



A Review of the condition of Denbighshire's roads since 2011 /12

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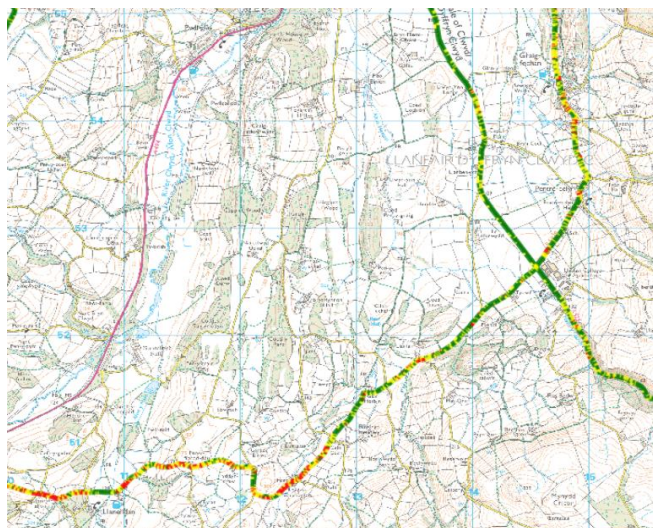
Members should take note that the Scanner results and the Road Condition Scores do NOT overlap and that Scanner only covers less than one quarter of the whole network as it only applies to the A and B roads in general.

Road Condition ratings are derived for about 75% of the Class C and Unclassified roads as for technical reasons we cannot apply it to the full network but it still applies to over 1700 individual roads.

If Members have any specific questions then they should email Tim Towers the Highways Asset Manager.

Background and Methodology

There are 1,416 kilometres of adopted public highway in Denbighshire, ranging in character and importance from very busy High Streets through to remote stretches of rural road linking to single properties. The network is divided into four classifications of road; A, B, C and Unclassified, with the latter two making up by far the majority of the total with a combined length of 1,142 kilometres. Annually we use an externally assessed, non-invasive survey technique called Scanner to assess the condition of all of the A and B roads and a random sample of the C roads as shown below.



These results are the benchmarked figure for the headline condition of our roads and this is expressed as 'The Percentage of Roads in Poor Condition' though in truth this can mean that they may not 'look' too bad but it does mean that they are 'life expired' and should be resurfaced. In truth the nature of the survey can identify short lengths of particular roads that

In order for us to understand how the rest of the 1,142 kms of the network are performing we use a visual evaluation that scores the percentage of each particular road in four gradings from good to poor i.e 30% good, 25% ok, 35% beginning to fail and 10% structurally defective. Each length then has a score and **it is important to note that, due to other factors the highest score can be 600 and Town Centres have a risk bias applied to them.**



We have run this system since the beginning of the last Corporate Plan in 2011 and this paper is a summary of performance since that time. This report gives the County Wide picture but, following requests from some Members also breaks down the results by the MAG areas we have established since 2011.

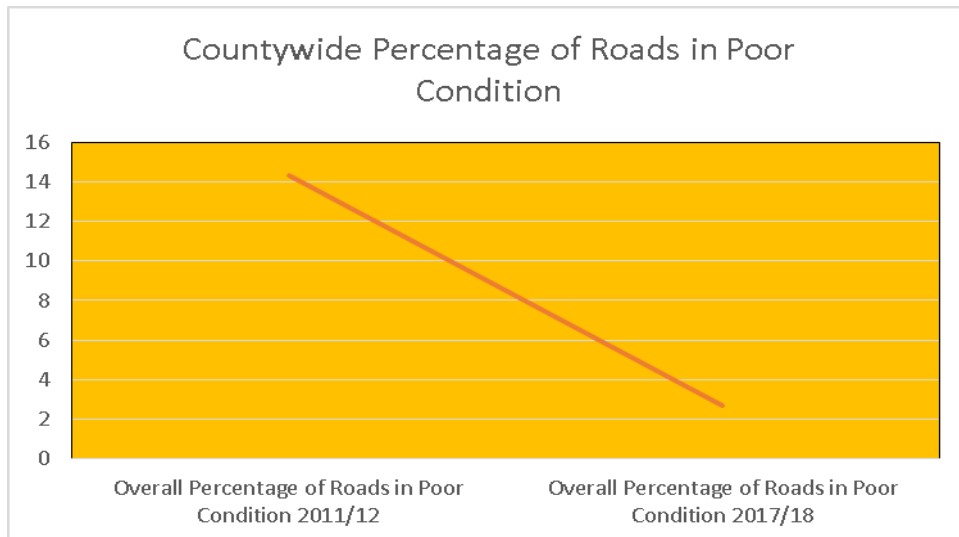
Note : A Road scoring 100 or less is considered to be in a condition that won't require work.

A Road scoring 350 or more is almost certain to be considered for patching at the very least.

