

Report from Ward Councillor Farmborough Annual Parish Meeting 2025

In my second year, I have continued getting to know residents from all three villages and learning more about the issues unique to each area. There is a great deal of overlap across the ward, mostly concerning traffic speed, the state of the highways and flooding/drainage. However, the breadth of issues in my inbox is incredibly varied and sometimes complex.

Farmborough has suffered from traffic safety and speed issues, and some localised flooding on more than one occasion this year. I have received messages from residents letting me know how these issues affect their daily lives.

I am in ongoing conversations with council officers to make changes and improvements similar to those in nearby villages concerning roads and safety, but these take an incredible amount of time and investment to realise.

I continue to raise the issues along the A39 regarding speed and the lack of pedestrian islands for safe crossing. I am also requesting a speed decrease along Timsbury Road and improvements to signage alerting drivers to slow down.

I am pleased to note that, alongside Ward Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall, we have secured funding in this year's budget to move closer to the vision of a phased implementation of a raised footway between Farmborough and Timsbury, a process started by my predecessor, Sally Davis, over a decade ago. This is still years away, but the route is now recognised as an important active travel route linking Farmborough to essential services.

In addition to speaking directly with officers at BathNES Council and the Police, I also report issues around the village via FixMyStreet, which mostly involve potholes, blocked drains, overhanging vegetation and missing /incorrect signage. I also encourage residents to do the same.

I have attended both the Somer Valley and Chew Valley Area Fora, as well as Parish Liaison Meetings and have raised issues of concern to residents at all of these and council meetings. In addition, I continue to contribute to conversations around the new Local Plan, reminding officers about the issues and constraints unique to Farmborough and the Rural Areas of BathNES that could impact residents. I will continue to follow the progress of the reset plan and participate in any future consultations that may affect our communities.

Please contact me with any issues or concerns, and I will do my best to help and support you and get things fixed, updated, and improved. You can notify the council directly when you find any issues via www.fix.bathnes.gov.uk or by calling Council Connect on 01225 39 40 41, but let me know so that I can also follow up on your behalf.

I aim to be as accessible to residents as possible, so I attend parish council meetings and am happy to participate in events and resident meetings if requested. I will also arrange a series of conversations around a specific topic later in the year.

In the meantime, please do get in touch.

Cllr Sam Ross

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