

**Report To:** Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**Lead Member / Officer:** Stuart Davies, Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure

**Report Author:** Tim Towers, Section Manager (Network Services)

**Title:** Progress with Highways Capital Maintenance Work

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**1. What is the report about?**

To present details of the progress to date with the highways maintenance programme and the programme of future works.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The report is intended to update Members on progress with the 2012 / 13 programme and to outline how we will develop the forward works programme for 2013 / 14.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Members note the progress to date and confirm that the proposed strategy for going forward is agreeable.

**4. Report details.**

*4.1 Progress with the 2012 / 13 Capital Maintenance programme*

4.1.1 As improving the condition of its roads remains a priority Denbighshire has committed £1,400,000 in 2012 / 2013 with the specific intention of targeting the roads in the county which were giving the most cause for complaints or potential risks. In addition to this there is also an allocation of £2,022,000 via the Welsh Government Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) funding and this year this is focussed mainly on the A and B roads within the county. The entire programme was also linked to need to address specific issues that had been identified as part of the more technical surveys we do such as SCRIM which is an assessment of skidding resistance.

4.1.2 The resurfacing was split into the usual three main categories of the traditional bituminous resurfacing, microasphalt and Surface Dressing. The latter two are very much weather related operations and need to be carried out in the warm and drier summer months. This year has

proved particularly onerous for our contractors but nevertheless they have been able to work around the prevailing rain and have completed the surface dressing and microasphalt programmes. Schemes included :-

#### Surface Dressing

A542 Penyclawdd to Bryn Golau, Llandegla  
A525 Pennant Isaf Bend, Nant y Garth  
A525 Ty Newydd Junction to Kynnaid, Llanfair D. C.  
A525, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd to Ruthin  
A525 Glan Aber Farm to Llanrhaeadr  
A525 Trefnant to Tyddyn Lunt  
A547 Meliden Golf Club  
Whitchurch Road, Denbigh  
Pengwern, Llangollen  
Erw Deg, Llangollen  
Talyrnau to Wenallt junction  
Llanfwrog to Bontuchel  
Llantysilio School Road  
Sun Inn, Llantysilio

**Note** It had been our intention to Surface Dress the B5382 Denbigh to Henllan Road but this proved impossible due to the ongoing Welsh Water works in the vicinity. This will now be placed onto the 2013 / 2014 programme.

#### Microasphalt

A525 Llysfasi  
A542 Pentre Bwlch to Afon Alyn, Llandegla  
A542 Pen y Clawdd to Plantation, Pentredwr  
A5104 Jordans Crossroads to Pentre Isaf, Bryneglwys  
B5437 from the A5 to Carrog.  
Gellifor to B5429  
Gellifor Village  
Clocaenog to Clawddnewydd  
Clocaenog to Bontuchel  
A494 to Llanelidan  
A494 to Maeshafn

**Note** Due to the fact that the contractors plant was too heavy to cross the Dee Bridge it was not possible to lay microasphalt on the Carrog Village section and this too has now been deferred into the 2013 / 14 programme so that smaller plant can be utilised.

- 4.1.3 Notwithstanding the above we have also been busy with some of the resurfacing programme. By far the largest scheme completed to date was the resurfacing of the whole of the Denbighshire stretch of the B4391 in the far south west of the county. This route required a mix of full reconstruction and resurfacing and we also took the opportunity to widen it to some degree too. This was a complex project as the road is

a vital link from Bala over to mid-Wales and we had to make a number of changes to the contract so as to accommodate the needs of road users. The work was completed at the end of August.

4.1.4 In addition to the above we have also completed the work on :-

West Parade, Rhyl  
B5381 Glascoed Road, St. Asaph  
B4501 Bryn Glas to Bwlch Du, Nantglyn  
B4501 Peniel, Denbigh  
Bettws Gwerfil Goch  
A548 Coast Road, Rhyl

#### 4.2 *Programmed Works*

4.2.1 At the time of writing we have schemes underway at:-

North Avenue in Prestatyn  
Prestatyn High Street  
A5104 between Rhydtalog and Llandegla.  
Motts Lane, Gellifor

Over the remaining months of this financial year we have programmed in the remaining schemes which total around twelve in number ranging from sections of Marsh Road in Rhyl, through high profile works on the A525 in Ruthin down to resurfacing Bryneglwys and Derwen.

