

# *Environmental & Utility Services*

## *The Issues*

1. Frequency of electricity power cuts and time taken to get the village back on.
2. Lack of gas supplies to certain parts of the parish.
3. Poor winter gritting throughout the parish.
4. Street lighting – yes or no?
5. Households still using septic tanks.

Having looked at a number of public and emergency services, along with utilities, mains water, gas, electricity and refuse collection all came out well with an average of 78% of respondents rating them either “good” or “reasonable”.

*“We wish bins could be collected weekly, particularly in summer”*

There were however, comments about the number of electricity power cuts that we get and the time it takes to resolve them, often resulting in Onehouse being the last place to get power back. Some people in the parish don’t have gas and a number of those would like it.

Highway maintenance (roads and pavements) and winter gritting were rated “good” or “reasonable” by around 47% but poor by 38% of residents.

*“Hedgerows should be strimmed for driving safety. Roads should be gritted in icy conditions”*

23% of residents still experience bad television reception and 57% have poor reception on mobile phones. Street lighting was rated “poor” by 48% of respondents and “good” by 23%.

*“Great to have no street lights”*

Street lighting, or the lack of it, is a very emotive, often discussed issue in the village. A lot of people like the fact that there are no street lights in the village and indeed a number of respondents mentioned the “light pollution” we get from Chilton Playing Fields. However, a significant number do want street lighting mainly because it would make them feel safe and secure.

*“Street lighting along Forest Road, Starhouse Lane and Union Road”*

Despite the close proximity to Stowmarket, all but one of the houses in the Union Road/Wash Lane area were still on septic tanks.

## *The Way Forward*

1. Make representation to the electric/gas companies to see what can be done about the problems.
2. Parish Council to contact Suffolk County Council Highways to try and get winter gritting/road maintenance improved.
3. Parish Council to survey all inhabitants re street lighting to see what is really wanted.
4. Investigate feasibility/cost of linking households onto main drainage.