The Overall Picture

This is the countywide picture and if we begin with purely looking at the Scanner data for the A, B and measured C roads then the picture has to be seen as a very encouraging one.

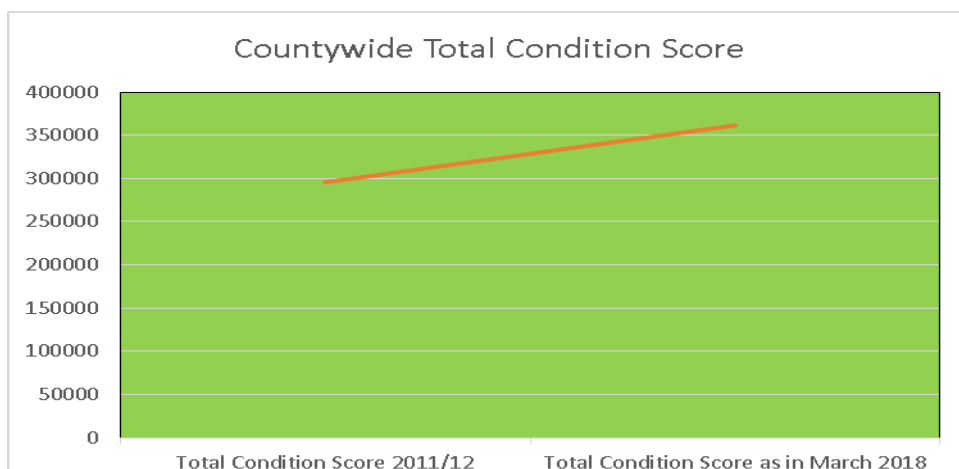
Scanner Data



On this measure alone we have reduced the percentage of poor roads from over 14% to 2.7% and as we will see, this result is evident in every MAG area but it is accepted that there are still roads in this category that are in need of significant work and will require substantial investment.

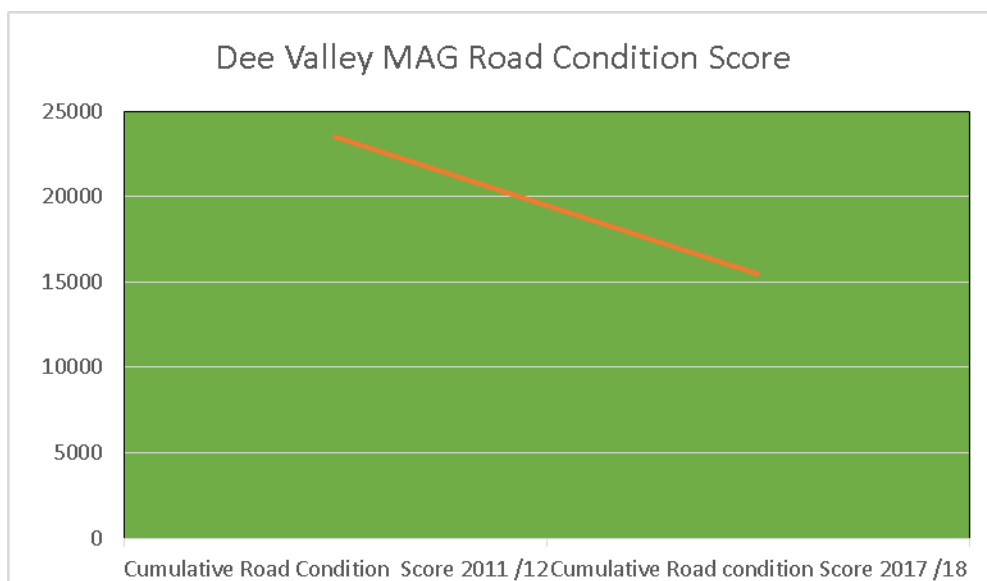
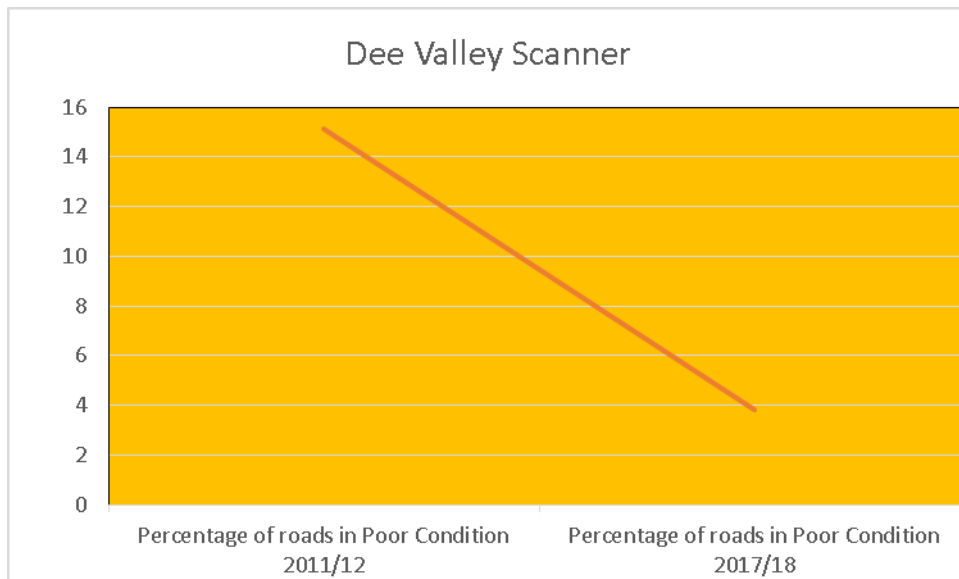
The position when we look at the Road Condition Scoring for the remainder of the network though shows a different picture. By adding the total score for every road not covered by the Scanner we end up with this result.

