

David Moore: our streets are certainly not paved with gold!



Last summer the Horsham Society asked West Sussex County Council a polite but simple question.

When do you intend to undertake the necessary and essential repairs to the road surface in Causeway?

We pointed out the importance of the area as a focal point for visitors to Horsham.

Unfortunately, neither we nor one of our local county councillors could get a simple

and straightforward answer to this question.

All we could do was to repeatedly ask the same question, whilst watching the road surface continue to deteriorate.

So it was with some relief over a year later when we saw that carriageway works were to take place in Causeway, probably in March 2013, though we did find the justification for the work, 'Causeway is located within a conservation area...' ,somewhat amusing in the circumstances.

Hopefully, the proposed work will prove to be fit for purpose and provide a durable and attractive surface for such an important part of the town. To be fair, the recent WSCC

exhibition in Swan Walk gave us all some hope.

It was also encouraging to see that carriageway repair works are to be undertaken in Blackhorse Way.

It's a shame that this alone won't improve the appearance of the road but that's another matter that needs to be resolved.

Finally, it was good to see that some essential repairs to the traffic humps are to be undertaken in Carfax.

We also have the good news about the £500,000 that's available to improve and upgrade West Street with a view to making it at least as attractive as East Street. There's no doubt that all these actions, once completed, should dramatically improve

the appearance of the centre of the town.

As always, with the upsides there are bound to have some downsides and, currently, one of the major concerns is the surface in East Street.

We all understand that every now and again someone will need to dig a hole in a road or street.

What invariably frustrates us is how long the work takes, including a hole with no activity, and the poor appearance left after the work has been completed.

This is what's happened in East Street recently. Firstly, we have the asphalt covered trench outside Wagamama. Apparently, the reason for the asphalt is because the trench will need to be re-

excavated sometime so that the necessary work can be completed.

Why couldn't the work have been completed the first time around?

Secondly, we have the brick paving, which was removed and then replaced. The outcome of the work was rather like watching an episode of 'Some Mothers do 'ave em'.

The quality of the brick paving replacement was atrocious and Frank Spencer would have been proud to claim credit for the work.

We know that the work will be corrected one day, as it was when the poor quality paving slab replacement work in Carfax was eventually dealt with not that long ago.

However, surely it can't be that difficult for WSCC to apply some basic controls on the contractors, who undertake such work, so that they employ quality workmen, who can get it right first time around.

What's so difficult?

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces.

Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone, who shares these concerns.

For more information, visit our website www.horshamsociety.org or telephone 01403 261640.