

County Highway Authority Report – Area North

Lead Officer: Chris Weeks, Assistant Highway Service Manager, SCC
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(Please note: A representative from SCC Highways will not be present at the meeting.)

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 2015/2016.

Recommendation

That members note the report.

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 temperatures are too unpredictable to ensure there are no surface failures. Patching work has already been completed for next year's surface dressing program which mainly concentrates on Class A and B roads.

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.

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 all roads this year, with a later visibility cut to Class A and B road junctions only. The programme was largely completed by the end of September.

Structural Schemes Completed 2015/2016 (up to 30 October 2015)

The table below identifies significant schemes that have been completed in Area North.

Lopen	Lopen Head Roundabout	Resurfacing	Completed
Somerton	Somertonfield Road	Resurfacing	Completed
Huish Episcopi	Picts Hill	Resurfacing	Completed
Somerton	Walnut Drive	Footways	Completed
Tintinhull	St Margarets Road & Head Street	Footways	
Muchelney	Thorney Road	Drainage	Completed

Curry Rivel	Parsonage Place	Drainage	Completed
Pitney	Stowey Road	Drainage	Completed
Fivehead	Ganges Hill	Drainage	Completed
Huish Episcopi	Meadow Close	Drainage	Deferred due to other works in the area and subsequent disruption on the highway network. This will be considered again in the coming financial year.
Curry Rivel	St Andrews Close	Drainage	Completed
Shepton Beauchamp	Lambrook Road	Drainage	Completed
Kingsbury Episcopi	East Lambrook Road (upgrade outfall)	Drainage	Completed
Long Sutton	Shute Lane	Earthworks	On hold - Small earthworks scheme that had a lower priority than some other schemes and was subsequently put on hold until funding available. This is still on the radar but will sit as a lower priority to some other schemes.

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. 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.

Local parishes were again invited to collect their allocation of ten 20kg grit bags on 21st November. This remains available by appointment only. 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 will soon commence. It may also be beneficial to confirm previous locations to ensure that these areas are not missed.

Chris Weeks

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Please note amended call centre contact number

Tel: 0300 123 2224

Problems on the roads can also be reported via the website:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/>