Road Condition Score



The average score per road has in fact risen from 173 to 211 meaning they are cumulatively **worse** and we now have 341 roads scoring less than 100 as opposed to 641 in 2011/12. Here is the evaluation.

Dee Valley MAG



Dee Valley is one of only two areas where the average road score has improved and in this case it has gone from 153 down to 100 so the overall position is a good one. This is partly helped by the fact that the road network is so small (and the longest road, the A5, isn't Denbighshire's) but also by the investment that has been put into Llangollen in particular over the years. We have also carried out extensive work on the B4401 between Cynwyd and the County boundary but this road reflects the ongoing difficulties we have in that there are always areas of concern.

A demonstration of the progress is that has been made though is that in 2011/12 there were 22 roads in the area scoring 350 points or more and now that is down to just 8.

Notwithstanding the known problems we have on the B4401 and on sections of the A542 Horseshoe Pass the list of roads in the area that are in the worst condition on our list are:-

Junction with A5 at Pen y Bont to Allt y Celyn (score 412.5)

Llechwedd Cilan, Llandrillo (400)

Ty'n y Cefn Road, Corwen (400)

Rhysgog to Ty'n Craig (375)

Rhyd y Fen to A5 Plas yn Ddol (375)

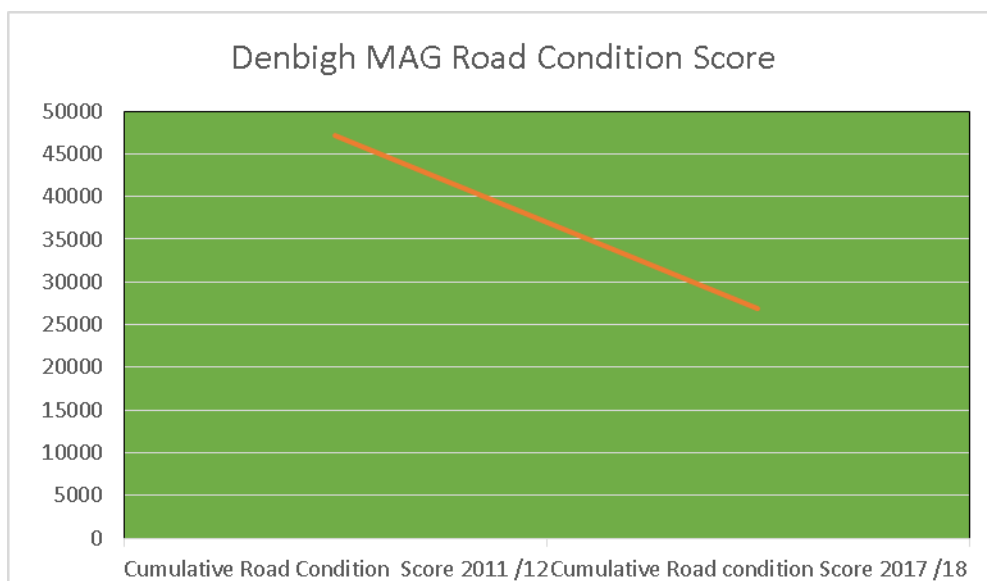
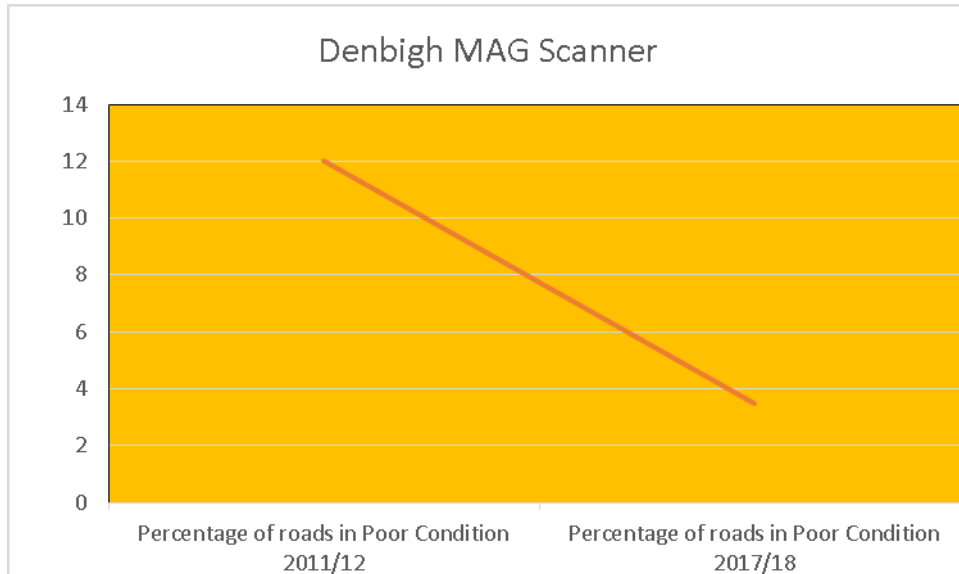
Ty'n y Cefn junction on A5 to Plas Newydd (362.5)

