

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: **5th DECEMBER 2019**
 SUBJECT: **Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton**
 DIVISION: **The Dittons**

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition with 34 signatures has been submitted to Surrey County Council's Local Committee for Elmbridge. The lead petitioner is Ros Rowlatt.

The petition states:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Resurface part of Hampton Court Way at KT7 0LS.

Further detail provided with the petition reads as follows:

The residents of Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton are petitioning Surrey County Council to repair and resurface the main carriageway (not the slip road) between 1 and 12 Hampton Court Way.

The concrete plates under the road surface are rocking under the weight of HGVs causing a lip/hump effect of the tarmac between the concrete plates. The tarmac build up has created several humps and dips in the carriageway. The result of vehicles traversing these humps is: extreme vibration felt in properties; noise disturbance to all the residents; health concerns owing to a lack of sleep; educational issues because children being woken up are tired at school; damage to the mortar and plaster at residents properties. Despite several years of requests to the council nothing has been done or planned. The residents want full resurfacing of the road not just patched repairs that do not solve the problem. The residents demand a full investigation of the situation considering the amount of resurfacing work taking place nearby

RESPONSE:

Hampton Court Way is a principal route connecting Hampton Court and Richmond to the north, and the Scilly Isles to the south. The road is constructed from large concrete panels and is overlaid with a thin layer of asphalt.

Generally speaking Hampton Court Way is in good condition compared to other roads in the county. Roads with a concrete structure tend to be very robust and can last many years. Such roads are constructed using large concrete panels with expansion joints in between. These expansion joints deteriorate over time, resulting in increased road noise. It is rare for an expansion joint to deteriorate to the point of becoming a Safety Defect.

Over the years there have been a number of utility trenches dug across Hampton Court Way to lay pipes, cables, etc. These utility trenches cut through the concrete panels, and if they are not reinstated appropriately, can cause problems down the line. For example if a trench is reinstated just with asphalt, which is a slightly flexible material, the expansion and contraction of concrete panels can, over time, cause the asphalt to bulge from between adjacent concrete sections.

Surrey County Council have identified two sites – including one at the junction with Elm Tree Avenue – where previous utility company reinstatements were not done to an appropriate specification. In these situations Surrey County Council may approach the utility company and request that they undertake repairs to an appropriate specification. One of these trenches (to the north of the subject site) has already been repaired by BT at the end of October 2019. We are currently working to see whether we can insist that a second utility company would make repairs near Elm Tree Avenue. Part of the trench near Elm Tree Avenue has already been repaired, but we are not confident of the quality of this repair.

At the same time Surrey County Council is investigating vertical displacement between adjacent concrete panels to the south of the roundabout junction with Embercourt Road. We intend to repair this short section early in the next Financial Year 2020-21 at a cost estimated to be £60,000. Condition monitoring will continue as part of scheduled asset management inspections.

Being a concrete road, anything more than very localised repairs can be very expensive. A broad estimate for the 150m length of Hampton Court Way between numbers 1 and 12 it would be approximately £500,000.

It should be noted that any significant maintenance work would exceed the budgets likely to be available to Committee for the foreseeable future.

Surrey County Council inspects Hampton Court Way every month for Safety Defects, which means that if a Safety Defect were to develop, we would be able to identify it and repair it relatively quickly.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Note the response.*

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager