



**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2022**

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

The following questions are to be put to the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. **Question by Jason Blake:**

Recording / Cataloging Road Defects

I raise this with the Scrutiny Committee due to potential fallings I have discovered on Bosworth Road, Walton, Lutterworth, and its wider impact, where there have been many potholes some 20+, many of which have been marked up multiple times for repair, and have still not been repaired (until my intervention). Most concerning though is they can not be located on any of the Highways Inspection, or Public Reports*.

*Example: I have attached two photos of a pothole, as you can see this is a large hole - it measures 44"x26" and 5" deep. This hole had been marked up 3 times, twice in yellow with arrows and once in white, yet the council has no record of it. Also following a public report of other holes in May the whole road was checked and this hole was missed. Further to this, it was also missed by the Highways Annual Inspection at the end of June, I took this photo a week later.

Note; The Highways Maintenance Policy; any hole deeper than 40mm is Category 1 and should be completed within 72 hours)

This is not a complaint - it's an enquiry which cannot be answered by the Highways Department. Outside of Highways Annual Inspection, and Public Reports where are these defects recorded, certainly not as a report the public can request and view as per the others mentioned. This is important for the public to know and understand and be able to hold to account the council if the roads are not maintained properly, or in the event of an accident happening. It is, as I understand it, that records should be available for these very reasons. Therefore my question to the scrutiny Committee is as follows:

Why are the council not recording/cataloguing or monitoring road defects that fall outside of annual Highway Inspection Reports, or Public Reports?

Reply by the Chairman:

Leicestershire County Council carry out highway inspections in accordance with the authority's inspection policy which is informed by the DfT Code of practice "Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure". Defects are identified and categorised for treatment based upon defined intervention criteria. Areas of the highway which show deterioration but are not defective or do not meet the prescribed intervention levels are not routinely recorded.