



February 2017

>From Cllr James Finch, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport



First of all, I'd like to say a big thank you to all of our winter service staff who have been doing an excellent job keeping Suffolk's roads safe when temperatures have plummeted.

We have carried out more than 90 gritting runs, using more than 10,000 tonnes of salt. This means that we have treated more than 100,000 miles of Suffolk roads - that's enough to go around the equator four times!

Our depot at Phoenix House has been visited by local media from BBC Look East and Radio Suffolk to find out more about how our winter service works and head out on the road with our drives.

We also had a visit from local MP Dr Dan Poulter who saw the hive of activity at the depot and highways hub.

Suffolk Highways staff were also part of the emergency planning response to the tidal surge and storms in January, as well as dealing with flurries of snow in the county on the same day!

Updates on major highways schemes

Westley Rail Bridge - Bury St Edmunds

Work began on 13 February to carry out major repair works at Westley Rail Bridge in Bury St Edmunds. The bridge, on Newmarket Road, will be closed for up to 8 weeks for essential strengthening works. For more information and details of the diversions visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/westleybridge.



Ipswich - Railway Station Forecourt and Ranelagh Road

Improvements are progressing at the Ipswich Railway Station Forecourt, and the next phase will include a 7-week road closure of part of Ranelagh Road to replace traffic lights and street lights, starting on 20 February.

National Grid will also carry out essential gas main works during this closure, and we have co-ordinated with them to reduce disruption and avoid additional road closures. For more information on the works visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/ipswichrail.

Ipswich - Princes Street and Queens Street

Work resumed after New Year on Queen Street in Ipswich, to pedestrianise this town centre street and work is progressing well. A fourth phase of this project is due to begin in April/May as work moves into St Nicholas St and Coytes Gardens. For more information, visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/princesandqueens.



Find out about our future programmes of work

As we plan in future works, we are uploading our programmes to the website so that you can find out more about work in your area. This includes projects such as surface dressing and resurfacing (and preparations for this), drainage, streetlighting and pavement improvements, as well as grass cutting and weed control.

[View the programmes of work online.](#)



Drainage improvement schemes

Our drainage schemes reduce the risk of standing water on roads, pavements and cycleways across the county. By the end of the 2016/17 financial year we will have invested a total of £1.2 million in more than 65 drainage improvement schemes, and around 20 of these are scheduled in to be completed between now and the end of March.

We are planning for the 2017/18 programme, which will mainly focus on schemes that will prevent property flooding.

Investment in resurfacing

Our proactive approach to road repairs is reflected in our investment of nearly £6 million in completing 109 resurfacing schemes over the past year. By carrying out surface dressing, this extends the life of the road and works to prevent potholes or other defects opening up.

Planning is already underway for the 2017/18 programme, and we have budgeted £2.5 million on road resurfacing. The majority of the resurfacing will be completed overnight to minimise disruption, with each site taking a maximum of 3-4 days/nights to complete. At some sites work may take an additional night or two for road markings or traffic light sensors to be reinstalled.



Highways Reporting Tool - more reports now coming in online

Our highways reporting tool continues to go from strength to strength, and in December 2016 more reports were made online than over the phone for the first time.

The majority of reports in this time were for potholes – which is to be expected during the winter months. There was also a rise in reports to refill grit bins, and our teams have been working to ensure that these are topped up for communities to use in colder weather.

Remember that using the online reporting tool is the easiest way to tell Suffolk Highways about a pothole, faulty sign or streetlight, drainage or flooding problems, or any other defect on the public highway.

You can find updates to existing reports using the map online, or if you provide an email address when you make a report our team will contact you with updates about the problem that you have reported.

[Report a problem on the highway using the online tool.](#)

Highway Maintenance Operational Plan

You may recall that we recently consulted on our Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP). The consultation concluded in November, and we have reviewed the responses and made the appropriate changes to the plan.

The plan sets out the standards that Suffolk Highways will meet for safety inspections and reactive maintenance (works that have been triggered by defects or safety concerns such as potholes).

It details our risk-based approach to reactive maintenance, which means that the time taken for defects to be repaired will depend on the level of risk that defect poses.

[Click here to read about the updated Highway Maintenance Operational Plan.](#)



report a fault

highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

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