

Joint Area Committee - North - 27 May 2009

9. Area North Somerset Highways Report

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Purpose of the Report

To bring the Joint Area Committee North up to date with the works completed during the 2008-09 financial year and the proposed works for 2009-10.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note and comment on the report.

Report

Being the final report for the last financial year I aim to give a brief overview of works carried out in Area North, and also our expectations for the current year.

As ever budgets were largely influential in determining the extent of structural maintenance works undertaken in the year (08-09). Our resurfacing works in Area North alone cost in the region of £950,000 with successful schemes being completed at:

- A37 Ilchester Road, Chilthorne Domer
- Town Tree Lane, Martock
- B3165 Bower Hinton
- Whatley Lane, Langport
- Vagg Hill/Tintinhull Road, Chilthorne Domer
- Stillbrook Road, Fivehead
- Montacute Road, Stoke sub Hamdon
- Middle Street, Montacute

Each individual resurfacing site underwent a full drainage survey prior to the laying of the new material. Any defects identified by the survey were repaired before the new surface was laid. The material itself was individually designed for the needs of the site with variations in depth, stone content, skid resistance and durability considered and chosen to achieve the optimum road surface.

Structural Maintenance improvement works resulted in drainage and footway works being completed in:

- Lightgate Lane, South Petherton - Footway works
- Highwoods Close, Norton sub Hamdon – Footway works
- Thurlocks, Tintinhull – Footway works
- Head Street, Tintinhull – Drainage works

Further to the structural maintenance schedule we carried out routine maintenance work, which included minor infrastructure improvements that were restricted to costs of less than £3,000. These included works such as the provision of individual gullies and small piping works, minor kerbing and footway works, carriageway patching and such like. As

ever, demands on this budget were high with the inevitable demand exceeding resources.

As members will be aware, bar autumn, each season brings a routine maintenance task whether its grass cutting in spring, surface dressing in the summer, or gritting in the winter. As I'm sure you can appreciate with the severe winter encountered, demands on the Winter Maintenance budget were exceptional. In recent years we have averaged forty six treatments during the winter months (a treatment is a salt run). Last year we undertook over one hundred treatments. The problems that this brought including the provision of salt has been well documented although I am extremely proud of how our workforce worked during these difficult times and the service that they provided. We often had gangs working the maximum number of hours permitted, around the clock, across the region, undertaking very difficult work to the highest standard.

With regard to the new financial year our budgets have now been confirmed. The following resurfacing, footway and drainage schemes are proposed, albeit this list is not definitive and can change dependent on circumstances that could arise during the year.

Resurfacing 2009/10

Parish	Road
Aller	A372 High Street
Huish Episcopi	A372 Wearne junc. To Combe junc.
Stoke sub Hamdon	North Street
High Ham	Wishel Corner
Chilthorne Domer	Oakley Lane
Kingsbury Episcopi	Burrow Farm Lane
Hambridge	B3168, Westport Road
Somerton	B3151 Rocky Hill
South Petherton	Silver Street
South Petherton	Lightgate Road

Footways

Parish	Road
Stoke sub Hamdon	Montacute Road – Stanchester School
Somerton	King Ina Road
Somerton	Water Lane
Langport	The Embankment
Curry Rivel	Dyers Close

Drainage

Parish	Road
Langport	A372 White Hill
Martock	Stoke Road

As ever, I am happy to invite suggestions from the members with regard to how we may be able to improve our service and welcome any comments regarding both good and bad practice in the hope that I can influence future works.