



Update: Road Conditions and Safety in Helmdon

Date: 7 February 2026

Subject: An Update on Highways Maintenance and the B4525 (Welsh Lane)

Helmdon Parish Council (HPC) is acutely aware of the appalling state of our local road network, particularly the B4525 (Welsh Lane). We share the frustration and safety concerns voiced by many residents; the current condition of these roads is unacceptable.

To ensure clarity and to help us lobby for repairs effectively, we would like to share the following information regarding how road maintenance works and what the Parish Council is doing on your behalf.

1. Who is Responsible?

It is a common misconception that the Parish Council has a budget for road repairs. Helmdon Parish Council has no legal authority or funding to repair roads, fill potholes, or clear drains. The Highways Authority for our area is West Northants Council (WNC). They are responsible for the maintenance, safety, and repair of the roads.

Our role as a Parish Council is one of monitoring and advocacy; we report highway defects and lobby the decision-makers at WNC to take action.

2. What We Are Doing

Our Parish Highways Representative monitors the parish road network weekly. So far this winter, the Council has:

- Logged dozens of potholes and drainage defects via FixMyStreet.
- Held urgent discussions with the West Northants Highways Liaison Officer regarding the B4525.



- Formally flagged the B4525's status as a "Red Route" to WNC, highlighting that the current defects make an already high-risk road significantly more dangerous.
- Raised the condition of the B4525 at the West Northants HS2 Liaison Meetings.

3. The HS2 Impact

We recognise that the B4525 is under extraordinary pressure due to hundreds of additional heavy vehicle movements related to HS2 construction. We are actively:

- Escalating complaints to the HS2 Community Engagement Team regarding the accelerated degradation of the road surface.
- Liaising with our WNC Ward Councillors to demand that HS2 and WNC coordinate a long-term repair strategy rather than "sticking plaster" patching.
- Lobbying for a fair share of the money that HS2 will provide to WNC for remedial works when construction is finishing.

4. How You Can Help

The more residents who report a specific issue, the higher it climbs on WNC's priority list. We urge residents to:

1. Report every defect: Use <https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk>. Do not assume someone else has reported it.
2. Email our WNC Ward Councillor, Cllr Alison Eastwood (Alison.Eastwood@westnorthants.gov.uk) to voice your safety concerns.



3. HS2 Complaints: If you believe construction traffic is the primary cause of a specific safety issue, email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

5. Next Steps

Highways will be an item on our Parish Council agenda at the next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 25 February 2026 in the Reading Room. We welcome residents to attend to hear the latest updates and to ensure your concerns are recorded in the official minutes.

Helmdon Parish Council