

GREAT CENTRAL AVENUE, SOUTH RUISLIP – CONDITION OF CARRIAGEWAY SURFACE

Cabinet Member	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation
Officer Contact	Gurmeet Matharu, Planning, Environment and Community Services
Papers with report	Appendices A and B

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition signed by 27 residents of Great Central Avenue, South Ruislip, has been received.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	A safe Borough, a clean and attractive Borough.
Financial Cost	There are none at present associated with this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	South Ruislip

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

1. **Considers the petitioners' request and discusses with them in detail their concerns regarding the condition of the carriageway surface.**
2. **Subject to the outcome of (1), instruct officers to place Great Central Avenue on to the list roads being considered for treatment in a future resurfacing programme.**

Reasons for recommendation

The existing carriageway surface has deteriorated to the extent that shallow fretting has taken place in isolated areas of the carriageway. This is due to the natural ageing of the surface and the surface dressing that has been applied over the original layer. Past patching has filled some of the worst fretting but only as a temporary measure. The road profile is "bumpy" in places and service trenches have sunk at a number of locations. In some small areas, the surface has completely worn away exposing small areas of the original concrete surface. This is not dangerous but does give the road a "patchwork" appearance. Resurfacing would improve the visual appearance of the avenue and improve the ride surface.

Supporting Information

1. The petition requests that "Great Central Avenue, which is dilapidated and unsafe wasn't on the Council's list of roads to be resurfaced in last year's 2009 budget. Great Central Avenue has not been resurfaced within the last 20 years and we, the residents, demand it is resurfaced in your April 2010 budget".
2. Great Central Avenue is a residential road approximately 583 metres long. The carriageway is of rigid (concrete) construction, with an overlay of bituminous (tarmac) material.
3. Based on the results of the recent United Kingdom Pavement Management System (UKPMS) structural condition surveys, carried out on all Borough roads between January and March 2009, Great Central Avenue is placed low on the advised priority list for future treatment. However, officers do consider that this road is a medium priority on 'serviceability' criteria such as appearance, ride quality etc. At the time of the assessment, prior to writing this report, there was no fretting in evidence greater than 40mm, the minimum intervention level for immediate repair of dangerous defects.
4. Numerous patching operations have been carried out over the years. Compacting of new repair material is impractical due to the brittleness of the existing surface course, which overlays the original concrete road. Therefore, resurfacing the whole road is an option which would cost £51,500.

Alternative options considered

Officers consider that the carriageway surface is now beyond normal patching repair and that resurfacing is the only option available to restore a smooth surface.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Financial Implications

In certain circumstances, the Council can incur legal liability, as the Highway Authority, for loss or damages to users of the highway as a result of not complying with their duties under the Highways, which could result in costs being incurred by the Council in settling claims if the work is not carried out.

If, in due course, if it is decided to resurface the road, a funding source would need to be identified. This work is usually funded from the Highways capital resurfacing programme, which would be subject to normal capital release and member approval protocols.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The resurfacing of Great Central Avenue will take into consideration the particular needs of local residents, school children and older people and people with disabilities to provide smoother, safer highway surfaces and features.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

N/A.

Corporate Procurement

N/A.

Corporate Landlord

N/A.

Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain the highway under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 (the duty). Each street must be maintained to the standard necessary to allow its ordinary traffic to pass along it. For example, there could be a breach of duty in cases where a danger is caused by a failure to repair.

A failure to comply with the duty leading to loss or damage to users of the highway creates a risk of legal liability for the Council.

