

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DECISIONS –  
20 DECEMBER 2022**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**Members Questions**

**Question (1) Mark Sugden – Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott**

‘A number of concrete roads in my Division in Hinchley Wood had concrete fine milling undertaken in late 2021. Surrey County Council notes that this is an innovative process. All the roads were originally plain concrete but had had at sometime in the past, a layer of tarmac applied to the concrete surface. Many residents have expressed strong dissatisfaction with the outcome and consider the end result appalling and some have commented that these works were a ‘pilot’. Concerns relate to among other matters: road surface uneven, poor ride and noise; how the road surface looks and the jointing material not matching the road surface; kerbing type, colour and size; concrete being more susceptible to frost heave than tarmac/asphalt and drainage issues.

Could the Cabinet Member:

- i) Confirm how long SCC has been utilising the fine milling process to repair concrete roads?
- ii) Is it SCC policy that all concrete roads going forward as and when a repair is to be made to such roads, that it is intended that the fine milling process is to be utilised?
- iii) Provide a perspective on the general concerns noted above?
- iv) Given residents’ concerns, arrange for Surrey highways to undertake a post scheme review of those roads in Hinchley Wood where this concrete fine milling has been undertaken?’

**Reply:**

- i) Confirm how long SCC has been utilising the fine milling process to repair concrete roads?

Surrey County Council first introduced fine milling of concrete roads on our network in 2020. Approximately 4 roads were treated with the process during the first year.

- ii) Is it SCC policy that all concrete roads going forward as and when a repair is to be made to such roads, that it is intended that the fine milling process is to be utilised?

Following the completion of the initial sites in 2020, the fine milling process and the proprietary acrylic treatment to repair damaged areas and seal expansion joints proved to be effective.

Feedback was positive from stakeholders and whole life costs could be considered beneficial which led to a substantial annual programme of approx. a dozen sites in both 2021 and in the current year.

SCC will continue to have comparable size fine milling programmes in future years.

It is not intended that all concrete roads will be treated using the fine milling process as it is not suitable for all circumstances where variation in condition, underlying stability of the slabs and adjustments required to kerb stones and ironwork must be considered.

The Council has also explored an alternative repair solution by doing structural concrete repairs to damaged slabs. This has increased options for designating more roads for fine milling but is not a cure all.

iii) Provide a perspective on the general concerns noted above?

The Council has received both positive and negative responses from residents following the fine milling process. We have had instances where residents of roads adjacent to where fine milling has been carried out have requested this for their roads which suggests satisfaction with the finished product.

Some complaints have occurred before the snagging process has been completed and many functionality issues have been resolved.

There will always be differing opinions and preferences regarding aesthetics however, it is expected that the finished appearance will be retained for much longer when compared with delamination of a thin tarmac layer and reflective cracking issues which blight the appearance of concrete roads and add to poor ride quality.

Frost heave can present problems in asphalt roads as well as concrete roads particularly on the many evolved rather than designed roads on Surrey's network. The susceptibility in concrete roads may be present once a road is constructed depending on the subgrade but cannot be resolved through surface treatment regardless of whether restoring the concrete finish through fine milling or providing an asphalt overlay.

iv) Given residents' concerns, arrange for Surrey highways to undertake a post scheme review of those roads in Hinchley Wood where this concrete fine milling has been undertaken?

All schemes undergo snagging prior to completion to identify and action any issues with completed schemes.

In addition, the Council's Highway Laboratory conducts audits for a sample of sites and pay particular attention to new materials and treatments when first introduced. The Laboratory will be reviewing roads in Hinchley Wood in the new year.

**Kevin Deanus**  
**Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience**  
**20 December 2022**