

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 26 February 2018

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** St Anthony's Ward Petition

**Purpose:** To consider the response to the petition calling for repairs to the paths and weed problems in Boswell Walk, Kipling Walk and Shelley Walk areas in Langney Rising in Eastbourne.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to

- (1) Inform the Petitioners that whilst the footways are considered to generally be in a good state of repair and are not considered dangerous or hazardous for users, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) propose to carry out some targeted maintenance works to areas where localised structural failure has occurred and implement a programme of works to prevent further deterioration; and**
  - (2) Inform the Petitioners that concerns or issues regarding weed control within Eastbourne need to be addressed with Eastbourne Borough Council directly and that no further action will be taken by ESCC regarding this.**
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## **1 Background**

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 5 December 2017, Councillor Tutt presented a petition entitled "*We the Undersigned demand that Eastbourne Council, East Sussex Council and East Sussex Highways repair the dangerous paths and weed problem in Boswell Walk, Kipling Walk and Shelley Walk areas of Langney Rising in Eastbourne*", to the Chairman.

1.2 Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee in support of the petition. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room.

1.3 The County Council's highway maintenance programmes are determined on a county-wide basis based on need and priority. In compiling maintenance programmes, the County Council's Highways Asset Management team consider a wealth of condition data from annual surveys, Highway Steward inspections and reports from members of the public. This information, along with information about the nature and importance of the road or footway is used to determine the maintenance needs and relative priority across the county.

1.4 Since May 2016 (the start of the current highways maintenance contract) four routine '6 monthly' walked safety inspections have been undertaken of all of the footways in this area and in addition seven ad-hoc inspections have been undertaken specifically on these three footways following up on customer reports. In total, since May 2016 eighteen safety defects have been identified and repaired on these three footways.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 Following the presentation of the Petition, a further site visit was undertaken on 11 January 2018, a site visit to Boswell Walk, Kipling Walk and Shelley Walk was carried out to review the condition of the walkways (the images taken on 11 January are attached at Appendix 1).

2.2 These footways form a network of links from the local roads to the front entrances of the houses running adjacent to the front gardens of the properties.

2.3 Overall the footways in this area are in a reasonable structural condition and it was noted that there were no immediate safety issues that required urgent attention.

2.4 However, there are some localised sections of footway within Boswell Walk, Kipling Walk and Shelley Walk that are showing early signs of structural failure with some unevenness and surface cracking.

2.5 In addition, on a length of Boswell Walk leading through to The Rising that runs as an 'alley way' behind houses, the surfacing is deteriorating with widespread areas of open texture and loose aggregate visible. There was also considerable vegetation and weed growth along this footway.

2.6 The 18 safety defects that have been dealt with since 1 May 2016 include a number of small pothole repairs and some larger surfacing patches.

2.7 From our records and inspections, the footways in this location are categorised as being in poor condition.

### **3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The overall condition of footways in this location, whilst generally poor, is currently functional and they do not require any immediate action.

3.2 A higher consideration needs to be given to the fact that these footways are important links between the local roads and access to properties for deliveries and visitors.

3.3 As a consequence, localised improvement works to repair the areas of early structural failure on Boswell Walk, Shelley Walk and Kipling Walk and the resurfacing of the section of Boswell Walk linking through to The Rising will be included in the 2018/19 or 2019/20 capital maintenance programme, subject to all other priorities and the available budget.

3.4 Lead Member is recommended to advise the Petitioner that we are aware of the condition of these footways and have plans to carry out improvement works. Consideration will be given to undertaking preventative surface sealing works on these footways as a longer term programme of works.

3.5 Lead Member is also recommended to inform the Petitioners that concerns or issues regarding weed control within Eastbourne need to be addressed with Eastbourne Borough Council directly and that no further action will be taken by ESCC regarding this.

#### **RUPERT CLUBB**

#### **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Contact Officer: Dale Poore

Tel. No. 01273 481916

Email: dale.poore@eastsussex.gov.uk

#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor David Tutt

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Petition

Appendix 1









