



# Report to the Amersham and Villages Community Board

<b>Date:</b>	28 July 2022
<b>Reference number:</b>	N/a
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Petition to Resurface Hyrons Close, Amersham</b>
<b>Relevant councillor(s):</b>	Cllr Graham Harris, Cllr David King, Cllr Liz Walsh
<b>Author and/or contact officer:</b>	Keith Carpenter
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>Amersham and Chesham Bois</b>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>That the current programme of capital resurfacing work is not amended to include Hyrons Close and that the inclusion of this road in a future year is reconsidered at the annual meeting to be held later this year.</b>

**Reason for decision:** The Council's approved Asset Management Policy and Strategy set out the process for prioritising which roads are resurfaced each year. This process, which includes full consultation with Local Members and the Local Area Technician, has been followed and Hyrons Close has not been prioritised when compared against other competing roads. If Hyrons Close were added to the programme then another scheme which has already been approved would need to be dropped

## 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Residents of Hyrons Close, Amersham have submitted a petition requesting that the road is retarmacked. The Council's approved Asset Management Policy and Strategy set out the process for prioritising which roads are resurfaced each year. The priority order of which roads will be resurfaced in Amersham was decided late last year and will be reconsidered later this year at the annual meeting. All three Members have reviewed their decision, having inspected the road, and have

confirmed that they are happy with the current order of roads in the Division, as there are roads with higher priority in the area.

## **2. Content of report**

- 2.1 Residents of Hyrons Close, Amersham have submitted a petition requesting that the road is retarmacked as the current road is a hazard for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Hyrons Close is a short, dead end road serving properties off the A4154 Woodside Road.
- 2.2 The Council's approved Asset Management Policy and Strategy set out the process for prioritising which roads are resurfaced each year. This process results in an indicative programme for the next four years.
- 2.3 The Council assigns roads to different categories within its Carriageway Hierarchy. This determines how they are prioritised for major repair and how frequently they are inspected for defects. Hyrons Close has been assigned as a "Local Road" due to its relatively low use. This means that the road received an annual safety inspection and that the priority for significant capital resurfacing is decided in consultation with Local Members.
- 2.4 Each year the budget allocated for Capital Maintenance of carriageway is split between local roads and the busier (generally classified) roads. Meetings are held with local Members and data is presented including the condition of the roads in their wards and the number of defects and customer contacts over the preceding 12 months.
- 2.5 A future programme of carriageway schemes is created for the next 4 years as a rolling programme which is reviewed and revised as necessary each year. The priority order of which roads will be resurfaced in Amersham was decided late last year and will be reconsidered later this year at the annual meeting. All three Members have reviewed their decision and inspected the road following receipt of this petition. They have confirmed that they are happy with the current order of roads in the Division as there are roads with higher priority in the area.
- 2.6 The Council also inspects Hyrons Close for defects which may cause a safety issue in line with the Council's Highway Inspection Policy. Defects are repaired as a result of this regular annual inspection or following other ad hoc inspections in line with the Policy. Not all defects present a risk to the public and therefore not every minor defect will be repaired. Members of the public can also report defects to the Council (most often using [FixMyStreet \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/fixmystreet)). These reports are assessed and defects are repaired as necessary.

### **3. Other options considered**

- 3.1 Should the petition be accepted and budget re-allocated to resurface Hyrons Close another scheme in the County would have to be stopped. All schemes on the current programme for 2022 have been assessed and prioritised and delay to their delivery would have additional impacts on other residents.

### **4. Legal and financial implications**

- 4.1 The Council, acting as Highway Authority, has a duty to maintain highways which are maintainable at public expense. It is up to the Council to decide how to fulfil this duty which it does through its relevant Highways Policies.

### **5. Corporate implications**

- 5.1 None

### **6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

- 6.1 All three local Councillors have visited the site and confirmed the prioritisation of Roads in the Amersham and Chesham Bois Division. Whilst accepting that Hyrons Close is not in perfect condition, they have confirmed that other roads are of a higher priority for resurfacing.

### **7. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

- 7.1 None.

### **8. Next steps and review**

- 8.1 No further action is planned, although the prioritisation of roads will be reconsidered later this year at the annual meeting between the Asset Team and Local Members. Hyrons Close will be discussed at this meeting.

### **9. Background papers**

- 9.1 None.

### **10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [ ] or email [ ]