

Spotlight

on Chiswick

Issue 12 / July 2014

Welcome

This is the twelfth edition of your monthly newsletter. Within this, we explain what we have been doing in your community and the wider borough.

Stanwell Road West works keep borough moving

Hounslow Highways has completed road resurfacing works on Stanwell Road West, one of the borough's main links to Heathrow Airport.

A large number of heavy goods vehicles and buses use the 50mph dual carriageway, resulting in significant loading and pressure on the road and a need for a more detailed maintenance plan to ensure it is fit for purpose for many years to come.

Initially, the road was programmed to have a full resurface, however extensive tests carried out before the works indicated that the original concrete base of the road did not have to be removed and was structurally sound.

As a result, there was less disruption to residents and stakeholders, the works were completed faster and there were lower carbon emissions.

The works have included a new central reservation, joint sealing, and different types of surfacing materials to prevent water getting in and to strengthen the road.

Due to the nature and use of the road, Hounslow Highways had to work with a number of agencies to ensure the smooth running of the works, including the British Airport Authority, British Pipeline Agency, Surrey County Council, the Highways Authority, Transport for London, London Buses, the London Borough of Hounslow and local businesses.

This project is known as a Scheme of Specialist Engineering Designation (SSED) and has been carried out as part of Hounslow Highways' Core Investment Period to bring roads and pavements up to standard and to maintain them for the rest of the contract.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "These works will ensure the road is safe, durable and easy to maintain for the next 25 years.

"We have been able to complete these works with minimal disruption to residents and in a shorter amount of time than anticipated which really has kept the borough moving."



Hounslow Highways cleans up with McDonald's staff

Hounslow Community and Environment Officers recently joined up with McDonald's for a community clean-up day.

About 30 McDonald's staff members volunteered, dressed in tabards and armed with gloves and litter pickers.

Mayor Corinna Smart attended on the day and also took part in the clean-up.

Volunteers cleaned New Chapel Square, including the bridge across the Longford River up to Cardinal Road; Orchard Road and the area around New Road by the station.



Littlies learn about litter

Hounslow Highways visited Tarbiyyah Primary School in Green Lane on 19 June to present a talk on litter to pupils in grades 2 -4.

The presentation was supported by McDonald's and involved asking pupils questions about their local environment.

Following the talk, a litter pick was carried out with the children who were keen to collect as much litter as they could.

 **Hounslow
Highways**

Delivering better streets

Hounslow Highways to repair Strand retaining wall

Hounslow Highways has begun repair works to the retaining wall along a 950 metre stretch of the River Thames at Strand on The Green, Chiswick.

The works began on Monday, 16 June 2014 and are expected to take 20 weeks.

Works being undertaken involve the removal of vegetation from the wall, replacement of brickwork and coping stones as required, and repointing of approximately 950 metres eastwards from Kew Bridge.

The retaining wall protects Strand on the Green and the neighbouring landscaped areas above the River Thames. It is a critical feature of the riverfront from both an aesthetic and engineering perspective.

Hounslow Highways is carrying out the works to maintain public safety and the durability of the wall in conjunction with the Port of London Authority and Environment Agency. There will be considerable improvement to the overall structural condition of the wall which acts as a main flood defence to Strand on the Green. If the wall were to collapse it would cause major flooding to the roads and nearby properties.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "The Strand on the Green retaining wall is just one of the many structures in Hounslow we maintain when requested by the authority and these works will ensure the wall remains fit for purpose for many years to come.

"Infrastructure improvement is not only about the roads and footways and how these affect the day-to-day economy of an area. The areas bordering waterways, be they navigable or not, are also important for the economy and environment of the borough.

"At a time when regeneration is particularly important for this borough, this project fits in well with our improvement works across all of Hounslow."



The retaining wall at Strand on the Green will be repaired over the next five months.

We're getting tough on abandoned vehicles

Hounslow Highways has stepped up abandoned vehicle removals to help achieve a cleaner borough.

Abandoned vehicles are unsightly, potentially dangerous, encourage anti-social behaviour and overall negatively affect the quality of our environment.

Hounslow Highways is responsible for investigating reports of abandoned vehicles and once it is established that they are abandoned, they are noticed and if not claimed, they are collected and disposed of.

The following categories are generally associated with abandoned vehicles:

- Stationary for a significant amount of times (at least two weeks)
- Significantly damaged, run down or un-roadworthy
- Burned out
- Lacking one or more of its registration plates
- Flat tyres
- Build-up of dirt around vehicle
- Untaxed



Core Investment Period (CIP): Where are we now?

