

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

**CLLR JIM SMITH**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR:  
SAYYED OSMAN  
DATE: 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**NETWORK RECOVERY** Carriageway resurfacing works are progressing well.

A hotbox is to be installed in Davyfield Depot at the end of January that will provide storage for bituminous materials providing cost savings for the defect and planned maintenance operations. The Executive Member and team have worked hard to focus on improving quality and efficiency of this service and have made significant progress. Using hot works will allow a better quality of finish with greater durability making our investment more sustainable.

HAMIS continue to increase their construction output with the commencement of the M65 Junction 5 Pinch Point scheme in January.

**WINTER MAINTENANCE** Winter maintenance commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> October running to week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The salt barn is stocked currently with 2000 tonnes of salt now in stock.

The Christmas and New Year period was busy but the conditions were dealt with by the Winter Maintenance staff and crews. Gritting is only effective if there is vehicle movement. Whilst every effort is made for round the clock gritting on occasion we get overnight or early morning high intensity snow showers which make for tricky driving conditions. This is particularly a problem with hail or sleet in freezing temperatures, forming ice almost instantaneously.

**LED RETROFIT** We are making good progress. There are now 5306 LED units installed with the target of 9652 to be installed by the end of March.

**DRAINAGE / FLOOD MANAGEMENT** The Drainage team are currently working with the EA on the Waterfall, Wrangling and Jacks Keys reservoir projects.

The continued wet weather is testing the Borough's infrastructure in particular where there are private un-adopted drains and gulleys residents are being challenged by inability to collectively resolve private problems.

**YOUR CALL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UPS** Although there are still 3 months to go in 2014/15, this year has already almost equalled 2013/14 for the number of clean up events and the number of people involved. The number of participants have increased year on year.

2013/14 – 115 clean up events, involving over 3,200 volunteers

2014/15 to end Dec - 117 clean up events, involving over 3,000 volunteers. The success of the clean-up events has seen over 160 residents volunteer to remove litter from their local areas on a regular basis, with assistance from

the Environment Housing and Neighbourhoods department for providing equipment, support and the removal of bagged litter. The total Your Call activity across the borough has attracted more than 5,000 volunteers.

## **WINTERSQUADS**

As part of the Your Call agenda, supporting communities to keep their areas safe, during harsh winter weather, has seen environment, highway and neighbourhood teams working together, to supply upwards of 80 Wintersquad groups with grit/salt, shovels etc, as well as practical support and guidance. Fortunately the last 2 winters have been fairly mild, but all 80+ groups are again ready and waiting for any snow and ice that may come our way.

## **FIRE AT BIRLEY STREET, BLACKBURN**

In November members of staff from the Public Protection Service became involved with the aftermath of a fire on Birley Street, Blackburn. The fire resulted in fragments of asbestos cement from the building's roof being spread over the local area. Environmental Health Officers worked with Civil Contingencies Team and the county analyst to take samples which confirmed the material contained asbestos.

The health risks were low as there is unlikely to be any significant release of asbestos into the air as the asbestos fibres are held tightly within the type of asbestos-cement products used on the roof. However, it was decided as a precautionary measure that a clean-up of the asbestos-containing material be carried out by a specialist company.

Following the clean-up air testing was carried out which found the air to be clear of asbestos.