

Highways Update Report - Area East

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Purpose of the Report

Being the first report for the 2016/17 financial year, I aim to give a brief report of the highway works carried out last financial year in Area East and our proposed works programme for 2016/2017.

Recommendation

That the Area East Committee notes the content of this report.

Surface Dressing

Surface Dressing is the practice of applying a bitumen tack coat to the existing road surface and then rolling in stone chippings. Whilst this practice is not the most PR friendly, it is highly effective in preserving the integrity of the road surface. This year we are Surface Dressing 50 sites across South Somerset, 19 of which are in East Area.

The Surface Dressing within South Somerset has already commenced and is due completion by the end of August.

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is a difficult task to carry out to the satisfaction of all. The highway network exceeds 3500km in length; therefore the size of the task is significant. Verge cutting of main A and B roads commenced on 16th May which will be followed by the C and D roads as indicated in the table below and then a further cut of the visibility splays on A and B roads. The second cut to the A and B roads previously carried out by Somerset County Council has again been removed on approval by The Council members.

Road Classification	Dates
A and B roads (including visibility splays)	16 May -12 June
C and unclassified roads	13 June – 14 August
A and B visibility splays only	Mid to late August dependant on rate of growth
Environmentally protected sites	Usually at the end of the growing season

Schemes proposed for 2016/2017

This year's structural maintenance budget remains similar to last year. The below table identifies significant schemes to be implemented in Area East.

Bratton Seymour	A371 Cary/Wincanton Road	Principle Resurfacing	Qtr 2
Wincanton	A371 Holbrook Roundabout	Principle Resurfacing	Qtr 3
Ilchester	Market Place/Church Street	Resurfacing	Qtr 1
Wincanton	Dancing Lane	Resurfacing	Qtr 3
Marston Magna	Rimpton Road (adj Easton Farm)	Resurfacing	Qtr 4
Alford	B3153 Cary Road/Station Road	Resurfacing	Qtr 3
Charlton Horethorne	Stowell Hill	Resurfacing	Qtr 4
Sparkford	Green Close	Footways	Qtr 2
Ansford	Ancastle Avenue/ Terrace	Footways	Qtr 4
Castle Cary	Millbrook Gardens (Phase 2)	Footways	Qtr 4
Bruton	A359 Cuckoo Hill	Drainage	Qtr 2
North Cadbury	A359 Foxcombe Farm/ Galhampton Hill	Drainage	Qtr 3
Castle Cary	Coopers Ash Lane, Cockhill	Drainage	Qtr 1
Bruton	Wyke Road, Wyke Champflower	Drainage	Qtr 4
Cucklington	Long Hill	Drainage	Qtr 2
Yeovilton	Bridgehampton Road	Drainage	Invest
Milborne Port	East Street	Drainage	Qtr 3
Ansford	A371, Ansford Hill	Earthworks	Complete

Winter Maintenance

Somerset County Council salts over 1400km (870 miles) of its roads in anticipation of frost, snow and ice. This is approximately 21% of the total road network in Somerset.

Last winter was warmer than average, being slightly wetter than normal. We carried out precautionary salting on 46 occasions on primary routes and no secondary routes. These secondary routes are only usually salted after 3 consecutive days of sub-zero temperatures.

The attendance to pick up salt bags was poor and less than previous years.

Reporting Potholes

Potholes can be reported through the SCC website; <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect>

For South Somerset the generic email address is Countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk

Should the 'defect' meet or exceed the safety intervention criteria as per the current Highway Safety Inspection Manual (HSIM) then action will be taken as per the HSIM. A copy of the HSIM may be found on the following web page; <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=97176>

If a pothole is reported and an email address provided then updates will be auto sent to that email address.