

Report from County Councillor M Evans for the November Wickhambrook Parish Council meeting:

1. The bollard light wasn't installed as planned because it was found to be broken so a new one has been ordered and will be installed asap
2. Highways have been making good post the surface dressing through the village raising the dropped drains etc
3. I have passed on to the clerk and Roger Medley details of how the council could take over cutting footpaths. Re the query about overhanging branches at The Duddery, I asked highways to investigate the ownership of the land and I am advised

*The land opposite the junction is Mr Simister The Old Bank House, Malting End.*

*The land on the right approaching the give way is Clopton Hall Farm. The land on the left is not "rural" - so we have no ownership details. Might be the next property along "Brookfields"?*

4. Highways has put a grit pile at Clopton Park – or that is what I have been told. They have done this without also installing a grit bin. If the pile is in place and residents are happy with it, are you content to waive having a grit bin – it would save me a little money from my highways budget for other road safety projects. – Do please let me know.

5. Suffolk County Council is currently running two consultations - details on our website:

a. on budget priorities

b. on early years - from September 2017, eligible working parents will be able to have up to 30 hours free childcare a week for 3 and 4 year old children. Parents of 3 and 4 year olds currently get 15 hours a week of free early learning and childcare, and this offer will increase to 30 hours for working parents.

Suffolk County Council wants find out how parents across the county plan to use the additional childcare. The information collected will help the council and childcare providers to plan for the increase in demand. Places can be taken at pre-schools, day nurseries, school nursery classes or with a childminder. We are hoping that as many parents as possible take part in this survey, to give us a clear picture of how many childcare places might be needed by September 2017. Parents will be able to split their 30 hour place between a maximum of three Ofsted registered providers. The survey will run to 16 December 2016. You can complete the online survey at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/30hours](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/30hours) For more information about the survey, contact the Suffolk Family Information Service on 0345 60 800 33 or email [30hoursurvey@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:30hoursurvey@suffolk.gov.uk)