

REPORT BACK:

County Councillor Stuart Swann (Swadlincote South Division)

For the Forum's information I have attached a list detailing the council grit bins in the Swadlincote area, which also states which authority is responsible for maintaining each bin, and a copy of Derbyshire County Council's policy on grit bins.

In February I inspected all of the grit bins within the Swadlincote South Division and where action was required I reported to the County Council as below:

- **GB0758** on the junction of Ashbourne Drive/Castle Road – Contact Details removed and contains no grit. This bin looks to be in a poor state and in need of replacement.
- Alexandra Road - **GB0764 & GB0765** – Neither bin appears to have contact details, although both contain good supplies of grit.
- **GB0756** Thorpe Downs Road/Mickleton Close – Contact details sign broken off but bin is three quarters full.
- **GB0761** Cleveland Close – Bin Full but no contact details.
- **GBSD-89** Gresley Wood Road – Bin Full but no contact details.
- **GB1081** Wye Dale – Empty
- **GB0759** Wolfscote Dale – Empty
- **GB0762** Allison Avenue (opposite no. 6) – Bin Full but lid hinges rusted and broken.
- **GBSD-90** Wilmot Road – Bin Full but no contact details.
- **GB1087** Averham Close – Empty

Castleton Park Estate:

The lack of grit bins on the Castleton Park estate continues to be a matter of concern and has contributed to significant problems during the snowy and icy conditions of winter 2017/18. Indeed, without the heroic actions of a group of dedicated volunteers who gritted roads on the estate throughout the winter, the situation would have been even more problematic.

The topography of Castleton Park unsurprisingly matches that of much of the Church Gresley and Swadlincote area in terms of hills and gradients so with the assistance of local residents, for which I am grateful, the following potential sites for grit bins on Castleton Park have been identified:

Junction of Westminster Drive/Hope Way/Edinburgh Road

Junction of Glamorgan Way/Moray Close

Luton Road near Cranfield Avenue

I would therefore like to move the following the motion from the Swadlincote Area Forum:

This Area Forum requests that Derbyshire County Council supplies grit bins for the above locations on the Castleton Park estate, Church Gresley and further requests that South Derbyshire District Council commits to maintain these amenities.

COUNCIL PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS TO FIX COUNTY POTHOLES

Derbyshire County Council is stepping up its efforts to fix the county's potholes following the worst winter weather to hit the area for 10 years. Extra roadworker gangs have been mobilised, and they will be working longer hours including at weekends, to tackle potholes reported on local roads.

There will also be extra equipment including more 'hotboxes' which keep Tarmac warm and make it easier to transport around the county, and two Jetpatchers which will be used on mainly rural roads.

The condition of many of the county's roads deteriorated after long periods of severe winter weather. The constant freezing and thawing, prolonged rainfall and heavy snow cover led to roads cracking, resulting in a significant rise in the number of potholes and carriageway deterioration. In December 2017 the number of potholes listed for repair in Derbyshire was only 120 but by the beginning of March the number had risen to more than 3,000. By April the teams had already brought this total down to 2,500 despite dozens of new potholes being reported every day.

The council had already set aside £4m to spend on pothole repairs, and this was boosted by just over £2m extra funding from the Government. The £6m is being spent on the extra roadworker gangs and a range of machinery, as well as stepping up highways inspections in order to target resources.

The county has doubled the number of 'hotboxes' and teams using them from six to 12, which will speed up repairs. The rapid response teams will be responding to all urgent defects as they are reported, travelling across the county on all roads, from main A roads to minor and rural roads fixing potholes where they've been reported.

More 'patching gangs' will also be working on the county's roads to tackle the backlog. The patching gangs will repair larger sections of road where a cluster of potholes has been reported. The extra teams are also being backed up by two Jetpatchers which will concentrate on repairs to rural roads.

Speaking in April, County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure Councillor Simon Spencer said: "We are well aware of the deterioration of the county's roads over the last few weeks and I can assure Derbyshire residents that fixing them is a top priority for us. Bad weather has severely hampered our efforts but now we can really get on with the job, helped by the lighter days so teams can work for longer. They will also be out repairing potholes at weekends.

"We are throwing all we've got at this and we won't rest until the job is done. People can help by continuing to report potholes via our website so that we are aware of where they are and how serious they are. We are inspecting roads as fast as we can but we still need people to tell us so we can get on to them as soon as possible."

In addition to the pothole budget of £6m, the council is already spending nearly £16m patching, surface dressing and resurfacing the county's roads and pavements and fixing drains and gullies.

Potholes can be reported at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/reportit