

Joint Area Committee North – 28 October 2009

## 8. Area North Half Yearly Report from the Highway Authority

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### Purpose of the Report

The Report is to inform members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority during the first half of this financial year and the remaining proposed work programme for the year.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the Report.

### Report

We are now halfway through the financial year. The first half is often a very busy one with money becoming available to carry out the inevitable backlog that occurs when resources run out during the previous year. However, we did manage our 2008-2009 budget well, which has left us in good stead for this year although we are still struggling with drainage and patching issues resulting from the floods of December and February.

The three major routine seasonal functions carried out to date are surface dressing, grass cutting and weed killing. Surface dressing is the practice of applying a bitumen tack coat to the existing road surface and rolling in stone chippings. Whilst this practice is not the most PR friendly, when carried out correctly it is highly effective and can bring significant improvements to the highway infrastructure. We have dressed over 600,000m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway across Area North this year, the quality of which has been first class.

Grass cutting as ever is a difficult task to carry out to the satisfaction of all. As you can appreciate, our works are largely governed by resource. With a highway network exceeding 3500km in length, the size of the task is significant. The County Council therefore has a policy and procedure in place to ensure the work is carried out in the most safe, effective and economic way. In a world of ever increasing risk assessment and claim/liability scenarios, the policy must take into account the range of road classifications across the network and prioritises them accordingly. The programme commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> May with A and B roads being cut within three weeks. This was then followed by special sites (accident history sites, restricted visibility sites) being completed within a week, then C roads for four weeks, D roads for four weeks and finally, the A and B roads receive a second cut. The programme was completed on time on the 17<sup>th</sup> August.

Members will be aware that the weed killing function is shared between District and County. The operation has gone well this year with very little adverse comment.

Most of the structural maintenance schemes for this year have been completed and are listed below:

### Structural Schemes Completed 2009

Aller	A372 High Street	Resurfacing
Huish Episcopi	A372 Wearne junc. To Combe junc.	Resurfacing
Stoke sub Hamdon	North Street	Resurfacing
High Ham	Wishel Corner	Resurfacing
Chilthorne Domer	Oakley Lane	Resurfacing
Kingsbury Episcopi	Burrow Farm Lane	Resurfacing
Hambridge	B3168, Westport Road	Resurfacing
South Petherton	Silver Street	Resurfacing
South Petherton	Lightgate Road	Resurfacing
Stoke sub Hamdon	Montacute Road – Stanchester School	Footways
Langport	The Embankment	Footways
Curry Rivel	Dyers Close	Footways
Yeovil Without	Combe Street Lane	Drainage
Langport	A372 White Hill	Drainage
Ashill	Park Barn Lane	Drainage
Martock	Stoke Road	Drainage

As it currently stands, the schemes still to be carried out are listed below:

### Outstanding Schemes 2006

Somerton	King Ina Road	Footways
Somerton	Water Lane	Footways

Finally, we are now only a few months away from the onslaught of winter and all the ice, snow and rain that comes with it. Our salt is being delivered and ploughing routes revisited following the challenges of last year. Our ditching programme has just commenced. As ever, new problems will become apparent, but we shall endeavour to overcome them in the best possible way.

Kim Sharp  
Assistant Highway Service Manager

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