

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & SPORT

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY PANEL		
DATE:	11 NOVEMBER 2009	AGENDA ITEM:	4
TITLE:	SWAINSTONE ROAD STATE OF DISREPAIR OF ROAD SURFACE - PETITION		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR T PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORT	WARDS:	KATESGROVE
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JOB TITLE:	HIGHWAYS MANAGER	E-MAIL:	vaughan.norris@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Panel the receipt of a petition containing 49 signatures from residents of Swainstone Road regarding the state of the road.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Panel note the report.
- 2.2 That the following recommendation be made to Cabinet:
- 2.2.1 That Swainstone Road be added to the list of roads to be assessed for possible inclusion in next year's surfacing programme.
- 2.2.2 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with current Transport and Planning Policy.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition has been received from residents of Swainstone Road regarding the state of repair of the road and reads as follows:

"This is a formal complaint about the state of disrepair of our road/pavement.

It is also a petition to have the problem fixed. Although some repairs have been carried out, the condition of the road has deteriorated.

We need a durable and functioning road surface, not only for the benefit of residents but also for the many other people who contribute to the traffic load of our street. These include delivery vehicles and refuse collection vehicles. The road surface is littered with potholes and these are especially hazardous to pedestrians and cyclists.

The neglect of our road is very unsightly and dents community and civic pride. We have been subject to acts of vandalism and arson on this road and we believe that the run down appearance of our road may encourage these criminal behaviours.

We invite you to inspect the street and to let us know when work will commence."

- 4.2 Swainstone Road is a cul-de-sac off Basingstoke Road about 180 metres long and 7 metres wide with footways on both sides serving 74 residential properties as shown on the attached plan.
- 4.3 The Council as Highway Authority is responsible for the maintenance of all public highway within the Borough. This responsibility includes for maintenance and inspections in line with national standards. Swainstone Road is classified as a Category 3 road for inspection purposes and is inspected annually. The Highway Inspector will carry out the inspection and identify any defects that are present which are above the nationally accepted intervention levels for repair.
- 4.4 The annual inspection for Swainstone Road was carried out in October 2009 and a number of areas identified for repairs and this work is scheduled to take place in the week commencing 2nd November.
- 4.5 Unfortunately the number of roads where requests are made for resurfacing are greater than can be treated within the annual budget available. Due to the limited funds available for major or minor resurfacing of roads it is necessary to prioritise the schemes based on nationally accepted assessment processes as outlined below.
- 4.6 The highway network in Reading has three category of road as detailed below:
 - Category 1 - A class roads;
 - Category 2 - B class and roads with high volumes of commercial traffic;
 - Category 3 - residential and other distributor roads.
- 4.7 The programme for category 1 and 2 roads is prioritised after assessment of carriageways using information from:

- Deflectograph surveys which checks the structural integrity and residual life of existing carriageways;
- SCRIM (sideways-force coefficient routine investigation machine) surveys to check skidding resistance.

Based on the above assessments the annual carriageway resurfacing programme is prioritised until the financial years allocation is spent.

- 4.8 For category 3 roads there is generally no skid or condition information available therefore priorities have to be established as a result of visual condition surveys to determine deterioration. The common types of deterioration are for example the number of potholes, rutting, the amount of patching and cracking. The local highway inspectors will generally identify potential sites through their safety inspection regime. This list will then be assessed and a list of schemes identified for treatment up to the budget allocated.
- 4.9 The schemes for this financial year have been completed and no further funds are available this year. The schemes for next year's programme (2010/2011) will be reviewed early next year and Swainstone Road will be added to the list of schemes to be considered based on the assessment processes outlined in this report.
- 4.10 It is recommended that Swainstone Road be added to the list of schemes to be assessed for possible inclusion in next year's programme.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Lead Petitioner will be informed of the Panel's decision.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Petition from residents of Swainstone Road.