

14 May 2019

Dear Colleague

Start of Member-led footway repair programme 2019

Now that we have made great strides repairing the carriageway potholes that you prioritised, we are now turning our attention to footways. As I mentioned in my letter to you in March, I am now inviting you to provide the highways service with a list of footway defects in your Division that you would most like to see repaired.

These member-defined footway repairs will run alongside the routine repairs we conduct using our risk-assessed method. Together, they should lead to an overall greater number of resolved problems.

Perhaps surprisingly, footway repairs can often be more complex and time- and resource-consuming than repairs to a road surface. This can be for a number of reasons. For instance it may not be a footway Essex County Council is responsible for; there may be significant numbers of utility cables and pipes immediately under the surface we have to work round; and there may be many different types of surface and street furniture to deal with (asphalt; paving slabs; concrete; block-paving, grass verges and so on). We will have to consider all these points within the overall repair budget available.

Hopefully you will have already started to identify the footway locations you have in mind.

Accompanying this letter is a guidance document and a form to use which explains how we would like you to describe and report the problems. It is important that you follow the instructions so that your repairs do not get 'lost' in the system. It will also make it possible for us to report to you how things are progressing. Thanks in advance for supporting our methods.

Once we start to receive your lists we will commence assessing them with a view to delivering their repair where practicable over the coming months. If we cannot repair something for any reason we will inform you of that too.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please do email me.

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