



AREA WEST COMMITTEE

MAY 2010

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Should members have questions regarding any of the items please contact the officer shown underneath the relevant report. If, after discussing the item with the officer and it is felt appropriate, a member may request an item to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

Highways Maintenance Programme

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This report is for information only.

Being the final report for this financial year I aim to give a brief overview of works carried out in Area West this year and our expectations for next 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 forty six treatments (a treatment is a salt run). This year we have already undertaken one hundred and sixteen 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 1st April 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 this year (09-10). Our resurfacing works in Area West alone cost in the region of £984,000 with successful schemes being completed at:-

A356 Middle Street, Misterton
A30 East Street and Church Street, Crewkerne
A358 Furnham Road, Chard
Station Road, Tatworth
Bonfire Close and Halcombe, Chard
Lang Road and Rose Lane, Crewkerne
Listers Hill and Old A303, Ilminster
Silver Street, Misterton
Bakersfield, Winsham

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 Forton Road and Touches Meadow, Chard and Church Street, Merriott. In total our structural maintenance expenditure has been in the region of £38,000. Drainage works have also been completed at Street Ash, Tatworth; Crewkerne Road, Chard and Chinnock Hollow, East Chinnock at a value of £47,000.

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.

Looking forward to schemes likely to be considered in the new financial year, I have indicated below the resurfacing, footway and drainage schemes for West Area.

Surfacing –

A358 Old Town/Silver Street, Chard.
A358 Southfields/Horton Cross, Horton.
A30 Windwhistle, Cricket St Thomas.
Silver Street, Ilminster.
Chard Lane, Dowlish Wake.

Footway reconstruction –

Silver Street, Ilminster.
Easthams Road, Crewkerne.
St. Mary's Close and Rack Close Park, Chard.

Drainage –

Hollowell Hill, West Chinnock.
North Street, Chiselborough.
Whatley Lane, Winsham.
Cross Tree Lane, Cudworth.

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.