Hounslow Highways is 18 months into the contract and has carried out significant improvements as part of the Core Investment Period.

So far, we have resurfaced 110km of pavements and 149km of roads, and installed about 13,000 LED street lights.

Lay Assessors update

Hounslow Highways has held an information session for those interested in taking part in the Lay Assessor programme.

Five members of the public attended a session at Jubilee House to find out more about our organisation and what they would be involved with as independent assessors of Hounslow Highways work. Four attendees confirmed their one-year commitment to the programme.

A second information session will be held for the remaining interested parties, followed by a training session on how to evaluate different aspects of the service including safety, quality, customer care, accessibility, good working practices and environmental impact.

It is expected that the Lay Assessors will be undertaking their first assessments after the summer holidays.

Compliments

Hounslow Highways receives more and more compliments from the public each month, highlighting their satisfaction with different aspects of our service. Below are a couple of compliments from the last month:

"I would like to compliment the team of men who have just finished work on the pathways in Holly Close, Hanworth.

The job seems to have been done in quick time with little inconvenience to the residents and ending with very good results.

As far as we are concerned the whole operation went without a hitch. WELL DONE!" – *Holly Close resident*

"There was a large black bag dumped in the middle of the road and the rubbish strewn all over the road and pavement - I saw a Hounslow Highways team down the road and told them about the mess and they said "no problem we will sort that out". The mess was cleaned and the rubbish around the litter bin was cleared too.

I was very pleased by the service and the men were very polite. They were very efficient and provided excellent service." – *College Road resident*

New trees will replace dangerous spikes

Hounslow Highways is proposing to replace three gleditsia trees in Whitehall Park Road (Chiswick) as they have been determined as dangerous to maintain by our arboricultural officer.

Two of the trees' main stem and branches are covered in large, tough spines up to 20cm in length which are endemic to this species. Not only are these a serious risk to pedestrians but they present a dangerous and unavoidable hazard to operatives attempting to prune these trees.

These particular Gleditsias have been crown lifted and had lateral branches in the lower canopy removed in the past, which has encouraged them to grow tall and slender to the point where they are now higher than the neighbouring properties.

Unfortunately, crown reducing these trees will only encourage vigorous regrowth and propagation of more thorns on the main trunk and branches. Consequently, this makes them particularly unsuitable for footways and paved areas as there is an increased risk of injury to pedestrians. Therefore, we are proposing to remove them in favour of species that would be more suitable for this environment.

We have written to residents in this road to ask them if they are in favour of the replacement of these trees and which species they would prefer. Species they can choose from include a serviceberry, winter flowering cherry, dwarf maidenhair tree and mountain ash.

From the responses received so far, the favoured species is the winter flowering cherry.



The gleditsias have large spines that are dangerous to pedestrians and workers trying to prune them.

Monmouth Grove tree copping

Hounslow Highways recently carried out major tree works to a line of sycamore trees in Clayponds Lane to the side of No. 5-24 Monmouth Grove (Brentford).

The trees are self-seeded (unplanned tree growth) and therefore have had minimal maintenance or pruning over the years.

They had grown to a stage where their roots could cause damage so the decision was made to copping them. This involved cutting the trunks down to about 50cm for the trees to re-grow and ensure they are maintainable in the future.

Works in your area

Below is the Core Investment Period (CIP) programme of works for your area in July. Please note that all of the dates are indicative and may change due to seasonal and other external factors.

Street Lighting

To view the street lighting programme, please visit the My Works page on the Hounslow Highways website:

www.hounslowhighways.org.

Carriageways

Road	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
CORNEY ROAD ROAD	RBT CORNEY RD TO RBT CORNEY RD	CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS	01/07/2014	01/07/2014
EDENSOR GARDENS	RBT EDENSOR GRDS TO RBT EDENSOR GRDS	CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS	01/07/2014	01/07/2014
EDENSOR GARDENS	RBT EDENSOR GRDS TO ANSTICE CL	CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS	01/07/2014	01/07/2014
NETHERAVON ROAD	GREAT W RD CHISWICK TO CHISWICK LN S	CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS	10/07/2014	11/07/2014
STAVELEY GARDENS	STAVELEY GRDS TO END OF RD	CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS	01/07/2014	01/07/2014
THE AVENUE	JCT BATH RD TO BOUNDARY	CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS	01/07/2014	02/07/2014
BARROWGATE ROAD	HEATHFIELD GRDS TO SUTTON COURT RD	TURNHAM GREEN	01/07/2014	01/07/2014

Footways

There are no footway works programmed for Chiswick in July.