

County Council Meeting – 9 February 2023**Question to Councillor David Williams
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport****By Cllr Yates**

Question

Last weekend, I submitted a highways report, through the Staffordshire County Council Portal, that had 25 separate photographs attached, together with a statement regarding the poor condition of Meadows Way (A527) as it goes through Biddulph. This report was declared invalid, as I am asked to report each pothole/defect individually. On Saturday (4th Feb) I walked the 1.6km of Meadows Way and recorded 138 potholes and defects worthy of such individual report.

My in box is full of requests to get this road “sorted”

Instead of consuming my valuable time, officers valuable time, and inspectors valuable time, can I instead have a firm, dated commitment to resurface this, our one and singular “A-Road” in Biddulph?

Reply

I am pleased to confirm that the A527 principal route through Biddulph is identified in the provisional highway capital maintenance programme over the next two financial years for a combination of structural and preventative measures.

The section from the county boundary heading south to the junction with Grange Road is included in the preventative surface treatments programme this coming summer.

The next section from the Grange Road junction heading south to Tunstall Road roundabout (nr the new Aldi development) will also see surface pre-patching works during 2023, with surface treatment planned in summer 2024.

Preventative treatments are not suitable however for high stress roundabout locations. Therefore, the three roundabout junctions: Congleton Road roundabout, Wharf Road roundabout and Tunstall Road

roundabout, along with their approach roads, have also been identified as high priorities for remediation subject to future funding availability.

The fourth roundabout with Tunstall Road was recently resurfaced in conjunction with the S278 highway improvements for the Aldi development.

With regards to the reporting of highway defects we do, of course, welcome reports from the public about the condition of the highway network; however, all of Staffordshire's roads are routinely assessed by a team of Highway Inspectors who identify safety defects and assign a classification for repairs based on the risk the defect poses to the travelling public.

The A527 through Biddulph is inspected on a monthly basis and any actionable defects identified at that time are assigned a classification and necessary works are raised to keep the road in a safe condition.

In addition to this the Council can receive between 3,000 to 5,000 reports a month in relation to highway matters. Visitors to our website are advised of the routine inspections which will log each individual pothole if it meets our intervention criteria at the time of the Inspector's visit.

If a customer raises an individual defect through our website or MyStaffs app, our current digital technology provides a specific reference number which is used to provide updates to the customer on the status of that particular defect's repair. Recent development work to improve this process has included the provision of photographs to assure customers that the specific defect they reported has been actioned.

A significant element of the Highways Transformation programme is to improve the customer journey and further development work will be taking place to expand the way in which defects can be reported and enhance the information available to customers.