Berth Ddu to Groes Llwyd (362.5)

Track from the A494 to Geufron

Please note that due to the nature of some of the roads in the area that are known as Green Lanes then there are no recorded scores for these but we do continue to maintain them to the best of our ability.

Denbigh MAG



Denbigh is the other area where the overall road score has improved and in this case it has gone from 175 to 100 however it may be interesting to note that in 2014/15 it was down to 87 so there has been a slight deterioration in the last three years. Some of this improvement has come about by treating rural roads in the Prion, Nantglyn and Llandyrnog areas but the biggest improvements came in Denbigh itself with a large investment into many of the housing estates.

We feel it is important to keep on top of things by keeping the better roads in a good condition by undertaking relatively cheap processes which is why we will be doing Surface

Dressing soon on the A543 from its junction at Blue Hand towards Denbigh and through Llanrhaeadr village to name but two.

There are still issues of concern of course such as the B4501 between Denbigh and Prion and sections of the A543 from Denbigh up towards Groes but on the whole the majority of roads in the MAG area are reasonably good. This is a fact borne out by noting that we now only have one road scoring 350 or more compared to the 24 such roads in 2011/ 12. The list of roads in the area that are in the worst condition on our list are:-

Hafodwen to Quarries Road, Nantglyn (Scores 437.5)

Blaenau to Gwean y Mywion, Nantglyn (325)

Pen y Cae crossroads to Llewesog (325)

Drws y Buddel, Saron (300)

Track to Pen y Garth, Bontuchel (300)

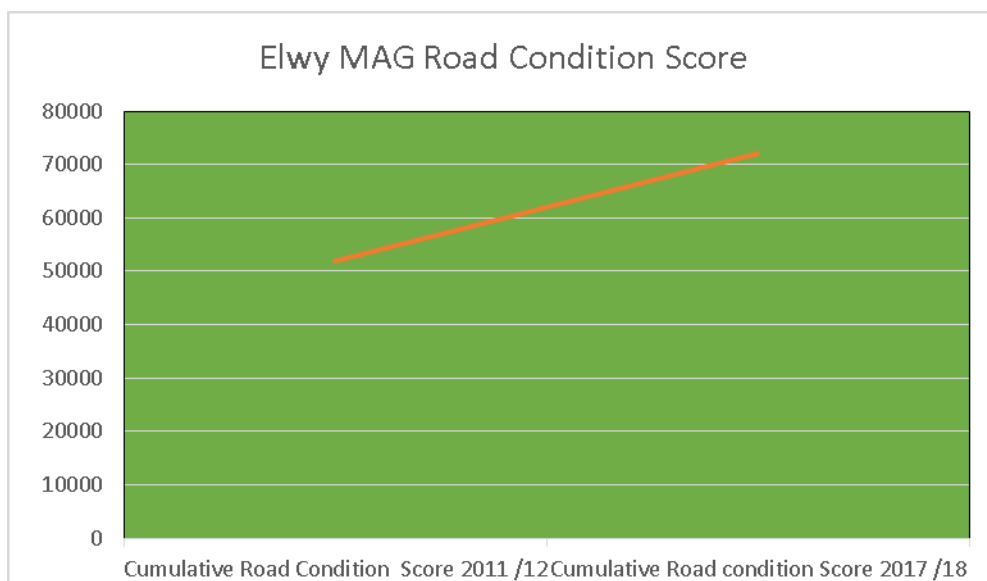
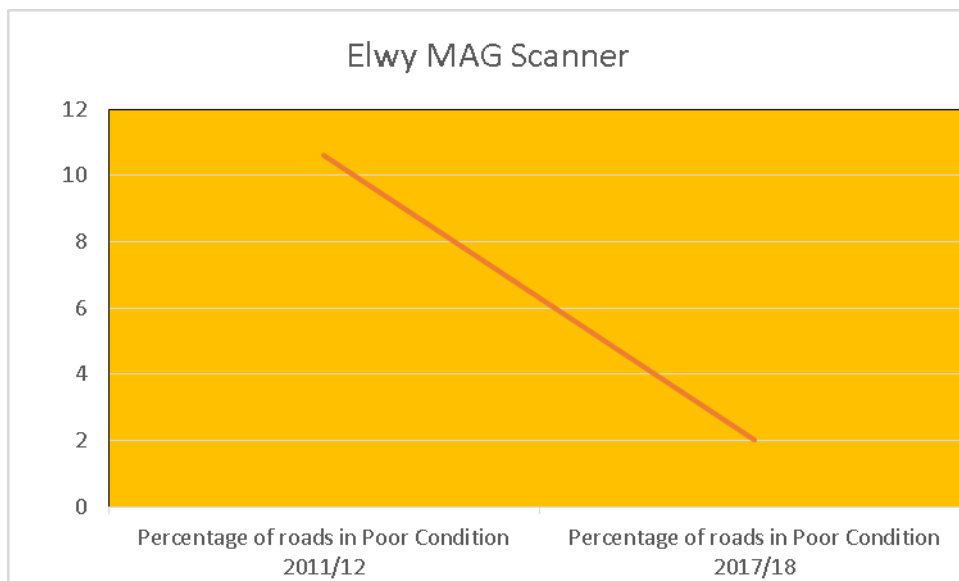
Cefn Mawr junction to Tai Uchaf (300)

