

**Members to NOTE the report**

Resident emailed in on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with a complaint regarding the road on the Fiddle, that for some time the road on the houses side just past 64a, towards common hill, has been sinking. Noticed this morning the road on the field side in same location is also sinking. Who should I report this to?

CTC responded and sent on the issue to the WC Area Highways Engineer who responded with the email as shown:

**From:** Area Highways Engineer

**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 3:19:35 PM **To:** resident **Cc:** CTC; Northern Highways <

**Subject:** The Fiddle, Cricklade.

I have been asked to respond to your E-mail of 5th September 2024 to the Cricklade Town Council, expressing your concerns over the condition of the carriageway surface on The Fiddle, Cricklade.

I can advise you that the Divisional Highways Office endeavours to keep the roads in a safe as condition as possible with the funding available for local highway maintenance. Which is why the Highways Inspection Manual is used as the baseline for staff to compare reported issues with.

In Wiltshire we have a large backlog of Highway Repairs which dates back many years with a restrictive budget. Although recent investment has seen an improvement in the overall condition of the County's road network it has not yet been possible to improve the whole of the network to the standard we may wish.

Road Surfaces in Great Britain are susceptible to the varied weather conditions we are subjected too. With the very warm summer leaving problems with shrinkage of the foundations of the carriageway, to the frosts freezing surface water which leads to cracking of the surfacing layers of the carriageway we are currently dealing with multiple defects across the network.

The Government is well aware of the problems local authorities were having following the varied weather conditions over recent years and had released funding allocations to try and address these situations. Currently, Wiltshire Council it is looking forward and compiling annual programmes of work for locations across the county.

Our highway network is inspected to the frequencies stated in the Highways Inspection Manual, surface defects are maintained to those criteria set out in the manual. As a consequence, local area staff do undertake any minor temporary repairs required by filling potholes with preparatory cold lay material in compliance with that Inspection Manual.

With respect to the general surface condition of highways across Wiltshire; we have to be realistic about what can be achieved, there are many areas of the highway network that are in a much worst condition. It is likely that many of these problems will be addressed but it is difficult to give time scales because of the scale of the task and the available resources.

With the resources available it is of course necessary to set priorities, taking into account the carriageway condition and the road safety record. As a result, roads with poor skid resistance or with deep structural problems are given priority. By applying a standard approach to the assessment of each site the Council is able to demonstrate that sites are prioritised according to need. This ensures resources are directed to those areas in most need and helps demonstrate that the Council is meeting its statutory duties and responsibilities with regard to highway maintenance.

Every year a large number of potential maintenance sites are identified and are suggested by the public and others, but it is not feasible to deal with every site immediately because of resource limitations. Therefore, the sites need to be prioritised to determine the order in which they should be addressed. It is necessary for us to be realistic about what can be achieved with the limited funds available to maintain the extensive highway network we have in Wiltshire.

The Local Highway Engineers compile lists of roads to be considered for future surfacing works which are constantly added to. Our Highways Design Consultant is also constantly checking the data available to them to see whether worn carriageway issues across the county are accelerating and require more proactive and earlier repairs.

The amount of capital resurfacing works also depends on the capital budget investment from central government for Wiltshire's roads next financial year. The Consultant then assesses a compacted list for inclusion in the future year's re-surfacing programmes. It is difficult to make promises within this programme, as other roads across the County may deteriorate faster in the meantime and present different factors requiring earlier treatment.

I hope this information is informative.  
Area Highway Engineer - Northern Wiltshire.

-----

On the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 the resident replied saying "A guy from Wilts council has been to inspect the depressions in the road. He thinks one, houses side, needs to be addressed.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 the resident emailed saying "Thank you, it would appear guys have been here today sorting out the sunken sections of The Fiddle. Good news they appear to fixing the sinking on the fiddle. Will be interesting to see if they do both of them or just the worst one."

Cara Watson

Clerk to PCT  
October 2024