

REPORT OF THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

The Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment met on 11 February 2019.

Also present: Councillors Pat Rodohan, Colin Swansborough and Barry Taylor

1. Notice of Motion: Condition of pavements in Eastbourne

1.1 The following Notice of Motion has been submitted to the Chairman of the County Council by Councillors Rodohan and Swansborough:

Given the deplorable state of pavements in Eastbourne which have continued to deteriorate over many years, we call on East Sussex County Council to allocate at least 50% of the surplus funds from the Eastbourne Controlled Parking Scheme to a rolling annual programme of improvements to pavements in Eastbourne commencing in 2019/20

1.2 In line with County Council practice, the matter was referred by the Chairman to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment for consideration to provide information and inform debate on the Motion.

1.3 Prior to the receipt of this motion, the subject of the condition of pavements in Eastbourne was raised at a meeting of the County Council on 16 October 2018 and at Eastbourne Borough Council Full Council on 14 November 2018.

1.4 At the County Council meeting on 16 October 2018 Mrs Marie Hennelly, an Eastbourne resident, asked the following question of the Lead Member:

The pavements in Eastbourne are currently in a disgraceful condition and getting worse. Too many residents are tripping on uneven pavements and requiring treatment at our local hospital. Residents, visitors etc are deterred from using some pavements as the risk of injury is very high. I ask that East Sussex County Council, on behalf of the residents of Eastbourne, undertakes a funding programme from the Eastbourne Controlled Parking scheme including fines, to roll out a programme of improvements to the pavements in Eastbourne commencing 2019/2020. This programme to be reviewed annually over the first 5 years.

1.5 The Lead Member responded with the following written response:

Thank you for your question, I receive a lot of enquiries about maintenance of pavements across the county and this is a priority area for the County Council. In 2017/18 the County Council provided an additional £300,000 per annum for pavement maintenance and now invests £1.6m each year maintaining pavements across the county. But with over 2400km of pavement across the county our maintenance has to be prioritised on the basis of need, we do not allocate our maintenance budgets by geographical area or by town or village.

The County Council has invested over £720,000 in the maintenance of pavements in Eastbourne over the last couple of years, including the following

roads: Link Road, Victoria Drive, Pevensey Road, Cornfield Lane, Seaside, East Dean Road, Sevenoaks Road, Bedford Grove, Meads Street, Austen Walk, Ashgate Road, Woodpecker Road and Swallow Close. And next month we are planning maintenance in Shakespeare Walk and Carrol Walk.

You call for Parking Surplus to be used for pavement maintenance. Whilst parking surpluses can be used for the maintenance of pavements, the County Council (in conjunction with Eastbourne Borough Council) is investing £2.0m from parking surplus into the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme improving the pavements in Terminus Road, Cornfield Road and Gildridge Road. We are also using parking revenues to replace all of the pay and display parking machines in Eastbourne with new modern machines which will further deplete parking surpluses for several years.

In the meantime, if you have concerns about the condition of particular pavements in the town perhaps you would be good enough to let me, or your local county councillor know, and we can arrange for the Highway Steward to carry out an inspection and arrange appropriate repairs. Alternatively you could report these to our Highways Contact centre on 0345 6080193 or customer@eastsussexhighways.com

1.6 On 14 November at the Full Council meeting of Eastbourne Borough Council, Councillor Rodohan submitted the following motion:

Given the deplorable state of pavements in Eastbourne which have continued to deteriorate over many years this Council calls on East Sussex County Council to allocate at least 50% of the surplus funds from Eastbourne Controlled Parking Scheme to a rolling Annual Programme of Improvements to pavements in Eastbourne commencing in 2019/20

1.7 The Director of Communities, Economy and Transport provided the following written statement:

The County Council receives a lot of enquiries about maintenance of pavements across the county and this is a priority area for the County Council. In 2017/18 the County Council provided an additional £300,000 per annum for pavement maintenance and now invests £1.6m each year maintaining pavements across the county. But with over 2400km of pavement across the county our maintenance has to be prioritised on the basis of need, we do not allocate our maintenance budgets by geographical area or by town or village.

The County Council has invested over £720,000 in the maintenance of pavements in Eastbourne over the last couple of years, including the following roads: Link Road, Victoria Drive, Pevensey Road, Cornfield Lane, Seaside, East Dean Road, Sevenoaks Road, Bedford Grove, Meads Street, Austen Walk, Ashgate Road, Woodpecker Road, Swallow Close, Shakespeare Walk and Carrol Walk.

