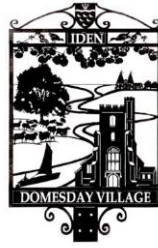


East Sussex County Council



Iden Parish Council

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7th February 2025

Dear Karl Taylor

Re: Road Conditions entering Iden

We are forced to write to you directly as a result of the dreadful condition of the roads into Iden and on to Wittersham.



Peace & Plenty

The state of the road surface at the Peace and Plenty, the junction of the B2082 and the Rye Road, has been referred to at all council meetings for over a year now. The potholes have been repaired, to reappear and then be filled again so many times that the breath of the road is like the craters on the moon. Drivers are eroding the verges either side to avoid the holes which act like invisible speed ramps on a vehicle's suspension. Sadly, these are not considered deep enough for you to take action. I attach photos but it is not easy to be able to show you the issue.



Peace & Plenty

As you continue up Mockbeggars Hill into Iden, drivers face more of the same with a drain cover in line with the passenger wheel rising up out of the road surface like an iceberg to make yet another ramp. Tarmac has been used several times to lessen this but lasts no time at all. Many drivers now only drive down the middle of the road to avoid the constantly

emerging potholes. This is dangerous as drivers leave it to the last minute to return to their side of the road, hoping not to be caught by the sink holes that randomly appear on the central white line. During the last 12 months, one resident complained that having been caught by one of these the impact was so severe that the wing mirror broke. We are talking about a modern 4x4 SUV. Last week, there was such a deep hole in line with the passenger wheels at the top of the hill just after the bend, that the highway steward (I presume) left a cone in it. You could not see the bottom of the cone and drivers had little time to see it.

In the centre of the village the two sharp bends have multiple potholes and the road between the two has been worn away back down to original red surface. Potholes appearing now are much deeper as a result.



Gardiner's Hill to New Bridge – Wittersham Road

That would seem to be enough but leaving the village to go to Tenterden is even worse. From the bottom of Gardiner's Hill to New Bridge is in such a poor state that only a non resident would consider it sensible to drive above 20mph. It is the perfect place for car manufacturers to come and test out their cars suspension as they have a 50 -100 metre stretch available. Again, the holes are repaired or patched but to no avail. The first patches are now eroding at the edges as the original road is in such poor condition. It is just papering over the cracks.



Laying water and wear is revealing the original road surface

This route is the road between Tenterden and Rye which is an important enough connection that there is a bus route.

Patching and pothole repair is not enough, the road needs to be resurfaced from the other side of New Bridge through Iden and all the way out to the Peace and Plenty junction.

We have always, encouraged residents to report these situations, which they do. However, people are now beginning to question whether this system is fit for purpose when the fundamental problem of this road remains unresolved.

One of the main causes is that there are not any ditches to absorb rainwater which means that without adequate drainage this just stays on the road and at the mercy of icy weather. In short, the journey by road from the Peace and Plenty through Iden and beyond is beyond appalling, worsened by night and icy conditions when all too often the numerous potholes are invisible

We understood from Councillor Glazier that a Highways Representative had journeyed with him recently along this route to survey the conditions- was this ever reported formally to Highways? If so is a report available for us to see?

We call for the road to be scheduled for resurfacing. Councillor Glazier would no doubt support this. We would be very happy to show you the issue. If you come in your car, I would warn you to be very careful so as not to damage your car.

It provides a very poor image for those travelling into east Sussex for the first time.

We wait to hear from you.

Your Sincerely,

Chairman and Clerk to Iden Parish Council