

County Highway Report to Area West Committee

Lead Officer: Mike Fear, Assistant Highway Service Manager, Somerset County Council.
Contact Details: Tel: 0845 345 9155

Purpose of the Report

The report is to inform members of the work carried out by the County Highway Authority at the halfway stage through the financial year and what schemes are remaining on the work programme for the rest of the year.

Recommendation

That members note the report.

Report

Verge Cutting

Grass cutting this year has been difficult due to the rapid growth of vegetation and 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 that 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.

We were only able to do one cut on Class C and D this year, however we were able to do two cuts to Class A and B roads. The programme was largely completed by the end of September.

Surface Dressing

Weather this year has been fairly kind to our surface dressing program. It commenced in June and was completed through various phases by the end of August. After this time the road temperature is too unpredictable to ensure there are no surface failures.

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.

Schemes proposed for 2017/2018

This year's structural maintenance budget is slightly lower than last year. The below table identifies significant schemes planned to be implemented in South Somerset and schemes proposed in Area West are highlighted;

Chard	A358 Furnham Road	Surfacing	Completed
Cudworth	Cudworth Street / Knights Lane	Surfacing	Feb. 2018
West Crewkerne	Higher Farm Lane, Woolminstone	Surfacing	Completed
West Crewkerne	Dunsham Lane	Surfacing	Completed
Broadway / Horton Crewkerne	St Peters Close Southmead Crescent	Footways Footways	Completed Feb. 2018

Tatworth	Station Road	Drainage	Completed
Chaffcombe	Kingston Well Lane	Drainage	TBC
Cudworth	Cudworth Street	Drainage	Nov. 2017

Winter maintenance

The preparation for this year's winter maintenance programme has now started with effect from 1st October. Our salt supply for the upcoming season has been delivered to the depot. Somerset County Council salts over 1400km (870 miles) of its roads in anticipation of frost, snow and ice. This is approximately 21% of the total road network in Somerset.

Parish Councils will soon be contacted by SCC for clarification on which grit bins to refill. If grit bins are being considered at new locations, can the members please confirm these positions and it will also help if Parishes confirm previous locations, to ensure that any bins requiring refilling are not missed. In addition, Parishes will again be invited to collect their allocation of ten 20kg git bags on 25th November 09:00-13:00.

Background papers: None
