



Bothenhampton & Walditch  
Parish Council since 1886

1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Mr D Carey  
Community Highways Officer  
Dorset Council

By email

Dear David

**RE: SPINNERS LANE, WALDITCH DT6 4LQ**

The Parish Council has written several times regarding the above including leaving an enquiry on the Dorset Council portal (1179957). We also refer to our letter of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and to subsequent requests via email for action to be taken on this Lane.

We are writing because a gridded culvert and drain 25 metres up Spinners Lane, cleared and jetted two years ago by DC Highways has become blocked again due to the continual build-up of silt washing off Walditch Knapp down the Lane. The Lane is identified on Dorset Explorer as a D Highway.

This is a culvert and a transverse drain or channel 25m up the Lane with a grid on top. Further down, a barrier of sandbags supplied through Bridport Town Council two years ago still protects the access to properties on Walditch Road from flooding. The surface of Spinners Lane has risen significantly relative to the properties due to a build-up of silt over the last 5 metres of Spinners Lane during the last decade. Access to a drain at the side has been impeded by a pile of silt. Consequently, residents have been resorting to sandbags for a considerable time to try and stop water and silt entering their property.

We would be very grateful if Dorset Council could look into this long-standing problem, and which we believe will only worsen over time. We believe that what is needed is a more permanent solution that will deal with the mud and silt and channel it away from properties and the Lane itself. The accumulation of silt over the last decade needs to be scraped off and removed, a task that cannot be done by volunteers because it needs a skip and transport to a suitable field that requires good soil.

The Parish Council has a Volunteer Footpath Officer who regularly visits the area and cuts down the brambles and nettles, however the mud is so deep in the Lane residents and visitors need wellies to walk along it in winter. We recognise that there will always be erosion on unsealed highways down hills, and that this will have to be repeated in future as rainfall becomes more intense.

Please accept our apologies if these flooding issues should be addressed to a different officer instead of yourself, and if this is the case, perhaps you could let me know.

Yours sincerely,  
Cllr Martin Warne  
Traffic, Transport and Footpaths  
Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council  
[www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com](http://www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com)