Track to Cefn Yfed, Cyffylliog (300)

Ffrith Fedw to Ffrith y Geubryn, Prion (287.5)

Please note that due to the nature of some of the roads in the area that are known as Green Lanes then there are no recorded scores for these but we do continue to maintain them to the best of our ability.

Elwy MAG



Due to works carried out on the A and B roads in Elwy MAG it is pleasing to note the dramatic improvement in the Scanner results here but sadly the position is not the same on the remainder of the network here with the average road score rising from 180 in 2011/12 to 251 now despite us carrying at large scale works on estates such as Clwydian Park near Trefnant and the Highlands Estate in Rhuddlan. Clearly the picture here is one of a deteriorating road condition.

At the start of the programme there were 21 roads scoring 350 or more but this is now down to 14 however the fourteen roads there now include some different ones from the beginning which demonstrates the dynamic nature of the carriageways in this area.

We are painfully aware of the poor condition of major routes such as the Abergele Straights, the A525 near St Asaph Cathedral and stretches of the B5381 in Glascoed but in the remaining roads within Elwy MAG the ones scoring highly and therefore of concern include:-

Service road to the former Lowther Arms, Bodelwyddan
(Scores 400)

Old Coach Road from Cobweb Cottage to Rhualt (387.5)

Alley to the rear of Church View, Bodelwyddan (375)

Pont yr Cambwll to the A541 junction (375)

Lon Jack Ffrwn (Henllan towards Cefn Meiriadog) (375)

Tan y Graig to Graig Fawr, Tremeirchion (362.5)

Tai Cochion, Waen (362.5)

Pandy Lane, Dyserth (362.5)

Dean's Walk, St. Asaph (362.5)

