

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 FEBRUARY 2019

**Question to Helen Fisher
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

By Ron Clarke

Question

Will the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport review the continuous problem we have in Burton with our drainage system? I very much appreciate that 37 drains are in the process to be replaced. The Burton town centre was reported in the media last week because of shoppers getting soaked due to the drains being unable to take the rainwater. This is not good for businesses and the people in the town centre.

Reply

There are more than 3,500 highway gullies in Burton Town Centre and nearly 10,000 across the wider area of Burton. Many are of an old Victorian design and known to be prone to blockage.

Over the last four or five years the highways team have been using GPS technology to capture the individual locations of all these gullies, together with silt levels and any other records of reported problems, to help inform a new 'intelligent' routine cleansing programme as well as future priorities for replacement or repair.

My thanks must also go to the all those local Members who have engaged with this process and by engaging with their local communities have helped to minimise the number of parked cars and other obstructions so that planned gully cleansing can be carried out most effectively.

In the current financial year, with input from the local members, we've also embarked on an initial programme to replace 37 of the most problematic known gullies in the area.

A similar commitment is provisionally programmed for 2019/20. Added to which local Members will also have available to them a further £20k to spend on any local highway maintenance priorities of their individual or collective choosing.