
HILLCREST ROAD – RESURFACING

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Members to consider a request from residents of Hillcrest Road, Hockley, that the Council contribute to the making up of the bellmouth and the first part of Hillcrest Road, Hockley

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Hillcrest Road, Hockley is an unmade road off Main Road, Hockley which serves about 32 properties, some of which are Council Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties. As with most unadopted roads in the District it is generally maintained at the expense of the frontagers.
- 2.2 The Council owns seven flats in Harris Court, a small collection of garages which serve the flats and four pensioner designated bungalows which front on to Hillcrest Road.
- 2.3 Arrangements for contributions to the repair and maintenance of the road are managed by one resident who lives at 30 Hillcrest Road. In 1999 he approached the Council asking whether it would be prepared to meet the cost of resurfacing the road to a distance equal to the position of the Council owned garages (approx 75mtrs) in view of the fact that the Council had made no contribution to the maintenance of the road in recent years.
- 2.4 The Head of Service arranged for an inspection to be made by Head of Leisure and Client Services staff who initially reported that the footway outside the Council properties was in a satisfactory condition but that the road condition has suffered some deterioration and that potholes were in evidence. The inspection further revealed that there were no essential repairs required in the interest of safety.
- 2.5 A second follow-up inspection was made three months later which again reported that the area outside Harris Court was in quite good condition having no potholes but that the area did look untidy with a large amount of uncompacted material on the surface. The footway also showed some signs of wear with edge damage caused by indiscriminate vehicle parking on the footway. The estimated cost of sweeping the bellmouth, filling any small potholes and rolling was £600.
- 2.6 The HRA had insufficient funds to meet the whole of this expense but the Head of Service did identify around £400 from the HRA Estate Management budget which might be contributed to the residents fund for road maintenance.

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- 2.7 The residents are adamant that the Council should contribute an amount equal to providing a good surface up to a line corresponding with the garages (see plan A) and this is estimated to be £850.
- 2.8 A further request dated 28 January 2000 now asks that the road surface be maintained by the Council as far as the pensioner designated bungalows. This is a distance of 160mtrs and represents about 2/3rds of Hillcrest Road.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 As indicated above, the maximum amount which could be contributed in 1999/2000 is £400 from the Estate Management Budget. Clearly this would not satisfy the request of the residents but it would purchase a substantial amount of material which residents could then arrange for spreading and rolling from their maintenance fund.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Head of Legal Services advises that Hillcrest Road is a private road and as such all rights and responsibilities are private and that the Council is therefore in the same position as any other frontager in respect of its property insofar as any maintenance works to the road are concerned. The condition of an unmade private road will vary and cannot be expected to meet the standards of a maintained highway; however, it does have a responsibility to the residents of Council properties served by the road insofar as its condition may endanger their safety or interfere with access to the dwellings they rent.
- 4.2 No representation has been received from the tenants of Harris Court and only one tenant at the bungalows has raised the problem of road or footway surfacing.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 5.1 To take no action upon the request to maintain Hillcrest Road, Hockley to a point corresponding with No. 15 Hillcrest Road, Hockley (the last Council owned bungalow in the road)
- 5.2 That the Head of Revenue and Housing Management arranges for a contribution to the repair fund of £400 or orders material to this value under his delegated authority. (HRHM)

Steve Clarkson

Head of Revenues and Housing Management

Background Papers

Various exchanges of correspondence.

For further information please contact Steve Clarkson (01702) 546366