

Communication with Highways at Somerset Council and comment from Oliver Patrick.

An update on the situation in Hardington. Unfortunately I cannot at this time provide much in the way of optimism. The inference is that nothing will be done on the lane to Hardington Marsh, North Lane or Rag Lane before April 2026 at the earliest.

Meanwhile it is difficult to understand how some lanes do get attention. I have driven Pavyotts Lane, for example, and in my opinion it is by no means as bad or as much used as some of ours.

Unless we can get some support from somewhere – I would like to think our Somerset Councillors might be able to bring some influence to bear - I'm afraid it looks as if we are on a losing wicket.

All the best.

Chris Turner
Highways Representative
Hardington Mandeville Parish Council

Road resurfacing, Hardington Mandeville

From: County Roads - South Som <countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 2:26:34 PM

To: Chris Turner <highways@hardington.net>

Cc: Robin Carpenter <robin.carpenter@hardington.net>; Cllr Oliver Patrick <oliver.patrick@somerset.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Road resurfacing, Hardington Mandeville

Good afternoon Chris,

I have answered in **red** below, I have also copied Oliver in as he also raised a site visit in one of his emails.

A couple of weeks ago a significant amount of patching was done from Primrose Hill to Partway Lane and it has definitely improved the driving experience. We understand that this stretch will be resurfaced. Initially we were told it would be July but our County Councillor Oliver Patrick says that the team could "swoop in" whenever the weather is suitable and this could be this coming week ie from today! **Surface dressing along with any surfacing is weather permitting, they should be back in the area from June/July this can change if the weather turns or stays constant.**

If it is not happening until July then please could the Skid signs be removed. They are an eyesore and some have become dislodged as a result of not being securely anchored and could therefore be blown onto the road and end up as a hazard (Ref 844559). **I have asked the question but I doubt they will be removed as it will be a further cost to put them back again and effect the already tight budget.**

Whether it's planned in or not for this week the issue I would like to raise with you is one of cost.

Firstly, I have photographed the length of the proposed resurfacing (I can send you these) and in comparison with much of the road surface in the village in my opinion it is fine. Much much better than before which suggests that for preference other areas should have attention.

Secondly it is strange that patching was done from the church to Partway Lane and that this stretch is to be resurfaced. At the church by far the most traffic will proceed past the village hall and along Broadstone and Barry Lanes out to the A30 via Hill End or to the south up High Street. Many areas on those routes could do with patching. Why weren't they patched instead of a low usage, narrow lane? **Surface dressing is a surface treatment that seals the surface of the carriageway, it's more of a preventative treatment and areas need to be patched if they are too far gone. The other areas you mentioned were not patched due to needing too much patching or not suitable for the treatment. Wimborough Lane was brought to my attention at the last walk around with the Parish and Cllr Patrick (email sent to me on the 26/02/2024) scheme raised straight after the meeting.**

I'm sure that engaging with our Parish Council in advance of planning the work would enable more appropriate priorities to at least be discussed. **This is disappointing to be honest as we have reacted to several issues in Hardington when asked to, Wimborough Lane as an example. I do understand the frustration, but highways get a very limited budget to undertake works and the cost of all works continues to rise but the budget doesn't.**

Which leads on to asking whether at this stage time, effort and money designated for the resurfacing could be reallocated to other more critical repairs such as Marsh Lane (844584), Rag Lane (844585) and North Lane Lane (844587) or at least the other lanes mentioned above - unless of course work on all of those is scheduled during this summer. **No works planned for any of these lanes. All roads that need surfacing are now priority scored, and Marsh Lane and North Lane are not near the top of any list. Pavyotts Lane has just been added as it met the criteria for the most pot holed roads money given to us by the DFT. Broad Lane also has a drainage scheme in.**

As another example we have marked up Lyatts Hill for patching, this has smashed my whole budget for Yeovil to Crewkerne. A lot of Parishes are working with farmers and landowners to keep things up together. I was out with Middle Chinnock a couple months ago looking at a flooding issue which was damaging the surface and causing the potholes, within the week the Parish had got onto the landowner as they knew who they were, and the ditch was dug and potholes repaired (Oliver will know where this was to).

I would be more than happy to meet with someone from Highways and have a quick tour round the problems if appropriate. **Always happy to have a site visit, I know Oliver was keen as well. Lots of**

changes currently going on within highways, so the earliest date I have available is the 21st of May at 13:30 if any good.

Lee Norman
Assistant Highway Service Manager - Highways
Somerset Council
0300 123 2224



A Flourishing and Resilient Somerset

From: Cllr Oliver Patrick <oliver.patrick@somerset.gov.uk>
Date: 29 April 2025 at 14:31:58 BST
To: County Roads - South Som <countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk>, Chris Turner <highways@hardington.net>
Cc: Robin Carpenter <robin.carpenter@hardington.net>, Cllr Mike Hewitson <mike.hewitson@somerset.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Road resurfacing, Hardington Mandeville

Dear Lee,

Thank you so much for your comprehensive response.

21 May at 13:30 is fine with me.

Best wishes,

Cllr Oliver Patrick (he/him)
Associate Lead Member for Climate Change & Active Travel
Somerset Council

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