Your motion calls for fifty percent of Parking Surplus to be used for pavement maintenance in Eastbourne. Whilst parking surpluses can be used for the maintenance of pavements, the County Council is investing £2.0m from parking surplus into the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme improving the pavements in Terminus Road, Cornfield Road and Gildridge Road. We are also using parking revenues to replace all of the pay and display parking

machines in Eastbourne with new modern machines which will further deplete parking surpluses for several years.

If members of the public or local councillors have concerns about the condition of particular pavements in the town they should report them to our Highways contractor and the local Highway Steward will carry out an inspection and arrange appropriate repairs

1.8 The minutes of the Eastbourne Borough Council Full Council meeting record that the motion was approved.

Response to Notice of Motion

1.9 The County Council, as the local Highway Authority, is responsible for the maintenance of roads and pavements across the county, including Eastbourne. The Borough Council has no jurisdiction over highway maintenance.

1.10 The County Council adopts an Asset Management approach to the maintenance of roads and pavements as advocated by the Department for Transport (DfT). In doing so, maintenance is informed by an Asset Plan that prioritises maintenance on the basis of need and risk across the county.

1.11 In recognition of the Council's approach to Asset Management the Council has achieved Band 3 status (highest) and therefore receives 100% of its DfT funding. To move away from an Asset Management approach and to allocate maintenance budgets other than by priority would risk losing the DfT incentive element of the Council's funding.

1.12 In budget setting and agreeing the capital programme for the 2018/19 financial year the County Council increased its investment in the maintenance of pavements across the county by £300,000 to £1,600,000 per annum.

1.13 This investment is used to maintain over 2,400km of pavement across the county. Budgets are not allocated on a geographical basis, or a per capita basis.

1.14 In the current financial year the County Council has spent £436,736 of its capital programme on maintenance of the following pavements in Eastbourne: Link Road, Victoria Drive, Pevensey Road, Seaside, Sevenoaks Road, Shakespeare Walk, Vicarage Drive, Burton Road, Pepys Walk, Coleridge Walk and Dryden Walk, Austin Walk.

1.15 The County Council's outline maintenance programme for 2019/20 contains the following pavements in Eastbourne, totalling approx. £300,000 (final value subject to site investigation): Arundel Road, Blackwater Road, Carew Road, King Edwards Parade, Longstone Road, Lottbridge Drove, Swallow Close, Woodpecker Road, Swallow Close, Tanbridge Road, Tenterden Close, The Rising, Tugwell Road and Beachey Head Road, Kings Drive, Willingdon Close, Close 8, Shelley Walk, Kipling Walk, Boswell Walk, Chaucer Walk, Keats Walk, Byron Walk, Berkley Walk, Carrol Walk and Browning Walk. In addition, East Dean Road and Ashgate Road will be assessed for affordability in 2019 subject to budget priority.

Note: Bedford Grove, Meads Street and Cornfield Lane originally identified in 2018 are dependent on agreement with EBC Conservation Officer.

1.16 The County Council's Asset Plan is informed by Highway Steward routine inspections as well as reports received from Councillors and members of the public.

In determining maintenance requirements the County Council publishes intervention criteria that define maintenance triggers. These are used by the Stewards to determine whether repairs to potholes and other defects are required from maintenance revenue budgets, and the requisite timescales, or whether larger scale repairs are required from the Council's capital budget.

1.17 The Place Scrutiny Committee is currently carrying out a Review of Road Repairs which includes the maintenance of pavements. In the review Scrutiny Members have heard how maintenance is prioritised and how maintenance budgets are allocated. The Review Board also heard that a reactive and planned maintenance programme is in place for pavements in a similar way to carriageway repairs. A report on the findings of this review is to be presented to the County Council's Cabinet in April 2019.

1.18 Surplus revenues from parking enforcement across the three controlled parking zones in the county (where civil parking enforcement operates) can be used for transport related schemes, and whilst this can include maintenance, the majority of the current surplus is already allocated.

1.19 In Eastbourne surplus from several years of parking revenues has been accumulated and £2,000,000 is being invested in the Eastbourne Town Centre regeneration scheme in 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years, improving the pavements in the town centre. In addition, approximately £680,000 is also being invested from parking revenue in new pay and display machines in Eastbourne.

1.20 Eastbourne is served by two Highway Stewards who are responsible for the roads and pavements across the borough. Any concerns about the condition of roads and pavements should be reported to a Steward via the highways contact centre, contact details for which can be found on the East Sussex Highways website.

1.21 The Lead Member recommends that the County Council -

☆ (1) rejects the Notice of Motion set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report; and

(2) advises all County Councillors, and not just those with Divisions in Eastbourne, that any concerns about the condition of any pavements (and roads) in their Divisions should be reported to their respective Highway Steward.

11 February 2019

NICK BENNETT
Lead Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment