

8. Highway Authority End of Year Report – Area North

Lead Officer: Neil McWilliams, Assistant Highway Service Manager
Contact Details: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk or 0845 345 9155

Purpose of the Report

The report is to inform members of the works completed during the 2009-10 financial year and the proposed works for 2010-11. Neil McWilliams is the newly appointed Assistant Highway Service Manager for the South Somerset Area Highway Office and has replaced Kim Sharp.

Public Interest

The Highways Authority give update reports to the Area Committee twice a year to inform on the works completed and proposed works in the area. This can include resurfacing, structural maintenance, footway works and drainage works. This is an opportunity for councillors to discuss any areas of concern regarding highways (roads and footways) in Area North.

Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report.

Report

Being the end of year report for year 2009-2010 I aim to give a brief overview of works carried out in Area North, and also our expectations for the current year.

This winter has been the worst winter for thirty years. Problems have again arisen nationwide over the supply of sufficient salt throughout the winter period which resulted in the government controlling the supply of salt. In Somerset we managed to maintain our winter gritting service which in recent years has averaged 46 treatments (a treatment is a salt run). Last year we undertook 116 treatments. Our workforce has performed well during these difficult times. We have often had gangs working the maximum number of hours permitted, around the clock, across the region, undertaking very difficult work to the highest standard.

Following on from this harsh winter, many roads are now suffering from numerous potholes. The last two months have been very challenging with about 500 potholes being repaired each week in South Somerset alone. The number of gangs repairing potholes has increased from normal levels of 8 to 26 county-wide to provide this service.

On the 1 April 2010 we started another chapter in the relationship between Somerset County Council and Atkins. They have been awarded the new Highway Works Contract for the next five years. This has been a long and rigorous process through which Atkins (against tough competition) proved themselves to be the best contractor to provide highway services in Somerset.

As ever budgets have been largely influential in determining the extent of structural maintenance works undertaken in the year 2009-10. Resurfacing works in Area North alone cost in the region of £265,000 with successful schemes being completed at:

- A372 Aller Road/High Street, Aller
- A372 Wearne junction to Combe Junction
- North Street, Stoke Sub Hamdon
- Henley Road, High Ham
- Oakley Lane, Chilthorne Domer
- Burrow Farm Lane, Kingsbury Episcopi
- B3168 Westport Road, Hambridge

Each individual resurfacing site undergoes a full drainage survey prior to the laying of the new material. Any defects identified by the survey are repaired before the new surface is laid. The material itself is 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 have resulted in footway works being completed in.

- Montacute Road, Stoke Sub Hamdon
- King Ina Road, Somerton
- Water Lane, Somerton
- The Embankment, Langport
- Dyers Close, Curry Rivel

Structural Maintenance improvement works have resulted in drainage works being completed in.

- A372 White Hill. Huish Episcopi
- Stoke Road, Martock

In total our structural maintenance expenditure has been in the region of £160,000.

Further to our structural maintenance schedule we have our routine maintenance work, which includes minor infrastructure improvements that are restricted to costs of less than £3,000. These include 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 are high and at this time of year demands can exceed resources.

For 2010-11

Looking forward to schemes likely to be considered in the current financial year, indicated below are the resurfacing, footway and drainage schemes for Area North.

Surfacing:

- A372 Beer Road
- A378 Townsend / High Street, Curry Rivel
- The Hill, Langport
- Moorlands Park and Elmleigh Road, Martock
- Mucheleny Road, Huish Episcopi
- Rocky Hill, Ashen Cross to Lodge Hill and Broad Street/North Street, Somerton
- Nythe Road, High Ham
- Martock Road, Long Sutton

Footway:

- The Millands, Somerton
- Ashfield Park, Martock

Drainage :

- Lower Burrow Road, Kingsbury Episcopi
- Higher Street, Curry Mallet
- Cross Lane and Langport Road, Long Sutton Road
- Pye Corner, Somerton

As ever, I am happy to invite suggestions from members with regard to how we can improve our service and would welcome any comments on the scheme list provided.

Neil McWilliams

Assistant Highway Service Manager (South Somerset Area)
