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HoCS/MM/JH/JW

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to update you on the current situation with regards pothole repairs throughout the county.

Immediately following the recent bad weather, the highways department have identified approximately 1200 new potholes, in addition to the existing road defects. This is around 5 to 6 times the normal number.

To ensure the roads are safe enough to drive on, temporary fixes are being used. These will be in place until a permanent fix can be achieved at a later date.

I have received complaints from parish councils and members of the general public about the quality of our pothole repairs. There are very good health and safety reasons why we need to do temporary fixes. They are not attractive but do the job and stop our roads from being a danger to car users.

I am equally frustrated with the current situation but we are dealing with a legacy of under investment in our roads. The quality of our roads, especially in the rural areas, is not good.

Whilst we investing an extra £30 million on highways maintenance over three years, doubling the planned highways investment, we still have the same size team repairing the roads so the change will not happen over night. This problem caused by the snow adds a new dimension. I reassure you that we hear your concerns and we are working hard to sort out the problem.

In the meantime your continued support is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mike Maryon
Cabinet Member for Highways

