**SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME 2018/19**

**Frequently asked questions**

**What is surface dressing?**

Surface dressing is a process when an aging road surface is sprayed with bitumen and then covered with stone chippings. Surface dressing is carried out as it provides added protection to the carriageway surface, sealing it from water getting into any cracks in the road surface and it also enhances its skid resistance.

This treatment can extend the life of the road surface by up to 10 years.

**What is the process?**

* A calibrated tanker sprays a thin film of hot bitumen onto the road.
* A metered spreader puts hard stone chippings onto the hot bitumen.
* These chippings are then lightly rolled and pressed into the bitumen to form an interlocking surface. The road can then be driven over with care. Any loose chippings on the surface are swept away and the road markings replaced.

**How long will the work take?**

Surface dressing is usually completed at each site within a day. A routine programme of sweeping continues for approximately one month to remove excess chippings.

During this period the replacement of road markings and cat’s eyes will also be carried out, subject to weather conditions.

**Will the road need to be closed?**

Generally a closure of the road is not required during surface dressing works as it is a very quick process. However, access may be limited for short periods to allow the necessary works to be undertaken as quickly and safely as possible. On busy roads traffic management (cones, traffic lights etc) may be utilised to protect the surface until the first sweep is complete.

**Why are loose chippings not immediately cleared after completion?**

A surplus of chippings are required as part of the process to provide an even spread of aggregate over the finished surface.

**I require access to my drive 24 hours a day, will provisions be in place to allow access ?**

Due to the nature of these works there will be short periods when access **cannot** be maintained. Where there are particular access requirements please speak to the site staff who will try their best to accommodate any specific needs.

**Why was I not informed about the proposed works before you arrived on site?**

Advanced works notification signs are erected on site at least 24 hours prior to works commencing. A leaflet containing further information is also delivered to properties that front the works. The short notice of the works is due to the process being weather dependent, this means in periods of changeable weather the planned start dates for the works can change several times. In periods of good weather we aim to put up advance notice boards up to 7 days in advance.

**How is the damage risk to vehicles minimised?**

Warning signs are erected along with 20 mph advisory speed limit signs. As long as advisory speed limits are adhered to there should be no damage to vehicles.

**A chip has damaged my windscreen, can I claim for the cost of repair or replacement?**

We ensure that we fulfil the legal obligations of the highway authority by erecting signs and following procedure. As a result we are protected against claims of this nature, so no you would not be able to claim.

**When does the work take place?**

The surface dressing program for 2018/19 is anticipated to commence in August, subject to weather conditions. Works will generally be carried out during the week, Monday to Friday, starting at 7.30am and finishing by 5.30pm.

On busier routes works will not start until 9.30am and will be finished around 3.30pm to reduce the impact on traffic and congestion.

However, due to the nature of these works weather can also play its part, and as a result working hours are subject to change.