We are on programme and within budget.

#### 4.3 *Bridges and Structures*

4.3.1 Again, the bad weather has hampered work on some of the bridges, primarily as a result of the high water levels preventing work within the rivers and streams to address problems of scouring. These will now be deferred into 2013 / 14.

4.3.2 Elsewhere however there has been good progress and schemes have either been completed, are currently on site or will be completed within the current financial year. These include :-

##### Strengthening Works

- **Pont Glan Y Wern** – Complete, on budget.
- **Pont Eyardh Uchaf** – Complete, within budget.
- **Berwyn Railway Bridge** – Planned works on schedule for both November 2012 and March 2013, starts.
- **Redwood Drive Culvert** – Currently on site, estimated costs to be within budget.

- **Llannerch Railway Bridge** – awaiting listed building consent. Works reprogrammed for February / March 2013.
- **Pont Llwyn Onn** – On schedule for March 2013.
- **A525 Elwy Bridge** – Trial strengthening scheme due for completion in November 2012. Laser survey planned for December to record works and analyze whether further erosion has occurred, since the summer survey. Scheduled Monument Consent Application for the strengthening of the central arch to be in completed in January 2013.

#### Refurbishment works

- **Foryd Bridge** – Painting / Metalwork Repair project currently on site, anticipated completion date, currently 2 weeks behind schedule, now in November 2012.
- **Pont Cilan** – Pointing works to superstructure complete, scheduled monument consent for strengthening currently being prepared. Strengthening scheme is outside the scope of this years budget.
- **Pont Ruffydd, Pont Dafydd and Pont Cynwyd Dyfrdwy** – Unable to undertake scour works, due to high water levels during the summer. Materials will be procured in anticipation of lower water levels, next summer.
- **Bontuchel** – Waterproofing project complete, within budget.
- **Bontuchel Bach** – Waterproofing project, on schedule for February 2013.

#### 4.4 *The 2013 / 14 Capital Maintenance Programme*

- 4.4.1 We are at the early stages of developing next year's programme however we are working quickly to finalise the programme which we aim to do by January 2013. Next year's work will again be funded jointly between the LGBI and an allocation from Denbighshire's own resources so at the present time we are working on an indicative funding of around £3.5 million for the overall programme (including bridges and street lighting). In order to comply with the requirements of the LGBI funding we need to submit a detailed programme to the Welsh Government by December 2012.
- 4.4.2 To date we have produced our own draft list of works and have also sought the views and comments of Town and Community Councils from across the county so that they have a chance to inform us of their views and concerns.
- 4.4.3 The next is to prepare a draft programme for consideration at the Strategic Investment Group meeting in October.
- 4.4.4. The final stage in developing the programme is that highway officers will attend the six Member Area Group meetings in November so that the elected Members have the opportunity to discuss and debate the various options. As a result we are not yet in a position to bring a definitive list to this meeting.

4.4.5 When finalised, the programme will be communicated to all elected members, Town and Community Councils and put on the website. Monitoring reports will sent on a monthly basis through these avenues. Any significant town centre schemes or other high profile works will be separately communicated to local business groups.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

It is a service priority that residents and visitors to Denbighshire will have access to a safe and well maintained road network and investment of this type can only serve enhance this aim.

**6. What consultations have been carried out?**

As outlined above, development of the programme is subject to extensive consultation with a wide range of relevant bodies.

**7. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The programme appears broadly on target. Costs of the above projects should be contained within the capital allocations for 2012/13. Any projects that slip should have the funding slipped as well.

**8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The main risks associated by this type of work relate to ensuring that suitably qualified contractors are available and that costs can be controlled. By getting a programme in place early enough we will be able to liaise closely with our contractors so that programming can be undertaken effectively. Framework Contracts will be used to procure these contractors so that value for money is assured and beyond that we will then closely monitor costs such that inflationary pressures beyond our control (i.e bitumen increases) can be taken account of and controlled.

**9. Power to make the Decision**

Highways Act 1980