

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Place Scrutiny Committee: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**Questions from David Webb to the Executive Councillor for Public Protection, Waste and Transport**

**Question 1:**

**I have reported 50 potholes in Westborough ward between February to April. Only a few were filled in within the 10 day standard. However the majority have been fixed to the effort of Iain Blackburn (Environment Area Manager). However these are only patches and will be needed to be fixed again in 6 - 12 months time. Why can't Westminster Drive, Glenwood, Hainault and Wenham, Fairfax Drive be totally re-tarmacted out of the £175,000?**

**Answer:**

The Council will repair defects (potholes and other highway infrastructure) that meet a certain criteria and are considered a safety concern based on the Highways Code of Practice.

Environmental Care Officers are accredited under this code of practice and apply these standards when determining whether a repair is required. Priorities for repair can vary based on the inspecting officer's assessment and repairs will be undertaken when defects fall below the safety criteria. Minor potholes that do not meet the repair category criteria are not repaired.

With regards to the carriageway condition in Westminster Drive, Glenwood Avenue, Hainault Avenue, Wenham Drive & Fairfax Drive I can advise that a Council Highway Engineer has reviewed the recent condition survey data and concluded that the surfacing is in its 'mid-life' in terms of its condition.

This means the condition of these roads would not make them a priority for immediate planned resurfacing when compared to the condition of other roads across the borough.

The recent award of £175k from the Government's pot hole repair fund is to support the existing pot hole repair budget and programme and is not for resurfacing schemes.

Even if this was permitted it would be impractical in terms of the cost of this type of work. Fairfax Drive alone would cost in the region of £500-600k to relay the surface course with binder repairs.

**Question 2:**

**Dog foul has been a nuisance in Westborough and Southend by a few dog owners who do not want to pick up their dog faces. Dog foul is classed as litter and should be picked up by the litter pickers. I have highlighted hotspots and have asked the Environment team to put dog bins. Why can't we put more dog bins in Westborough?**

Answer:

Mr Webb is quite correct in that dog fouling is classified as litter and this is to be removed by the cleansing operatives at the same time as scheduled cleansing is carried out. The Council has been monitoring this and has also met with Mr Webb on site to address his concerns. As far as we are aware the problem has been resolved and the standards that have recently been recorded show that the areas mentioned are meeting the acceptability criteria.

Given that Westborough ward is very residential it can be difficult to site dog bins without causing complaints from residents concerned about smells for example. However I can confirm that the Council has recently sited a few dog bins in the Westborough Ward in locations frequented by dog walkers and where they would not be likely to generate resident complaints. If Mr Webb can identify any further locations then these will be considered.