

This report summarises the outcomes of the Parish Walkabout held on 20 October 2025 and subsequent correspondence with West Northants Highways (Kier) as of **21 January 2026**.

Report to Helmdon Parish Council: Highways Update

To: Helmdon Parish Council

From: Cllr Danny Moody, Parish Highways Representative

Date of Meeting: 28 January 2026

Subject: Summary of Parish Walkabout & Ongoing Maintenance Issues

1. Summary

Following the onsite meeting with West Northants Highways (WNH) in October, several priority issues were identified across the parish. While progress has been made on pothole repairs and road marking schedules, certain long-term drainage and resurfacing projects remain on the horizon for late 2026. This report details the status of each site and identifies specific actions required from the Parish Council.

2. Detailed Site Status & Actions

Location	Status / Update	Expected Completion
Grange Lane	Pothole repairs completed (2 Dec). Drainage investigation (CCTV survey) is pending. WNH noted the low traffic volume, though HPC has highlighted its critical use for the sewage plant and farm businesses.	Investigation within 6 months.
B4525 Chipping Dump	Double Yellow Lines (DYLs) apply to the full width, including the dump. Parking Enforcement has been notified of HGV issues. No additional signage will be installed to avoid legal invalidation of the lines.	Ongoing Enforcement.
Jubilee Wall	Topsoiling works have been undertaken following the installation of wooden posts.	Completed.
Jeffs Bridge	Faded road markings (pedestrian refuge/Safer Routes to School) are officially scheduled for repainting.	Before June 2026.

Location	Status / Update	Expected Completion
Church St/B4525 (Falcutt)	Drainage issues logged. WNH to contact the landowner regarding ditches. Grip-cutting and carriageway patching/reprofiling are programmed.	After April 2026.
Astwell to Syresham Road	Currently deemed "safe," but an ad hoc inspection is scheduled for the end of January 2026 to assess winter damage.	Inspection: Jan 2026.

3. Key Themes & Maintenance Updates

Drainage and Verge Mowing

- **Helmdon Crossroads:** A blocked drain identified during the walkabout is being monitored. Verge mowing is scheduled 2–3 times per year.
- **Action for PC:** If grass height obstructs visibility, it must be reported via FixMyStreet. WNH commits to inspecting safety-related reports within 7 days.

Speed Mitigation (20mph Sone)

- The PC has applied for **Community Speedwatch (CSW)** for 2026 to build an evidence base.
- **WNH Requirement:** The scheme must be resident-led, but HPC is expected to provide formal written support, publicise the scheme, and assist with volunteer recruitment.

Routine Inspections

- The parish is subject to routine safety inspections every six months. The next full inspection is due by **30 June 2026**.

4. Recommendations for Council Action

Based on the latest correspondence, it is recommended that the Parish Council:

1. **Formally Support Speedwatch:** Issue a written resolution of support for the Community Speedwatch group to satisfy WNH requirements (on agenda for 28/1/26).
2. **Monitor Chipping Dump:** Report persistent HGV parking violations directly to Parking Services at 0345 680 0153.
3. **Liaise with Helen Howard:** Parish Highways Rep has contacted HH re installing reflectors on the new posts.

4. **Review Grange Road Priority:** Continue to lobby WNH for higher priority on Grange Road drainage, emphasising its role in the village's flood prevention and utility infrastructure.

Note: While Kier has been responsive, the "low priority" designation for Grange Road and the late 2026 start for Falcutt drainage remain points of concern that may require further advocacy from our WNC Ward Councillors.