

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 8 OCTOBER 2020**

**Question to David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Ron Clarke**

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**Question**

Seven years ago, Amey started to identify and to monitor 186,000 drains and gullies across Staffordshire, the purpose was to bring about a schedule which would allow drains to be cleaned, either once every one, two or three years. It would also identify drains which are in need of repair or need to be replaced, again this would enable the County Council to plan a maintenance schedule over a long-term period.

All this information should now be in place. Would the Cabinet Member get Amey to distribute this information to all Councillors, so that we get a clear picture of the issues in our divisions, and allow us to work with Amey to meet the above objectives?

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**Reply**

The routine gully cleansing programme is now available on the Members portal. This allows Members to see how often the gullies in their division are emptied and when the next planned visit is due.

The data collected as part of setting up this system shows that around 5%, or 10,000, of our highway gullies have been identified as needing repair – for example to loosen jammed lids or replace collapsed brickwork.

As part of the recently announced £2.0m in-year investment into Community Highway and Rights of Way priorities around £1m has been allocated towards these kinds of local gully hotspot repairs.

Local Members have been asked to work with their local Highway Officers to help identify and prioritise those requiring the most urgent attention. A full schedule is currently being compiled. This will be shared with Members to help track progress of their own priorities.

It is likely that some of these repairs and other investigatory work will also identify issues requiring more substantial work and many of these are also likely to be complicated by the involvement of third-parties like Severn Trent Water (STW), the Environment Agency (EA) or private land-owners. This new schedule of issues will be of further help to local Members in engaging with those third-parties.