



**AREA WEST COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 2012**

**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

*Lead Officer: Mike Fear, Assistant Highway Service Manager, South Somerset Area Highway Office - Somerset County Council*

*Contact Details: mgfear@somerset.gov.uk or 0845 3459155*

### Purpose of the Report

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

### Report

The two major routine seasonal functions carried out to date are surface dressing and grass cutting. 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.

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 procedures are 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 16th May with A and B roads being cut within four weeks. C and D roads were attended to for 7 weeks. Finally the second cut on the A and B network was undertaken. The programme was largely completed by September.

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

### Structural Schemes Completed 2011/12

Cricket St Thomas	A30/B3167	C/way Resurfacing
Chard	Crowshute Link	C/way Resurfacing
Chard	A358 Forton Road	C/way Resurfacing
Crewkerne	A30 West Street	C/way Resurfacing
Combe St Nicholas	The Lawns	C/way Resurfacing
Chard	Chesterfield	Footway
Chard	Crimchard/Combe Street	Footway
Chard	Church Street	Footway
Chard	Morangis Way	Drainage
Tatworth & Forton	Bounds Lane	Earthworks
Crewkerne	Lyme Road	Footway
Merriott	Newchester Cross	Footway

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

### **Outstanding Structural Schemes 2011/12**

Chard	Henson Park	Footway
Chard	St Mary's Close	Deferred Scheme
Wambrook	Crawley Cutting	Drainage
Crewkerne	South Street	C/way Resurfacing

### **Department for Transport Winter Damage Funding 2011/2012**

Somerset County Council was successful in its bid to the Department for Transport for additional funds to undertake extensive carriageway resurfacing works. Funds have been provided to target areas of the highway network that have deteriorated as a result of the harsh winter. Completed schemes include;

Chard	Glanville Avenue	C/way Resurfacing
Combe St Nicholas	Stoopers Hill	C/way Resurfacing
Crewkerne	Blacknell Lane	C/way Resurfacing
Crewkerne	Market Square	C/way Resurfacing
Chard	Bondfield Way	C/way Resurfacing

### **Winter Maintenance**

The preparation for this year's winter maintenance programme has now started. Our salt supply for the upcoming season has been delivered to the depot. Ploughing routes have been revisited following the challenges of last year.

Local parishes had been invited to collect their allocation of grit bags. Whilst many took up this offer, several parishes have chosen not to.

If grit bins are being considered at new locations, can the members please confirm these positions as soon as possible as the filling of bins has now commenced. It may also be beneficial to confirm previous locations to ensure that these areas are not missed.