

Area West Committee – 20th November 2013

7. County Highway Authority Report

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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.

Recommendation

That members note the report.

Report

Surface Dressing

The weather this year has allowed a productive season of Surface Dressing and early indication is that the treatment has been successful. It was envisaged that the failed sites from 2012 would receive remedial works during this season's program but this has not been achievable, therefore the remedial works will be prioritised within the 2014 Surface Dressing season.

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 cost saving improvements to the highway infrastructure.

Verge Cutting

Grass cutting is carried out between the months of May and September on a network exceeding 3500km in length.

The County Council policy and procedures in place are 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.

We were able to carry out 2 cuts on A and B roads together with one cut on C and D class roads this year. The complexity of judging when to commence grass cutting, to achieve the most benefit, always proves difficult. Flexibility in this maintenance type meant that the programme of cutting was started later than normal and proved to be successful.

Winter Maintenance

The preparation for this year's winter maintenance programme has commenced and the salt supply for the upcoming season has been delivered to the depot.

Local parishes will again be invited to collect their allocation of ten 20kg grit bags.

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

Structural Schemes Completed 2013/14 (Area West)

Combe St Nicholas	Combe Hill	Resurfacing
Chard	Victoria Avenue	Resurfacing
Chard	Coronation Street/Summerfeilds	Footways
Chard	St Mary's Close	Footways
Combe St Nicholas	Street Ash	Drainage
Combe St Nicholas	Cuttifords Door	Drainage
Whitestaunton	Howley Road	Drainage
Haselbury Plucknett	Claycastle	Drainage

Outstanding Structural Schemes 2013/14 (Area West)

Tatworth and Forton	Wellings Close	Footways
Chard	Touchstone Lane	Footways
Broadway	Broadway Street	Drainage

DfT funding 2013/2014

As stated in the April 2013 report, Somerset County Council received additional funds from the Department for Transport to undertake highway maintenance 2013-2015. In order to achieve the aims and conditions of the grant to improve the highway network and to reduce congestion SCC proposed that the grant be used to address the following two issues:

- Deterioration of the highway carriageway surface resulting in pothole formation.
- Damage caused to the highway by flooding events.

Schemes include (Area West);

Chaffcombe	Chaffcombe Gate	Drainage
West Crewkerne	Dunsham Lane	Drainage
Chillington	Hebers/Fisherway Lane	Drainage/Resurfacing
Misterton	Knowle Lane	Resurfacing

Background Papers: None.
