

Horam Parish Council
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25th February 2022.

Councillor Claire Dowling, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment,
East Sussex County Council, County Hall, LEWES, East Sussex. BN7 1UE

BY E-MAIL

Dear Councillor Dowling,

RENEWAL OF HIGHWAYS CONTRACT

Horam Parish Council (HPC) realise that money is short for road repairs, so spending what there is wisely is very important. It is currently obvious this is not being done. East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) roads have deteriorated rapidly during the current contract which HPC understand is up for renewal.

The potholes are only patched, not repaired, so do not last long. HPC understand the Contractor offers a two year Warranty, in our experience they must spend most of their time doing free re-patching?

HPC understands that the Steward is responsible for deciding whether it is a new pothole or a badly repaired one. As the Steward is employed by the Contractor, i.e. marking their own homework, it is not in his interest to find "free work" for the Contractor. In our experience the Steward has difficulty in finding these holes even though they have been reported by either by HPC or members of the public.

In conclusion, ESCC needs to employ the Steward, even if it costs more. HPC understand that ESCC do have inspectors that do check some work, they may just as well do the Stewards job.

HPC understand that Stewards are supposed to look out in their travels for potholes and overgrown hedges, HPC would question whether this is done. Also, the criteria for the size of pothole repair needs reducing so repairs are carried out before they get dangerous.

Our final conclusion is that ESCC need to employ a Contractor capable of doing the work. They must also employ the Steward and need to reduce the criteria for when a repair must be done.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Knight

Chairman of Horam Parish Council's Planning and Highways Committee.

Copies to: Members of Horam Parish Councils, District Ward Members for Horam and Punnetts Town, Councillors Bob Bowdler and Susan Stedman, Councillor Bob Bowdler, East Sussex County Councillor for Wealden East Division. Bob Standley, Leader of Wealden District Council and the Focus Group