

Area North Committee – 23rd April 2008

8. Area North Highways Report

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Purpose of the report

To bring Members up to date with the structural works completed during the 2007-08 financial year and the proposed works for 2008-09.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note and comment on the report.

Report

The final quarter of 07-08 was a most challenging time with weather often dictating our action. Such reactive work had an affect on planned works which at time proved frustrating for our customers. That said, we were able to control our funds and complete all of our planned Structural Maintenance Schemes, a list of which can be seen below.

Works completed during 2007/08 financial year

Aller	A372 Ridley Hill	Resurfacing
Somerton	West Street	Resurfacing
Compton Dundon	Hayes Lane	Resurfacing (re-tread)
Martock	B3165 Water Street	Resurfacing
Puckington	B3168	Resurfacing
Long Sutton	Bineham Lane	Resurfacing (re-tread)
Barrington	Lawnmoor Lane/ Broadmead Lane	Resurfacing (re-tread)
Hambridge	New Road	Resurfacing
South Petherton	St James' Street	Resurfacing
Tintinhull	Thurlocks	Footway
Isle Brewers	Village Green	Footway
South Petherton	Summershard	Footway
South Petherton	St James' Street	Footway
Montacute	Hollow Lane	Drainage
Stoke sub Hamdon	Cole Lane	Drainage

Looking forward to the new financial year, our budgets have now been confirmed and the scheme list for resurfacing, drainage works and footways is listed below. It should be noted, however, that this scheme list could change dependent on circumstances that might arise during the financial year.

Proposed schemes for 2008/09 financial year

Montacute	Townsend	Resurfacing
Martock	Towntree Lane (part)	Re-tread
Martock	B3165, Bower Hinton	Resurfacing
Langport	Whatley Lane	Resurfacing
Chilthorne Domer	Vagg Lane/Tintinhull Road	Resurfacing
Fivehead	Stillbrook Road	Resurfacing
Stoke sub Hamdon	Montacute Road	Resurfacing
Montacute	Middle Street	Resurfacing
Shepton Beauchamp	Church Street	Resurfacing
South Petherton	Lightgate Lane	Footways
Langport	The Embankment	Footways
Tintinhull	Head Street	Drainage
Montacute	Bishopstone	Drainage
Lopen	Lopen Lane	Drainage

Surface dressing has been programmed to start on 21st April and hopefully be completed by 7th July. You will appreciate that the process is very weather dependent but a certain amount of slack has been built into the 600,000m² District based programme in order that the contract is completed on time.

Planned patching will be carried out as before with a significant percentage of the programme completed before the onset of the winter months.

As with previous years, routine maintenance will continue with grass cutting starting in May for twelve weeks. The sequence of cutting will be:

- All A & B roads, including visibilities – three weeks
- Special sites such as routes to schools with no footways – one week
- All C & D roads including visibilities – eight weeks
- A second cut of A & B roads will follow

Weed killing will commence within the next month and is expected to take six to seven weeks to complete. Sites will be confined to kerb lengths and back of footways in all rural areas and the small urban villages. Members will be aware that the function is now shared with SSDC who will be concentrating their efforts on the larger towns and villages within the confines of speed limits. Where necessary there will be a second treatment.

Gully cleaning will continue throughout the year and Members will be aware of the frequency, namely yearly for all rural locations and eighteen monthly within the larger urban settlements of Yeovil, Chard, Wincanton etc. A summary of the questions raised regarding gully clearing at Area North Committee in March 2008 is attached at Appendix A to this report.

Minor maintenance schemes will also continue throughout the year together with repairs generated by inspections carried out by a team of dedicated Safety Inspectors based in Taunton. Because of the repair response time associated with the safety inspection, it is not always possible to accurately programme the minor maintenance work.

It is also worth noting that from the 1st April, the way in which we deliver the service has changed. We, as Somerset County Council, have brought back certain services from our Service Provider in the hope of improving efficiency and control. Whilst this will have an impact on all aspects of highway delivery, locally it will mean a reduction in the

number of Technicians looking after an area, but with a reduction in the size of each area. This will result in one Technician being responsible for his/her own patch, something I truly believe is a positive step. Time will tell.

Kim Sharp
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South Somerset Area