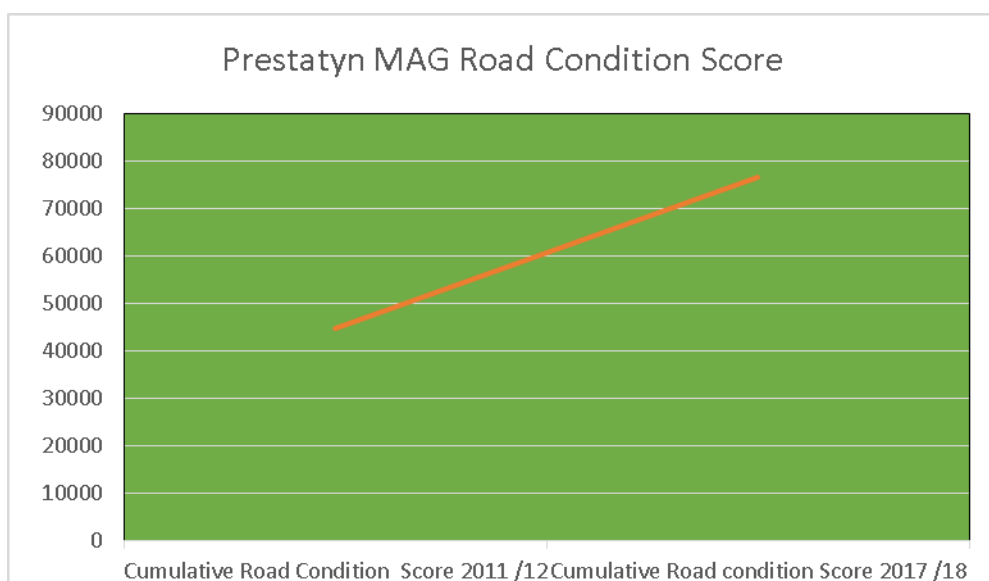
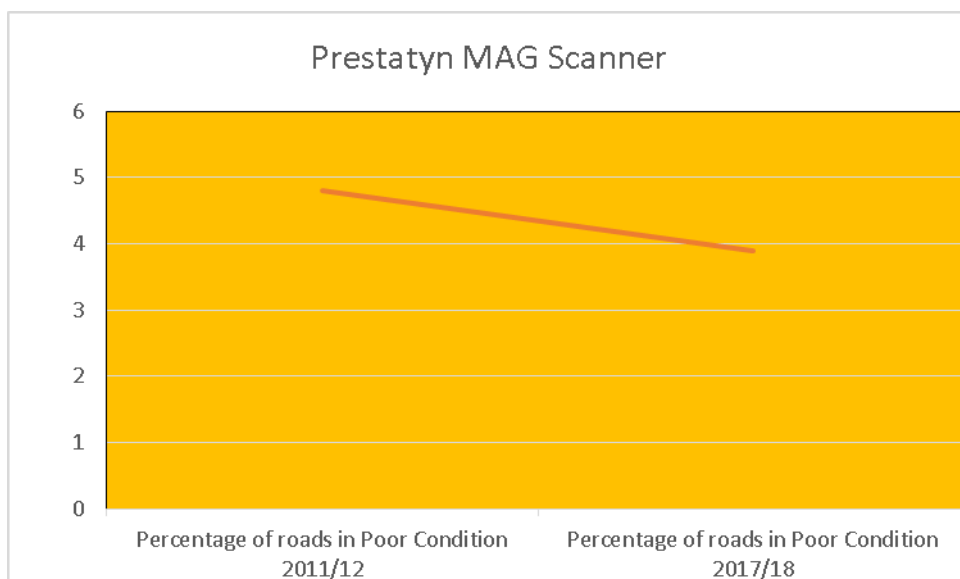
Terfyn, Bodelwyddan (350)

Clwyd Avenue, Rhuddlan (350)

Maes y Bryn, Rhuddlan (350)

Please note that we are aware of many roads in the area that are in a generally poor condition such as those in Sodom but often this is just where the edge of the carriageway has deteriorated so that would mean that the overall score for that section of road would be higher than it would seem on first viewing.

Prestatyn MAG



At the beginning of the last Corporate Plan it was pleasing to note that Prestatyn had the best roads in the County but now, despite the improvements to the town centre; work in places like North and South Avenue; Microasphalt treatments in a number of locations, and other works in Meliden the position has altered somewhat.

The Scanner shows a slight decrease in the percentage in Poor Condition but in truth this is very minimal but the average Road Condition Score has increased markedly from 146 in 2011/12 to 251 now. As a headline figure this looks onerous but on the list there were originally 5 roads in the area scoring 350 and above whilst now there are only 3. The conclusion therefore is that the real change here is that a problem is building with many roads now getting worse and this will manifest itself more fully over time if we cannot address it.

In terms of the A and B Roads in the area there remains little to be concerned about (other than the known problems by Ffrith Beach) but elsewhere the list of roads giving cause for concern include:-

Bryn Court (Scores 375)

Highbury Avenue (350)

Ffordd Pantycelyn (350)

The Brae, Meliden (337.5)

Bishopswood Road (325)

