



<u>Committee and Date</u> Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee  9 September 2009
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<u>Item/Paper</u>  <b>9</b> Public
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## HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

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### Introduction

The Highway Maintenance service of Shropshire Council is delivered mainly through five local (divisional) offices, two of which are within the North area (in Hodnet and Whittington). The Hodnet office delivers the highway maintenance service for the Whitchurch and Prees Area.

The funding for highway maintenance comes from a combination of central government allocation and local revenue. Once the Council has decided upon an appropriate level of funding for highway maintenance, a prioritisation process takes place and an allocation is then made to the local offices for different types of work to be carried out.

The prioritisation process is also known as “needs-based budgeting” which takes into account the condition of the highway network, thereby aiming to spend the funding in the most cost effective way.

The most common method of repairing worn surfaces is by “patching and surface dressing”. The patching work involves cutting out areas of damaged surfacing and replacing this with new material. At a later date the whole surface is treated by spraying it with a bitumen emulsion and then covering this with one or two layers of stone chippings. This extremely cost-effective, and allows us to preserve the structure of the road.

Conventional resurfacing is also carried out where funding allows, but this tends to be reserved for badly failed, high-usage roads.

In addition to road surface renewal, the local team carry out drainage investigation/repair and numerous routine operations such as pot hole repairs, verge grass cutting, snow clearing/gritting and responding to emergencies.

## Programme

The published Local Highway Maintenance Plan for the North of Shropshire details works intended to be carried out in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The following schemes were programmed to be carried out in 2009/10: -

- A525 Prees Roundabout
- A 525 Industrial Estate Roundabout
- A525 Nantwich Road (Cateralls Lane to Foxes Lane)
- B5476 Tilstock
- Diglake, Tilstock
- Wrexham Road
- Shakespeare Way
- Alkington Gardens
- Fauls Road, Darliston

The following schemes have been identified for 2010/11 (although it should be noted that priorities and budgets can change over two years): -

- A 525 Nantwich Road (Foxes to Church Lane)
- C2072 Church Lane Ash to A525
- George Street, Whitchurch
- Black Park Road
- Windsor Lane, Alkington
- Brown Moss
- Green Lane, Prees

Of the 5,200 km of highway network in Shropshire, 1,800 km is within the North Area. In 2009/10 the highway maintenance budget (in £'000s) for the North is: -

<b>Structural Maintenance</b>	<b>Principal Roads</b>	<b>Non-Principal Roads</b>
Carriageway Renewal	460.0	80.0
Surface Treatment	250.0	678.0
Patching	170.0	840.0
Drainage	68.0	320.0
Kerbs and Footways	65.0	323.7
Barriers	28.0	35.0
North Area Total	1041.0	2276.7

Specifically, in the Whitchurch, Prees and surrounding area, the issues raised at the Local Joint Committee meeting of 29 June were: -

### Resurfacing of the Fauls to Darliston Road

This road was surface dressed on 8th May 2009 at a cost of £20,000. Comments have been received that the riding quality has not improved since this work was

done, but it should be explained that surface dressing is designed to seal the surface and prolong the life of the road. It is not a treatment that will improve riding quality.

#### Roads around Adderley

Last year the A529 road through Adderley village was surface dressed on 28th May 2008 at a cost of £15,000, and Rectory Lane, Adderley was resurfaced on 7th November 2008 at a cost of £23,000. This year the road towards Norton-in-Hales from the Adderley 30 mph sign to Rooms Farm is programmed to be patched in August and surface dressed in 2010. Adderley Parish Council has requested that Green Bank is resurfaced and this is currently in our provisional programme for 2012/13.

#### Roads around Brown Moss

A section of Brown Moss, Whitchurch is currently included in our provisional resurfacing programme for 2011/12. This road is continually breaking up and having to be potholed. The pothole repairs have been carried out by both the Roadmaster machine, and by two-men potholing gangs. Comments have been received that the pothole repairs are not an effective means of repairing the road, and that the temporary repairs are not lasting. Certainly over this last winter the success of potholing repairs has varied due to the excessively cold weather. However, budget constraints mean that we can only carry out potholing repairs on this road at the present time.

#### A41 Longford and Longslow Roads

The Chairman of Moreton Saye Parish Council's view is that some of the worst roads in that parish are not being dealt with in preference to roads which appear to have deteriorated less. It has been pointed out that that our objective is to give the most cost-effective treatment to as many roads as possible at the earliest opportunity available. Currently the road through Longslow from the A53 Market Drayton bypass to Styche Hall, and the road from Longford to Moreton Saye, are programmed to be patched in August this year and surface dressed in May 2010. The roads from the A41 to Moreton Saye, and the road from Longford to Longslow, both of which the Chairman is very concerned about, are due to be patched next year and surface dressed in 2011/12.

#### B5476 through Tilstock village

This road was surface dressed on 8th May 2009 by our term maintenance contractor, Enterprise plc at a cost of £8,000. Unfortunately, the dressing failed almost immediately, and investigations revealed that the chippings used were not in accordance with agreed specifications. We have therefore instructed Enterprise plc. to remove the failed dressing and replace it with a new surface dressing which does conform to specification. The new dressing will be applied within the next few weeks, and all the remedial work is being done entirely at Enterprise's expense. Shropshire Council have paid only for the cost of one dressing, i.e., £8,000.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

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**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998.

**Environmental Appraisal**

All proposed works are within the confines of the existing highway network and will have negligible environmental impact.

**Risk Management Appraisal**

The schemes detailed are carried out under the Council's statutory duty.

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

The proposals are driven by national road condition standards and local feedback. They are communicated to the public via the Local Highway Maintenance Plan.

**Cabinet Member:**

Councillor David Roberts

**Local Member**

Cllrs T Biggins, G Dakin, P Mullock and P Wynn

**Appendix**

None