Notes re Anglian Water Repairs January 2020

I’m not sure if it took anyone else nearly an hour to get through Chedgrave en route to work this morning by virtue of the Anglian Water road closure on Langley Road? Both Rectory Road and Big Back Lane were grid locked with drivers refusing to reverse and I witnessed mini-buses driving onto people’s flower beds to push past (not to name any names).

Anglian Water say the roadworks aren’t due to be lifted until the 31st so I have emailed them the attached map suggesting that Rectory Road and Big Back Lane are temporarily made one way as shown. If they put this into force and people obey the signs then hopefully we won’t have to drive nearly to Thurton just to get to Loddon!



*Bad enough on BBL without turning it into a one way. Just shows how bad Norfolk drivers are. As most rat run drivers ignore road signs the first crash on a one way system would be the first morning or evening of it being posted.*

We frequently walk on both Big Back Lane and Rectory Lane, and the amount of traffic before this on the latter is at least 50 times that on BBL so think the one way system would be great permanently.

*Would be better if they put a speed restriction on BBL and Langley School had their own entrance off Norwich Road*



If NCC had moved the 30 limit down to the bypass as the PC requested problem solved. Who pays to rectify the verge damage on BBL and Rectory Lane? Anglian Water or NCC?

However it is their ‘duty’ to ensure it is done in a safe manner, where arguably this time they have failed. Jim highlights damage to nearby roads, I have highlighted damage to nearby residents property, and it would seem that no assessment was made of the wider impact on nearby villages. With the daily traffic that depends on Chedgrave each day because of Langley School, these roadworks effectively isolated nearby, Chedgrave, Hardley & Langley from emergency transport links. An assessment should have been made to see if the same work could have been carried out using stop-go boards.

It is staggering to see Langley school buses attempting to drive in both directions at the same time down a single track narrow lane. Why has the school management not issued instructions to drivers who clearly are devoid of common sense. The suggestion to implement a one way system is the only sensible way forward. It took Anglia Water over 4 days to respond and they have also failed to put in traffic management systems. Result-damaged property!

Rectory Lane was so dangerous this morning I couldn’t attempt to walk to my grandsons house. Langley school mini buses and vehicles going to the school are a nightmare and show no consideration to the residents of Rectory Lane. Cars race through as they hope not to meet any traffic coming the other way. A nightmare!!!!

This is something that the Parish Council should be pursuing as a matter of priority. The last couple of days has highlighted the problem but massive lorries servicing the farms also travel on Rectory Lane at speed causing the road to heave - more future damage to be paid for. One way, traffic calming, and width restrictions should now be taken seriously before injuries (or worse) happen.

There are serious problems now, but when the new large estate planned for Langley Road/Snows Lane is built, the traffic volume will be much increased - surely something should be implemented before the estate is started, considering all the construction lorries/heavy plant that will be needed even before the residents of the new estate are in situ. Big Back Lane is almost a direct entry to the new site - therefore if it was already one way into Chedgrave, surely this would be an ideal solution to overcome the impossible situation of 2 way traffic on Rectory Lane

Same vehicles will then be going through Chedgrave to go up Rectory Lane or even through Loddon.. developers should be paying for all this, up front, not leaving it until they can avoid the costs at the end like they are doing with the roundabout on George Lane. Best solution is not to build the estate.

Langley School is one of our biggest traffic issues in Chedgrave and the last few days have just highlighted that. Last week I was turning into BBL when a LS minibus full of kids pulled out of BBL across the Norwich Road in front of me and an articulated lorry. Thankfully missed by inches. I would urge all residents of Chedgrave to write to County Councillor Barry Stone to make their opinions known.

The Parish Council has been fully aware of these issues - I believe Jackie Bircham was the Chair in recent times. Surely, the PCC as our representatives should make the strongest possible case to the County Council. I have written to our District Councillor yesterday on this topic. I left a message at Langley School for the Headmaster to call me back. He has failed to respond - perhaps an indication of his leadership skills or lack thereof. At the very least he should be most concerned about the safety of his pupils and could start with a serious re-education of the school bus drivers.

Last June I sent a measured and constructive letter to the chair of governors at Langley, outlining some of the traffic and pollution issuesissues and asking them whether they had an environmental policy.

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas, I often stand at my window and watch the traffic going to and from Langley School in the morning and evening and it has struck me that the school must have a particularly large carbon footprint since many of the students travel quite large distances each day. When I looked on the school website I did not notice an environmental policy included in the list and don’t know if one is in preparation. Given this, I wondered whether you could tell me about the plans the governors and management team have to deal with the situation. There are two things in particular that I would be grateful to hear more about. Firstly, what is your strategy for reducing your carbon footprint? Do you make active efforts to encourage car sharing? Do you advocate the use of electric vehicles, perhaps by offering charging facilities for staff and visitors or a reduction in fees for those parents who drive their children to school by electric or hybrid car? When do you plan to make all your fleet buses electric or otherwise carbon neutral? The second thing I would be interested to know is your current position on carbon offset: how do you intend to work towards neutralising the school’s carbon footprint? Are you planting new trees? Have you engaged with an existing carbon offset project, either in UK or abroad, or are you intending to do so? Finally, a different but related point: when I walk down Langley Road to get my paper in the morning I am horribly aware of the amount of pollution from exhaust fumes, especially in cold weather. In fact I often take a longer route just to avoid the unpleasantness. Any strategies for reducing carbon emissions from the daily traffic will almost certainly also have the excellent side effect of reducing particulate pollution in Chedgrave and, in particular, benefitting the health of the local children who walk to the Loddon schools. I know that we all have a responsibility to act swiftly in the face of the imminent climate emergency and I am sure that Langley School is as keen as any to do whatever is necessary to help ameliorate the effects of global heating. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hi Richard, this is a good letter and I’m disappointed on everyone’s behalf that you haven’t yet had a response. This thread has taken a different direction to the purpose of the original post - I was just trying to help everyone out so we didn’t unknowingly suffer inconvenience all week. Anglian Water have now lifted the roadworks early so they have at least done their bit and responded immediately to the concerns raised. Clearly all it has taken was one road closure to uncover several other smouldering issues. It was quite shocking on Monday to see so much queuing traffic on such tiny roads and it certainly puts the focus of your letter into context. With hindsight - I will be downloading my dash cam footage which I film on every journey because it sounds like it may come in handy to aid future discussions with both Langley School, Chedgrave Parish Council and County Highways.

I wonder if the continuing avoidance of responsibility by the board of governors/headmaster should be addressed by a meeting with district/ county councillors and the headmaster. No reason why the MP should not be included. Soon there will be a serious injury or death. The headmaster will be held culpable as he has had many warnings about the impact of parent and school bus drivers?

Given their rudeness are they likely to respond? Perhaps a letter to the EDP encouraging them to follow up on your letter?

I would be pleased to raise this at the next PC meeting which is on 6/2/20 7pm at the Brian Clarke Rooms. Please feel free to attend and make your opinions known. The PC has raised this before with LS. In fact LS advised us that they had put a plan together before for their own dedicated entrance off the Norwich Road but after discussions with NCC they did not take it any further. With the huge amount of traffic we also endure on the A146 I think it is time to put some more pressure on.