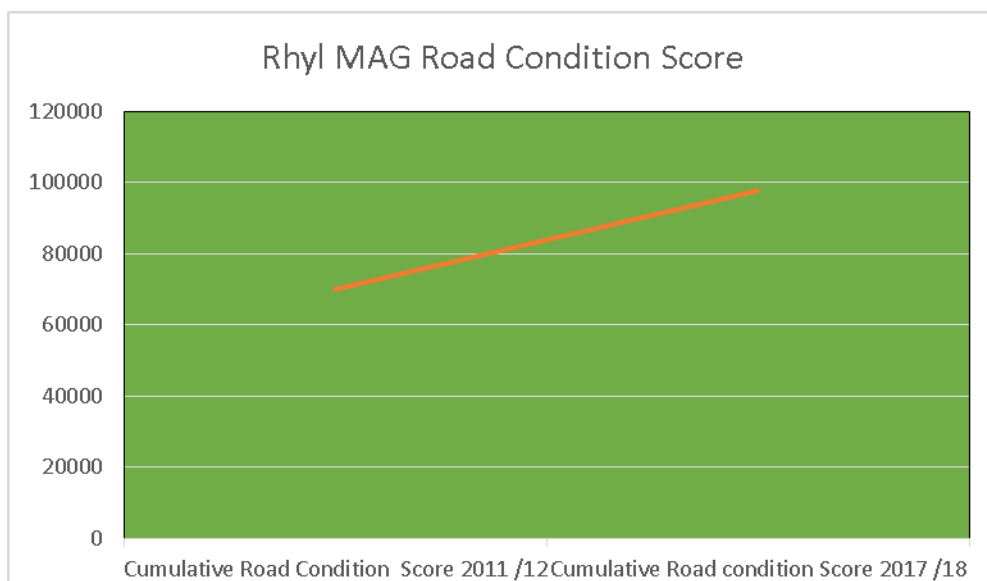
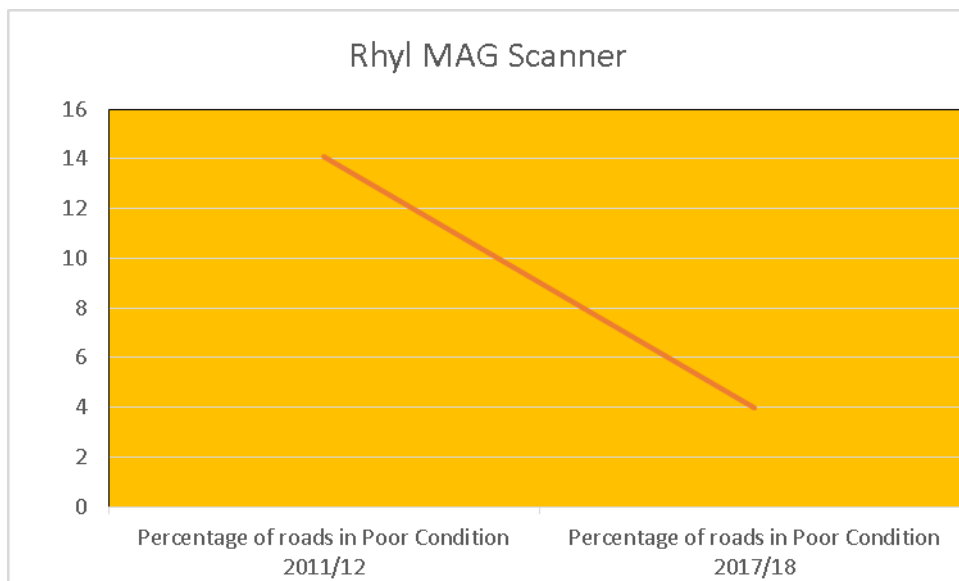
Brig y Don (325)

The Grove, Meliden (325)

The Avenue, Woodland Park (325)

Clayton Drive (312.5)

Rhyl MAG



As the main A and B roads are Vale Road, Wellington Road / Russell Road and the Promenade it is easy to see that the work we have done on these in the last six years has positively affected the Scanner output with only 4% now being deemed to be Poor.

As with other MAG areas though the position with regards to the condition of the other roads is much less agreeable. In Rhyl in 2017 /18 the average score has risen to 254 from the starting point of 182 showing that there is a degradation despite the work that has gone on. In 2011/12 there were 30 individual roads scoring 350 points or more and this has now come down to 15 but with the average score rising markedly then it is clear that roads are getting worse.

We are obviously aware of problems on some of the A and B roads such as at the Vale Road / Marsh Road junction, parts of Kinmel Street, The Coast Road between Tynewydd Lights

and the Fire Station but here is the list of the other roads in Rhyl MAG that are scoring highly and therefore a cause for concern:-

Gamlin Street (Scores 425)

Gwalia Avenue (400)

Pendyffryn Road North (400)

H Bridge (400)

Hilton Road (375)

Maes Llewelyn (375)

Porth y Llys (375)

Pen y Llys (375)

Ascot Drive (375)

Bodfor Street (360)

