

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 FEBRUARY 2018

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

By Kyle Robinson

Question

Does the Cabinet Support Member agree with me that with ever dwindling resources it is counterintuitive for this authority to neglect to repair minor road defects, leaving them to deteriorate into major structural defects on the carriageway, even after they've been reported by the local County Councillor and residents? Will the Cabinet Support Member take urgent action to ensure the sinking and cracked road surface on High Street in Talke Pits receives the urgent repair work it desperately needs before a passing vehicle is completely bottomed out?

Reply

We recognise that good roads are important not just for getting people from A to B, but for attracting investment and growing a strong economy and that's why we invested an extra £5m last year – and will be doing the same once again this year.

This has helped us tackle almost 35,000 potholes, compared to 20,000 in a typical year as well as increase the amount of high-value long-term preventative maintenance treatments that help to reduce the number of potholes from appearing in the first place.

However, the number of potholes always increases over the winter period. We ask residents to report defects through the MyStaffs App or County Council website and to drive carefully during this period. There will never be enough money to do everything, but our highways team are currently pulling together next year's maintenance programme using Cabinet approved criteria for prioritisation to bring about the biggest benefit for road users.

Once again I would encourage any local members to utilise the MyStaffs App or County Council website to report and chase up any repairs. I would also encourage you to approach me directly if you have any urgent concerns rather than waiting for the council meetings.