

Message from Thriplow Parish Council to HRA members

Finally, the long awaited improvements to your roads are about to be started. We have already completed the work on some foul-water drains that needed repair and we've now contracted with a very well respected company (Spadeoak) to improve the storm-water drainage and then to resurface the roads. This work will start on September 14 and we're told - no promises - that it will be complete by the end of November. It is costing a lot of money but we expect this work to have a huge positive impact to the estate. The programme will use Section 106 money and is a one-off opportunity for the Parish Council to complete some much needed but expensive maintenance. After this project is completed, maintenance remains a responsibility of HRA.

The Work Programme

The details of the work itself are available on the HRA website. You will find two drawings of the estate with colour coded areas marked up for the various treatments that will be applied, and one drawing that shows the construction details themselves. In brief the work consists of:

- installing new gullies and soakaways to take the rain from the surface and allow it to drain into the ground without causing large puddles
- remaking certain areas of the road (especially corners and junctions) that are under more extreme pressure due to sewage trucks and dustbin lorries, and giving them a heavy-duty foundation treatment
- removing the existing tarmac of other parts of the roads where the foundation is actually still in good condition
- repairs where necessary and resurfacing all of the old roads
- reconditioning the areas of communal parking with new gravel
- replacing any kerbs that are broken or displaced
- relaying some pavements where they have cracked
- replacing the block paving pavement on the entry to the estate with a heavy duty equivalent (to withstand trucks mounting the kerb)
- providing larger inside corners for the trucks to turn without mounting kerbs.

Some of you will need to sign consent forms to allow the contractor to enter your property to do small amounts of work eg put in a soakaway. If this applies to you, you will have been contacted, or you will be contacted shortly by someone from the Parish Council with the details of the work to be done.

What Happens During the Work

All of you will be affected to a greater or lesser extent by this work, while it proceeds. The phasing plan we have seen so far shows work starting with the new gullies and soakaways and then removing old tarmac and replacing kerbs etc from the top end of Kingsway, moving down to Whitehall and then the entrance to the estate. When everything is ready, they will bring a machine to resurface the lot in about three days. Spadeoak have told us that access for cars will always be provided at weekends but it is obvious that the roads will be unusable at certain times. They will also probably use traffic lights and diversions from time to time. We will have to live with these disruptions for a few weeks but we have an agreement with Icen that you can use the parking in front of and to the west side of their buildings during the works. Please do not park in their fenced off area because that is a working area and it is locked in the evening. Access can also be gained to the top of Kingsway by using the road that goes down the west of the Icen building.

Work is only permitted between 0730 and 1800 between Monday and Friday unless special dispensation is given to work outside these hours.

Your Opportunity to have other Work Completed

When you have had a look at the work on the plans, you (perhaps with your neighbours) may wish to do some additional work. It is possible that Spadeoak will be able to do this work for you but there are several conditions that have to be met:

- 1) you will need to place an order with Spadeoak in good time for them to arrange for the work to be carried out
- 2) if you are using the specifications developed by the Parish Council's engineer, you will do so at your own risk
- 3) the work must not interfere with the Parish Council programme
- 4) you will have to pay for all of the additional work

If this option is interesting to you, please contact Spadeoak with a properly thought out plan for what you want to do, directly on 01628 529 421. The person to ask for is Tim Bancroft.

Questions

If you have any questions about this entire programme, please contact Kevin Clarke on landline 01763 208727, mobile 07785 373887 or by email at ck.clarke@virgin.net. He will make sure that the question gets to the right person. We must ask you not to try to instruct Spadeoak yourselves, they will not take any notice! The right channel of communication to them is through Kevin and the Parish Council's Engineer.

Thriplow Parish Council