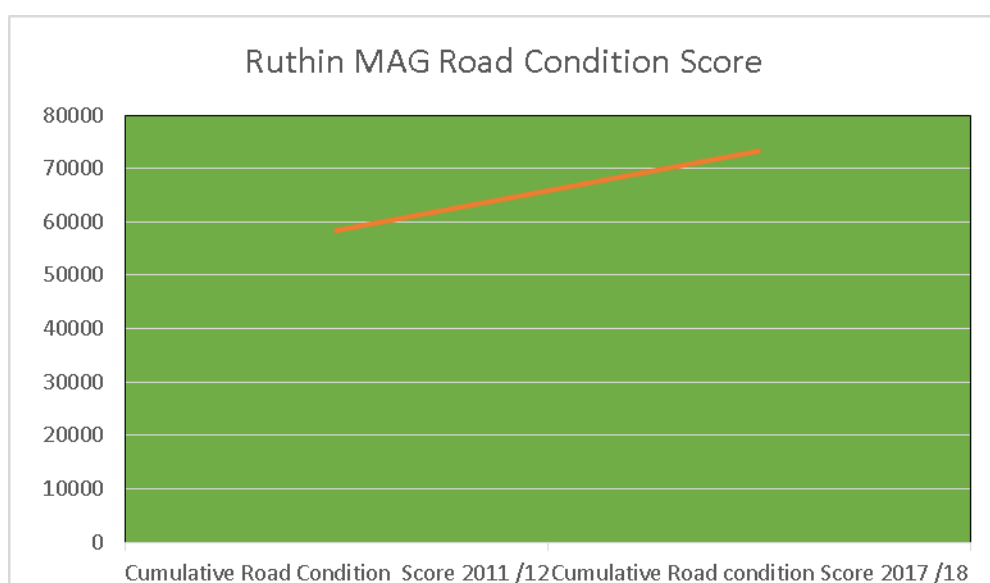
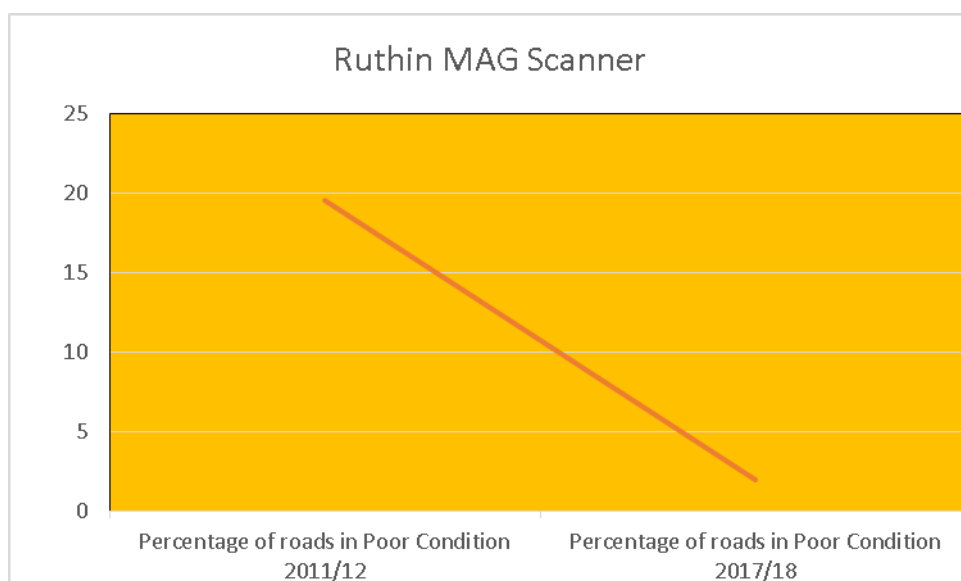
Pendyffryn Road (350)

Westminster Avenue (350)

Owen Close (350)

Marsh Road (350)

Ruthin MAG



Given its size and diversity Ruthin MAG is perhaps the most difficult of the areas to manage in terms of focussing the road improvement programme. The urban nature of Ruthin itself contrasts with many roads in the locality that serve just one or two isolated properties but nevertheless we measure and monitor the vast majority of them so these results accurately reflect the true condition of the network.

In the last few years we have invested a lot of money in the A and b roads and the dramatic improvement in the Scanner results is testament to this. There are still problems on roads such as the A5104, the B5430 and the B5429 but on the whole the strategic roads are in a satisfactory state – we now just need to keep them that way.

In terms of the more minor roads the situation in Ruthin MAG is similar to that of other MAGs in that the average Road condition Score is rising. Perhaps it could be said the situation in Ruthin is even more marked and therefore a cause for concern. The reason for saying this is that in 2011/12 there were 56 roads scoring 350 points or more but this has now been brought down to just 4 however, despite addressing this swathe of poor roads the average score has still risen from 188 to 236 so here again it is obvious that problems are building.

Whilst we are aware of localised issues right across the area it is the following roads that are scoring the highest and, as can be seen, many of these are highly used ones in Ruthin town centre.

Gwegil y Bryn, Llanelidan (Scores 375)

Ty Cerrig to Plas Norway (375)

Pencoed Junction to Garreg Llwyd, Gwyddelwern (362.5)

Castle Street, Ruthin (360)

Clwyd Street, Ruthin (345)

Prior Street, Ruthin (345)

St Peters Square, Ruthin (330)

Tai Isaf to Plas Efenechtyd (325)

Plas Efenechtyd to the B5105 (312.5)

Please note that due to the nature of some of the roads in the area that are known as Green Lanes then there are no recorded scores for these but we do continue to maintain them to the best of our ability.