
**Meeting of the Executive Member for
Neighbourhood Services and Advisory Panel**

18 March 2009

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

**PETITION FROM STRENSALL AND TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
REQUESTING THE RE-SURFACING OF FOUR ROADS, DRAINAGE
AND ROADMARKING WORKS**

Summary

1. This report is in response to a petition submitted by the Strensall and Towthorpe Parish council dated 16 July 2008 and signed by 180 residents of the area.
2. The petition expresses concern about the road surfaces of West End, Southfields Road, Princess Road and The Village, the inability of road gullies to deal with surface water during heavy rainfall and the lack of edge marking along Flaxton Road.
3. A copy of the petition is attached as Annex 1 and location plans of the four roads are attached as Annexes 2 to 5.

Background

4. Members will be aware that officers undertake a variety of highway condition inspections, including an annual inspection of all the roads, footways and back lanes within the Council's area.
5. These inspections, together with all the safety inspection reports and other Council inspection records are used as a database which shows the general condition of the Council's highway network.
6. All the roads, footways and back lanes determined to be in a poor condition from these inspection reports are subsequently reassessed to prioritise our planned programmes of work for the forthcoming financial year.
7. All the Council's gullies are cleaned once per year [in line with the recommendation in the Department for Transport's Code of Practice]. Gullies in the city centre and on the classified road network together with areas where there are a large number of trees [private and highway trees] receive a second clean.
8. Road gullies, in York Road are cleaned once per year by a quality assured contractor, and following an inspection of them I can confirm they are all working satisfactorily.

9. The current practice for edge markings is to put them on rural roads where there are hazards such as bends. They are not normally placed on straight sections of road.
10. When preparing our programmes for resurfacing and reconstruction priority is given to maintenance of public transport routes and well used footways

Consultation

11. As this report is to advise the Advisory Panel of the receipt of the petition no external consultation has taken place. The Ward members have been appraised of the Advisory Panel meeting and are fully supportive of the views of the residents.

Options

12. Option 1 - Members may ask officers to carry out a resurfacing/reconstruction scheme[s] from within our approved Advanced Design programme of works for 2009/10 (EMAP for City Strategy, 8th December 2008) which would require removing one or more of the schemes, of equivalent value, from the approved programme.
13. Option 2 - Members may note and agree that officers arrange to make safe any defects that breach the Council's intervention levels, monitor the condition of the roads and assess them, along with all the other highways on the provisional list, for a possible inclusion in a future years resurfacing and reconstruction [R&R] programme. Additionally note and approve the current practice of only placing white road edge markings on hazardous sections of roads and that the road drainage system is working satisfactorily in York Road, Strensall, during normal rainfall conditions.

Analysis

14. Members should be aware that each scheme has been reassessed on a needs and priority basis and as such Option 1 is not recommended for approval.
15. Members should be aware that an Advanced Design programme of highway works for 2009/10 was approved by EMAP for City Strategy on 8th December 2008 and this included both the resurfacing of West End and Southfields Road. Whilst the section of The Village, between Brecks Lane and Sheriff Hutton Road was reassessed for a possible inclusion in this programme it did not score high enough to be included. The annual condition survey for 2008 determined the carriageway in Princess Road to be in an average condition and as such was not reassessed.

Corporate Priorities

16. Should members approve any or all of the re-surfacing schemes this would link in to the Council's Corporate Strategy (2007-2011) Priority for Improvement Statement.

- No.3 “increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport”.
- No.4 “Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city’s streets, housing estates and publicly accessible areas” and
- No.8 “Improvement of the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest”.

Implications

Financial

17. The cost of any repairs and any future resurfacing will be funded from within existing revenue/capital maintenance budgets.

Legal

18. The City of York Council in its capacity as the local highway authority, has a duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the public highway network.

Crime and Disorder

19. There are no crime and disorder implications

Human Resources (HR)

20. There are no human resources implications.

Equalities

21. There are no equalities implications.

Information Technology (IT)

22. There are no IT implications.

Property

23. There are no Property implications.

Other

24. There are no other implications.

Risk Management

25. In compliance with the Council’s risk management strategy, the main risks that have been identified in this report are risks arising from hazards to assets and people [physical], those which could lead to financial loss [financial and reputation] and non compliance with legislation [legal and regulatory]

Recommendations

26. That the Advisory Panel advises the Executive Member to approve Option 2

Reason: To ensure works are carried out on a needs and worst first basis and ensure that highway maintenance budgets are expended in the most cost effective way, based on the councils priorities

27. The lead petitioner be notified of the decision of the Advisory Panel

Contact Details

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Report Approved Date 17/2/2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

There are no specialist implications.

Wards Affected: Strensall

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

EMAP for City Strategy – 8th December 2008

Annexes

Annex 1 – Petition
Annex 2 – Plan of West End
Annex 3 – Plan of Southfields Road
Annex 4 – Plan of The Village
Annex 5 – Plan of Princess Road