



Hassall Parish Council Highways Hour

Follow up report

Dear Hassall Parish Council,

Thank you for inviting Rob Welch, Design Team Leader and John Tickle, Senior Highways Officer to meet with you to discuss highways issues in your area.

We hope the meeting was a useful opportunity to address highway matters that are most relevant to your local area.

In this follow up report, you will find some useful guidance about the highways service, along with a summary of issues discussed during your Highways Hour.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Shields
Service Leader – Cheshire East Highways

Our responsibilities

Ringway Jacobs provide the highways service, Cheshire East Highways, and we are responsible for maintenance of highway assets included in the below diagram. With regards to grass, we cut grass verges that form part of the highway only.



ANSA delivers waste and recycling services for Cheshire East Council, along with grounds maintenance, fleet services and street cleansing functions. ANSA empties bins, manages your household recycling centres, cleans streets, cuts grass on public open space and amenity land, and they also remove litter.

ANSA Environmental Services Ltd is a company wholly owned and controlled by Cheshire East Council. For more information or to contact Ansa, visit their website at www.ansa.co.uk.

Highway inspections

Every road on the highway network is inspected in accordance with Cheshire East Council's Code of Practice for Highway Safety 2013. Defects are assessed against various criteria based on established standards and best practice.

Inspection can result in the repair of defects identified within a timescale that is reasonable in the opinion of the Highway Authority, depending on the seriousness of the defect and the risk to the public.

[Highway Safety Inspections](#)

We have a team of five Highway Safety Inspectors that undertake these inspections, although other staff are trained and qualified to provide cover and additional support.

The frequency of inspections depends on the category and location of each road. A roads are inspected every two months and the majority of other roads, including all of the residential areas, every four months.

It is important that these inspections are completed and recorded to the required standard and on time. This helps to fulfil part of the Council's duty to maintain the highway. We regularly achieve 100% completion of all inspections each month.

Roads inspected will vary month to month which means that inspections in your area can occur regularly.

Typical defects identified on an inspection will be carriageway potholes, damaged kerbs, overgrown hedges, and uneven footways.

In addition to these safety inspections, a variety of annual condition surveys are carried out using specialist machinery, to provide information that helps to assess priorities for our future work programmes.

How we manage road condition

Since 2012, when the condition of the road network was in a critical condition, Cheshire East Council has successfully employed a three-level strategy in order to keep safe, maintain and improve our roads.

[Road Condition and Repairs](#)

Some areas may not be repaired immediately but taken forward for inclusion in Level 2 and Level 3 programmes. This ensures that we deliver the correct treatment, in the right location, at the right time, maximising the value that we achieve from the funding available.

How we manage gully cleansing

Gullies will be emptied at frequencies determined by a number of criteria such as road class, location and condition data collected during previous empties.

As a general rule, all gullies on A and B roads will be emptied every year and those in residential areas at least once every three years. Some known 'hot spots' will be emptied on a more regular basis. Our 2017/18 gully cleansing programme runs until April 2018. Details of the strategy and the gully emptying programmes can be found here:

[Gullies and drains](#)

Some gullies will block between scheduled empties and we will attend to these when brought to our attention.

We take a similar approach to gully and highway drainage maintenance as for road surfaces. When gullies are emptied, we check to make sure that they are working by flushing through with water. If they are blocked, we identify with a 'red tag' and record the location using a GPS based system. Arrangements are then made to return with a high pressure water jetter.

Information about roadworks

All planned works and ongoing works within Cheshire East are automatically published and displayed on our roadworks webpage. All roadworks in Cheshire East should be covered by a permit allowing the works promoter to work on the road network.

[Latest Roadworks](#)

All utilities are legally obliged to comply with the national Street Works Reinstatement Specification (aka Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways), details of which can be found on the GOV.UK website:

[Statement for the reinstatement of openings in highways](#)

We have a team of four Street Works Inspectors that work across the borough checking the quality and safety of utility works through a system of random inspections.

If utility works are found to be defective, or in breach of the conditions set against the permit, then enforcement action is taken through the use of Defect Notices instructing remedial works, or Fixed Penalty Notice 'fines'. The penalty varies from £80 for a breach of condition, to £300 if caught working without a permit.

Street lighting repairs

We aim to repair all reported street lighting defects within 12 days. This timeframe can sometimes be longer at sites where we:

- Have to commission particular traffic management to complete the work safely
- Are unable to work due to issues with permits, and
- If a third party is involved in the repair (such as an electricity provider).

On completion of a repair, our operatives will also take before and after photographs of each defect they attend.

Some street lighting repairs require connections that are provided by the relevant electricity provider. The target response time for a connection by the electricity provider is 35 working days from when the order is placed. However, this can vary depending on availability of their resources and their work programme.

Your highways concerns

In addition to the service overview provided, the following queries were raised at your Highways Hour meeting:

Naming of gully schedules

Some of our gully cleansing routes contain several parishes. The name of the route is normally derived from the larger of the parishes. The main purpose of this is to give a rough indication of the location of the work within the Borough.

If we change the name of the route to include Hassall, it is likely that the remaining parishes would also request that their parish is included in the name of the route. This will result in a

route name that is too long, which is problematic for use on software we use to plan for gully emptying.

Temporary road closures – diversion routes

All temporary road closures and associated diversion routes are displayed online at: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/roadworks/latest-roadworks.aspx.

Traffic survey – Day Green

A traffic survey will be carried out in Day Green six months after the completion of signage and lining works.

Speed Indicator Signs – Day Green

The Department for Transport (DfT) has notified some transport authorities that SIDs should no longer be used on the highway. Vehicle activated signs (VAS) can be used. The type of VAS permitted is shown in figure 3 of the DfT Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/15; https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397832/15012_3_TAL_Variable_Message_Signs_for_web_publication_.pdf.

Our road safety team can advise further: cheshireeasttraffic@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Ownership of passing area – Mayfield, Alsager Road

A site meeting has taken place between John Tickle and Andrew Kelly from Cheshire East Highways and the landowner plus his solicitor to discuss this case. The landowner, through his solicitor, is to provide Cheshire East Highways with documentary evidence to show how the land in question is not part of the highway. We are awaiting the arrival of this evidence, and it will then be evaluated.

Report it: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways
Call us: 0300 123 5020
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