

## **Subject: FW: Highways & Transport Update - 07.05.2020**

The impacts of flooding and now Covid-19 have significantly affected our work programmes so I thought it might be useful to provide you with a brief overview of what is happening in Highways & Transport. There has been extensive work in examining work practices to ensure that Government guidelines are followed, and social distancing applied, where appropriate and workable.

- Our **Highways reactive and safety critical work** has continued throughout the lockdown period, including potholes, gully emptying and work on a good number of flood spot locations across the County. Public enquiries are still being actioned and there has been a clear focus on resolving outstanding enquiries.
- **Footways** – The footway programme is due to start late May with two/three gangs initially, moving to seven gangs at the start of June and then to 10 gangs at the start of July right through until the end of the year. We are two months behind schedule and are intending to increase resources to get back on track and ensure that design, coordination and pricing is in hand. We will be emailing Members shortly detailing your works (core asset allocation and Member funded footways works etc). We would welcome your feedback within 2 weeks please together with any other footways which you would like us to consider for works.
- **Larger Highways surfacing works and surface dressing** – pre-patching for surface dressing works has now started with patching in the Wychavon District (2<sup>nd</sup> May). There are currently two Highways gangs working on this. A third Highways gang will start work in early June on other surfacing works. Surface dressing starts on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May in rural areas and in urban areas in mid-June (subject to consideration of any ongoing Covid19 issues). The SD programme will be reviewed weekly in terms of progress, impacts from weather and other issues. We are notifying residents of works by letter and there will be additional advance warning signage in place, regarding these works. Social media will also be used to spread the word to try to avoid cars being parked on the road.
- **Public Realm** – Planning for schemes being undertaken, currently no works underway.
- **Siding out** - Works are continuing with assistance from the Parish Lengthsman where appropriate. A broader programme of works is being developed in light of requests made by members.
- **Mini patching** – two gangs at present (one more than normal) and we aim to retain this resource through the summer months.
- **Planned Response Teams** – a considerable amount of work has taken place using the footway gangs e.g. pedestrian guardrail, short bits of paving, making good flood damage. Generally, this has been more rural in nature but with safety critical works in urban areas
- **Grass cutting** in rural areas started on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May and will be completed as normal over the next 5 to 6 weeks, with 1m verge cut for safety reasons. All key identified visibility splays have already been completed and will be checked over the next few weeks. If you are aware of a safety critical visibility splay issues, or overgrowth on safety signing, please let us know.
- **Transport Infrastructure** - Commissioning Team. Hoping to start work in the next couple of weeks with external contractors (working mainly in rural areas).
- **Parish Lengthsman Scheme** - Back up and running with support from CALC re. risk assessments. Some Parishes have expressed concerns about potential risk for their Lengthsman and we are working with them on this.

- **Commercial bus services** are running at a reduced frequency due to an average 90% drop in passengers; DfT is providing additional support for these services of some £28k a week for a 12-week period. We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis and are continuing to work very closely and constructively with our bus operating companies.
- **WCC subsidised bus services** are running to the full timetable where possible and we are also providing additional financial support to operators from grants associated with Covid 19. We are maintaining the pre-Covid 19 concessionary fares and reimbursement levels.
- **School transport** is being provided for children of Key Workers

**Phil Grove**