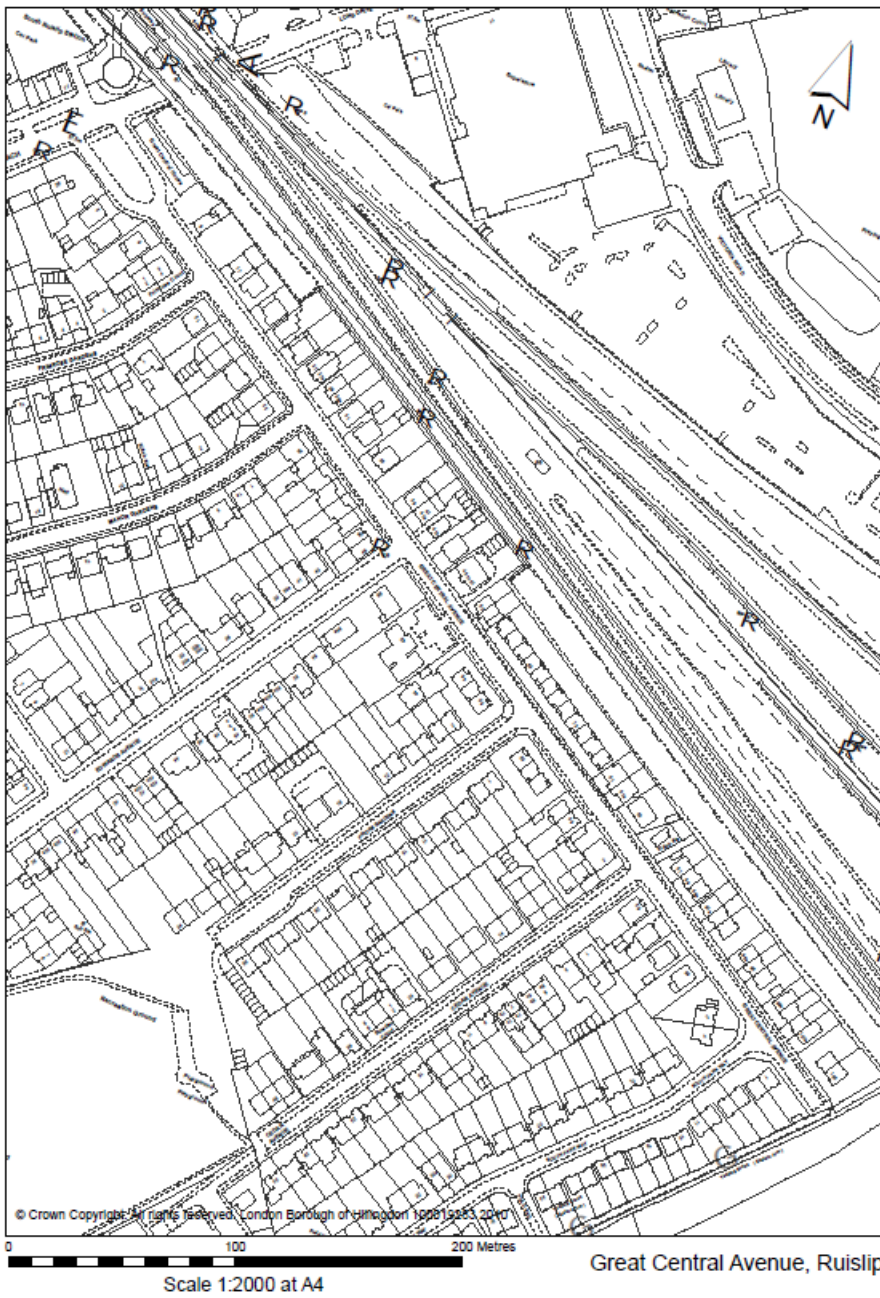
Continued periodic inspection and the making of expeditious repairs are sufficient to keep the highway in accordance with the necessary standard. The officer's report indicates that although the highway is not dangerous, improved ride quality would be facilitated in the longer term by resurfacing rather than a programme of continued patching.

There are competing priorities in any ongoing programme of maintenance. It is a matter for officers to recommend when the planned resurfacing should take place in the programme of highway works having regard to the legal requirement to meet the duty to repair and maintain the highway.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

APPENDIX 'A' – LOCATION PLAN



PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

APPENDIX 'B' – PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY SURFACE – AUGUST 2010



PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member meeting with Petitioners - 15 September 2010