

Area North Committee – 22 June 2011

8. Highway Authority Report – Area North

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

Purpose of Report

This report is intended to give a brief overview of what Somerset County Highways services have achieved during last financial year and their expectations for 2011/12.

Public Interest

The report is to inform members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority during the last financial year and the proposed work programmed for the current financial year.

Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report.

Report

Another hard winter has challenged our ability to keep the roads free from ice and snow. The period during November and December was particularly cold which resulted in 116 treatments and the use of 10500 tonnes of salt. Our workforce has again performed well during these difficult times. We had gangs working double shifts around the clock across the region whilst undertaking this very difficult work.

Many Parish and Town Councils have taken the opportunity to purchase grit bins which we filled, free of charge, at the start of winter. We also provided each Parish Council with 10 salt bags to be used within the parish to help keep the network running.

As ever budgets have been largely influential in determining the extent of structural maintenance works undertaken. Schemes completed during the previous financial year (2010/2011) were,

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

Structural Maintenance improvement works have resulted in footway works being completed at.

- Somerton, The Millands
- Martock, Ashfield Park.

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

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

- Somerton, Pye Corner.

Moving on to this financial year (2011/12), some budgets have been cut. These are mainly in our revenue budget which unfortunately has affected our ability to cut verges, empty gullies, kill weeds and clean drains. In broad terms we can now only cut verges on main roads once a year, empty gullies every two years, kill noxious weeds including ragwort and clear drains where there are flooding risks to properties.

On a brighter note, our capital budget is roughly set at the same level as in previous years. This has been enhanced by an additional £5m from the government to target pothole repair in Somerset.

Looking forward, outlined below are the carriageway resurfacing, footway and surface water drainage schemes, to be implemented during the current financial year.

Surfacing

Curry Rivel - School Street
Martock - Stoke Road
Tintinhull -Head Street
Martock - Ashfield Park

Footway

Huish Episcopi - Portland Road
Stoke Sub Hamdon - Hamdon Close
Martock - Long Load Road;
Martock - Ashfield Park (phase 2)
Ilton - Penny's Meade and King Lear

Drainage

Tintinhull - Queen Street;
Chilthorne Domer - Vagg Hollow.

Neil McWilliams, Assistant Highway Service Manager, South Somerset Area Highway Office
