions about this problem were with Lisa Anthony (SCC) and John Holmes (SBC planning).

Action: any advice on how to proceed with this issue would be appreciated.

8. Yarnfield Lane Pavements

The poor state of the pavement along the entire length of Yarnfield Lane in the village has been the subject of much debate and complaint. The lifting of the moratorium on pavement repairs in April 2025 has again brought this issue to the attention of the parish council, and the replacement of the large sections of the pavement is considered a priority. Such is the level of disrepair that a patch-and-mend approach to the problem is no longer feasible, nor would it provide a cost-effective or long-term remedy.

The parish council ran a survey of residents in the parish to identify what impact the state of the pavements is having on their daily lives. The results of the survey will be reported to the September meeting of the parish council, at which point it will look to explore the various remedies that are available to them to apply pressure to the County Council to resolve this long-standing issue.

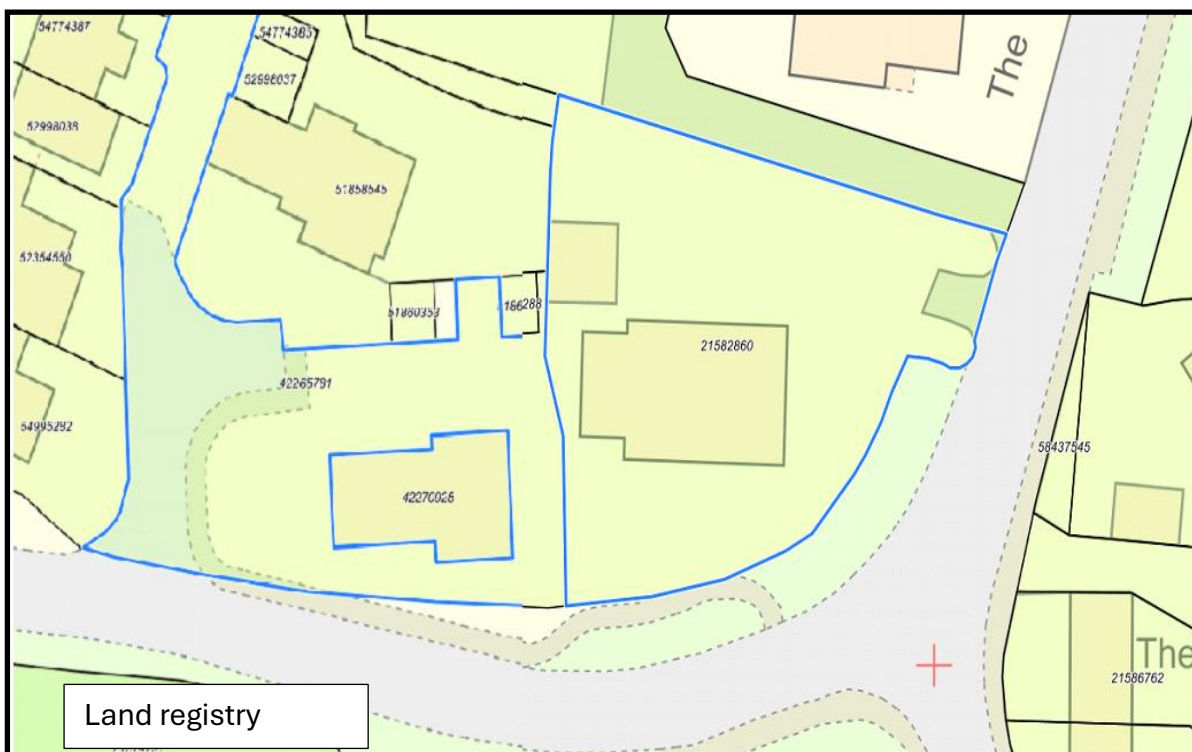
9. Ash Lane, Yarnfield

The parish council has received numerous complaints about an overgrown hedge opposite the junction of Ash Lane, Yarnfield. Discussion with the owner of the property surrounded by the hedge suggest that the hedge is not his to maintain and is in fact on highway land.

A search of the land registry reveals that both the hedge and the grass verge lie outside the boundaries of the two properties nearest to the hedge and footpath.

Local knowledge is that the hedge predates the sale of the land on which Yarnfield Croft is built. The Google Map image from March 2009 taken during the construction of Yarnfield Croft, shows a mixed native hedge which includes both deciduous and evergreen species.

The verge is part of the Staffordshire County Council grass cutting programme and is a priority 1 route and the grass is cut three times a year.



Action: please advise on whether the hedge is within the highway's estate

10. Highlows Lane BOAT

Job Number: 2249926, 4188749, 4189828, 4189827

SCC Log Date: 2020 – 2021

There are four open complaints about the state to the BOAT at the end of Highlows Lane, each asking for repairs to the potholes. It is accepted that the maintenance of a BOAT will always be a low priority. That said the residents that live along this short section of road are

finding it increasingly difficult to access their property. The remedial work is simple to achieve and none of the complaints are asking for the surfaced to be tarmacked.

Action: complete work on these outstanding requests.

11. De Havilland Drive – surface dressing

Job Number: 4447055

SCC Log Date: 14/07/2025

On the 1 May work was done to apply a new surface dressing on De Havilland Drive in Yarnfield. The contractors applied the first coat of tar and grit without incident. They then parked the lorry used to transport the roller and preceded to complete the rest of the job around it: spraying the second tar paint coat without moving the vehicle. This was done on the 1 May and they have now left the site, with no indication that they will return to complete the job.

The "Junction Markings Erased" signs put up by the contractor remain in place and need to be removed.



Action: please review and confirm when this work will be completed.

John Fraser
Parish Clerk
Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

14 July 2025