

**SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 15 JUNE 2010**

**PETITION CALLING FOR RESURFACING OF REDHILL WOOD, NEW ASH GREEN**

Report of the: Community Delivery Manager

Status: For information

**Chairman** Cllr David Brazier

**Head of Service** Head of Community Operations – Kim Hills

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**Recommendation:** It be resolved that Members note receipt of the petition, requesting the resurfacing of Redhill Wood, New Ash Green

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**Background**

- 1 A large number of letters have been received from the residents of Redhill Wood that are identical or similar requesting the resurfacing of the road due to the condition created by potholes. Given the number of letters it is considered that this should be considered as a petition. A copy of the main letter received is shown in Appendix 1 and the response given in Appendix 2.
- 2 The potholes in Redhill Wood had already been identified from inspections and other calls received via Kent Highways Services Customer Services Module.

**Introduction**

- 3 In accordance with protocols required on the receipt of petitions, the Board is informed that a petition had been received from the residents. The petition, which consists of 59 No. identical letters and 6 No. additional but similar letters from the residents of Redhill Wood. These are stored at the Aylesford office of KHS.
- 4 The petition concerns the number of potholes in the road and their concern that the road is unsafe. It calls for the resurfacing of the whole road.

**Current Situation**

- 5 The road is currently not on KHS's resurfacing programme for 2010/11 nor is it being considered for 2011/12 as it has not been assessed as being worse than other roads in Kent. To allow this road to be re-surfaced would mean the dropping of another road in Kent from this programme.
- 6 The potholes in Redhill Wood have already been identified from inspections and reports from the public via KCC's contact centre.

**Item No. 6**

- 7 Originally some orders had been placed for the repair of some potholes with the term maintenance contractor but with the extra £2m allocated to employ local contractors it was decided to allocate this work to this contract. The contract in Sevenoaks was won by Ringway and they are currently working their way through the work allocated. Redhill Wood has been programmed to start week commencing 17 May 2010 which is hoped will address the issues raised by the residents. A verbal update will be given at the meeting on the progress.

**Sources of Information:** Kent Highway Services

**Contact Officer(s):** David Aspinall - 08458 247 800

**DIRECTOR OF KENT HIGHWAYS** John Burr

**APPENDIX 1**

**Copy of main letter received**

**Redhill Wood,  
New Ash Green,  
Longfield  
Kent  
DA3**

Kent Highway Services  
Kent County Council  
1 Block  
Doubleday House  
St Michaels Close  
Aylesford  
Kent. ME20 7BU

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010

**Complaint – Road Surface Conditions in Redhill Wood**

Dear Sir,

It is with sadness that I feel the need to write to you regarding the appalling condition of the road surfaces within Redhill Wood, roads that KCC have allowed to deteriorate through many years of neglect. Not only do we have multiple pot holes the size of dustbin lids, but the surface overall is in extremely poor condition.

It is time for the Kent Highways Services to take responsibility and prioritize a proper resurfacing program for our roads in Redhill Wood, before these conditions provoke an accident.

It is becoming common practice for residents to drive on the wrong side of the road in an attempt to avoid the numerous pot holes, which must surely raise concern at the KHS.

It can only be a matter of time before a bicycle or motorcycle hits one of these pot holes and results in an accident or injury, not to mention the potential damage to car tyres, wheel rims and suspension components.

I look forward to receiving your prompt reply, outlining your proposal and time scale for our road resurfacing.

Yours sincerely

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Redhill Wood Resident

**APPENDIX 2**

**Copy of response to residents of Redhill Wood**

Dear

Redhill Wood, Potholes

CSM 10205236

I refer to your recent letter regarding the condition of the road surface of Redhill Wood. Your letter is one of many similar/identical letters received by Kent highway Services on the same subject. Given the number received it is considered that this is sufficient to be considered as a petition. As such this petition will be presented to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board at Sevenoaks for their consideration on 15 June 2010.

This road is currently not in our programme for total resurfacing for 2010/11 or 2011/12 as it has not reached sufficient priority against other roads in the county. To put this into a programme during these years would mean that some other road would have to be removed.

However, we are aware of the existence of the potholes and these have already have jobs raised against them. As you will appreciate this year has seen unprecedented winter weather and the subsequent development of huge numbers of potholes. KHS are currently working our way around the County to deal with these and an extra £2m has been ploughed into bringing on board additional local contractors to help addressing these as quickly as possible. Redhill Wood is due to have resources allocated in the next couple of weeks although the actual timing is somewhat dependent upon how long it takes them to get out of other roads that are having their potholes repaired.

Yours sincerely,